OTHER ScholarLY ACTIVITIES

Leslie Choquette’s other national and international activities included continuing service on the editorial board of the scholarly journal Francophones d’Amérique, returning to the editorial board of French Colonial History after serving as its editor-in-chief for two years, and joining the editorial board of Quebec Studies. She also evaluated a book manuscript for the University of Alabama Press and articles for La Revue d’histoire de l’Amérique française and Histoire sociale/Social History, and she joined the Comité scientifique de l’Encyclopédie du patrimoine culturel de l’Amérique française, a 3-volume, bilingual encyclopedia of the French heritage in North America that will be edited by Laurier Turgeon of Université Laval and Yves Bergeron of Université du Québec à Montréal. Most recently, she became a member of the Committee for the Alfred Heggoy Book Prize, a prize awarded annually by the French Colonial Historical Society for the best book in French colonial history.

IN MEMORIAM

William Edouard Aubuchon, Jr. (1916-2007)

The French Institute has lost a dear friend in William E. Aubuchon, Jr., of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, who died at home, surrounded by family, on November 28, 2007, at the age of 91. He was born on August 13, 1916, in Fitchburg, the eldest son of William E. and Corinne (Charron) Aubuchon. He graduated from Assumption Preparatory School in 1934 and enrolled in the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in French before his time in the retail industry by providing a wide variety of employment. His first job was at Fitchburg State College, where he was instrumental in the then-innovative use of bond financing, which was the foundation of the system’s expansion. During his 8-year tenure, ending with his chairmanship of the Board, the 11-college system quadrupled to $61 million. In recognition of his service, he was awarded honorary degrees from Fitchburg State and Worcester State colleges and Fitchburg State College named a dormitory building in his honor.

Among the many other awards Mr. Aubuchon received were the Lafayette Award by the Harmony Club of Worcester, the Distinguished Citizens Award by the Boy Scouts Nashua Valley Council, the Outstanding Alumnus Award of Assumption College (where a building is named in his honor), and the Hall of Fame from Assumption Preparatory School.

A man of great Catholic faith, he became a knight in the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in 1983, participating in the Order’s annual pilgrimage to Lourdes 8 times. He was invested in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher in 1984, where he was elevated to Knight Grand Cross. He was a charter member of the Serra Club of North Worcester County, a Eucharistic Minister at the Highlands Long Term Care Center and a parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Church for 60 years.

Mr. Aubuchon was very committed to the city of Fitchburg serving on the Board of Trustees of the Burbank Hospital from 1973-1993; he was also a trustee of the George Wallace Civic Center, vice chair of the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame High School, director of the YMCA, and president of the United Fund. Mr. Aubuchon was named as one among 100 Who Have Made a Difference during the Centennial Convocation at Fitchburg State College in 1994.

Mr. Aubuchon was an avid player throughout his adult life. He instilled in his children a love of history and travel, taking them on many adventures throughout the country and the world.

He was mindful of his Franco-American heritage, and was a loyal friend of the French Institute at Assumption College, whose Advisory Board he founded in 1982, and where an award, in his name, was established in 1995. Mr. Aubuchon was a strong financial supporter of the Institute, where he established an endowment fund.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Anne Celeste, wife of Michael J. O’Rourke of Stamford, Conn.; his wife, Karson, of Princeton and Donat C. and his wife, Ei粉, of Fitchburg. He left at the champagne reception for Fauré & Friends.

FRENCH INSTITUTE LECTURES

In March 2007, the French Institute celebrated the Semaine de la Francophonie with two lectures. The first speaker, Dr. Mark Richard, Professor of History and Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Canada at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, presented the Mrs. Homer Gage Memorial Lecture for 2006-2007. In a fascinating talk, Professor Richard presented his ongoing research on Franco-American resistance to the Ku Klux Klan in the industrial centers of New England during the 1920s, starting with the state of Maine. Professor Richard’s visit was co-sponsored by the History Department of Assumption College and by the campus chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society.

The following week the French Institute welcomed well-known Quebec journalist and novelist Richard Héroux. Mr. Héroux is the New York correspondent for La Presse, the largest and most influential newspaper in Quebec. As a correspondent, Mr. Héroux explores American society and politics via the lens of a Francophone, Canadian reporter, Mr. Hétu explores American society and politics from the perspective of a Canadian writer and most influential newspaper in Quebec. As a correspondent, Mr. Héroux explores American society and politics via the lens of a Francophone, Canadian writer.

CONCERT OF FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE MUSIC

The musical highlight of the Semaine de la Francophonie was without doubt the excellent concert of French and Franco-phone music performed in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit by the Salisbury Singers, a cappella and with orchestral accompaniment, under the direction of Dr. Michelée Graveline. Entitled Fauré & Friends, the concert included one of the most-loved choral works of all time, Gabriel Faure’s Requiem, as well as the four motets of Maurice Duruflé and the lovely Ave Verum Corpus of Camille Saint-Saëns. In keeping with the Franco-American traditions of Assumption College, the concert began with the motet Tu es Petrus by Catia Lavalée, best known as the composer of the Canadian national anthem, Ô Canada. An immigrant to New England, Lavalée wrote this rousing motet for the installation of a new bishop in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston.

The concert was followed by a special champagne reception for friends of the Salisbury Singers and the French Institute. The consul general of Canada in Boston, Neil Boucher, marked the occasion with a generous letter, reprinted on pages 2 and 4.

PUBLICATION OF THE DIRECTOR EMERITA

La Gazette Française – Revolutionary America’s French Newspaper, translated and co-authored by Claire Quintal and her colleague Sister Eugenia Poulin of Salve Regina University, was published in November 2007 by the University Press of New England. Copies are from Salve Regina University.
LETTER OF NEIL J. LE BLANC, CONSUL GENERAL OF CANADA

La 25 mars 2007
Madame la Directrice,

Il me fait plaisir de vous saluer ainsi que tout le monde présent au spectacle des Salabury Singers aujourd’hui. Ce concert à Assumption College a été une occasion formidable de montrer la diversité des cultures et leur participation à la vie locale.

Je souhaitais vous féliciter de la façon dont l’Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste et les Institutions Bordélique et Éphéméride ont organisé les célébrations de la Semaine de la francophonie 2007. L’histoire d’Assumption College et de l’Institut français est aussi richement préservée dans ces institutions. En tant que membre du conseil d’administration de l’Institut français, je suis fière de voir ces célébrations continuer dans des institutions aussi importantes.

Salutations distinguées,
Neil J. Le Blanc
Consul General du Canada

ARCHIVES OF THE RELIGIOUS OF JESUS AND MARY

The French Institute is delighted to announce that it will soon house the historical archives of the United States province of the Religious of Jesus and Mary. Founded in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1855, the Religious of Jesus and Mary arrived in Canada in 1856 and subsequently in the United States in 1876. They were an important presence in New England, including the cities of Fall River, Providence, and Worcester. Their archives will be a treasure to historians studying the history of religious orders in North America.

The archives, which will be housed at the French Institute, will be accessible to scholars and the general public. They will provide valuable insights into the history of religious life in New England and the United States.

NEW ENGLAND OFFERS PLAQUE TO QUEBEC CITY

A committee representative of the New England states has presented the Quebec City with a commemorative monument whose purpose is to highlight the massive emigration of French Canadians to our region. It will be affixed to the column that will also list the names of the numerous cities in New England where these emigrants settled. The French Institute director emerita Claire Quintal has been chosen to write the text of the plaque.

It seemed fitting to do this in the year that Quebec City will celebrate the 400th anniversary of its founding by Samuel de Champlain in 1608. The unveiling of the monument is set to coincide with the city’s commemorative celebrations in 2008.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR


Dr. Choquette also edited volume 8 of the journal L’histoire d’Assumption College and of l’Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste was recently added. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the directors of the French Institute for this opportunity to make available large and valuable resources.

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We are happy to assist these other libraries in their collecting efforts. We are especially proud that our own holdings of materials related to Franco-Americans and French Canadians are large enough that we can give the extra away!