Dear Friend of CODOFIL:

INTRODUCTION

• Thanks to those who wrote to Superintendent Robert Clouatre of Ascension Parish urging maintaining the French programs in the schools. We are experiencing a similar problem in East Baton Rouge Parish and therefore requests that all of you write to express your views about the importance of maintaining French programs in the schools: Superintendent Clayton Wilcox, P.O. Box 2950 Baton Rouge, LA 70821 and phone number 225-922-5400.

• Thanks to the good work of Ellie Levaque and Dr. William Arceneaux, Representative Eric Lafleur, D-Ville Platte, introduced a resolution in the Legislature providing for the creation of a commission to study the future of French in Louisiana. It was approved.

• Due to its cooperation with the U. S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, CODOFIL was cited for its work in ensuring that all citizens understood the importance of complying with the census.

• After receiving the French Legion of Honor in April, Chantal Le Clère Dowty is not resting on her laurels; she continues to present innovative ideas and work for the promotion of French in Louisiana. We thank her for her past and future work.

• Those wishing to renew their membership in the CODOFIL Foundation may do so now by sending a $20 contribution to 217 West Main Street, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70501 to the Attention of Mary Ann Lavergne or by visiting the website: www.codofil.org.

• Cultural Survival Quarterly recently did an interesting article praising CODOFIL's work entitled "By Any Means Necessary."

• Non-profit organizations in Acadiana are developing a "Leave A Legacy" program and are looking for a French title for the program that will encourage people to increase charitable giving. Any ideas should be submitted to John T. Landry (337-262-4438).

CONGRES MONDIAL ACADIE 2004

• In June, Dr. David Cheramie attended the meeting of the C.M.A. on Prince Edward Island. All of the various groups are coming together to work for what guarantees to be a very successful reunion.

• The Congrès' first President, André Boudreau, was recognized on April 19th for his work with the Order of Canada Award. The Association de La Famille Thibodeaux held its spring meeting on April 21st (337-981-3289). The Famille Beausoleil Association, under the leadership of Don Louis Broussard, Earline Conover and J. Maxie Broussard, continue to be quite active: they presented a $1,400 donation to Myrtle Place Elementary French Immersion program and continue to publish an outstanding newsletter (P. O. Box 1171, Broussard, LA 70518).

• Richard Laurin, Acadian from Nova Scotia promoter, visited Louisiana to promote the Air Sea Odyssey and Novacadie Tours (rl.novacdie@ns.sympatico.ca). John Allen LeBlanc has been doing much to promote the C.M.A. with his terrific skilled replicas of various Acadian buildings, including the St. Charles aux Mines church in Grand Pré, Nova Scotia that he recently delivered to the national monument at Grand Pre. The replica will be on tour promoting the Congrès.

• Antoine "A.J." LeBlanc, Ambassador Monde Cadiens, continues to do a terrific job (E-mail: CADIENS@bellsouth.net). The Congrès Mondial Acadien organizing committee recently announced a 16-day event to be held in Nova Scotia opening July 1, 2004. Allister Surette, president of the committee stated that events throughout Nova Scotia will show the vitality of Acadians in that part of the world. Other events will include family reunions, festivals, conferences and twinning ceremonies with communities in Louisiana. For more information, contact Vaughe Madden, General Manager Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004, Suite 106, Roy Building, 1657 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2A1 (902-424-7104; vmadden@cma2004.com). Donna Doucet announced a major construction grant for Grand Pré National Park's new visitor's center that should be completed in 2004.
NOVACADIE TOURS

- Our friends from Nova Scotia, Richard Laurin, have put a new development together: a direct flight (chartered) September 18 - 25. The innovative tour will be able to accommodate sixty people. Anyone interested in more information should contact Richard Laurin (Tel/Fax: 902-678-7560; e-mail: rl.novacadie@ns.sympatico.ca; website: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/rl.novacadie).

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- The French-American Chamber of Commerce coordinated a visit of 20 notaries from France who visited New Orleans in mid-April.
- President Bush nominated Howard Leach of San Francisco to be the new Ambassador to France. CODOFIL has congratulated him on his appointment and looks forward to working with him in the future.
- CODOFIL coordinated ten host families for a group of runners from France who were in Louisiana for the “Fun Run.”
- Claude Teboul, France-Louisiane organization president, continues to work tirelessly for Louisiana in various fields including an annual meeting, promotion of fifteen chapters in France and six in Louisiana, donation of various materials to Louisiana school children and publication of LA Gazette de France-Louisiane, etc.
- Seven chevaliers representing the Giant Omelet Association in Abbeville traveled to Bessières, France of the 29th annual Omelette Géante de Bessières.
- The Council for International Visitors of Greater New Orleans and volunteers from 97 sister organizations in 44 states across the U. S. were officially nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by U. S. Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. The organization held a reception introducing the International School of Louisiana on June 6th.
- Under the leadership of Philippe Gustin, Le Centre International de Lafayette, Lafayette Consolidated Government, Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chantal Le Clère Dowty sponsored a twinning ceremony between Louisiana and French Mayors Association on May 10th.
- On May 16th a major economic development initiative was completed between the State of Louisiana and Lake Charles to receive French airplanes for restoration and refitting. Those attending included David Marcantel, representing CODOFIL, and Ken Scott representing the French Chamber of Commerce. At the event Governor Foster said, “I realize the importance of local people helping to attract foreign investors to aid in our economic development.”
- The French Chamber held a Muscadet Wine Festival fundraiser on June 28th.
- Consul-General Bernard Maizeret was busy during Veteran’s Day presenting “Thank You America” certificates to Louisiana veterans who fought to liberate France during World War II.
- U. S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu will lead a mission to Senegal, West Africa, August 25 - 31. For more information: Fax (504) 529-7562.
- The Government of France honored Ronnie Kole by conferring on him the rank of Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters on July 12.
- Namur, Belgium is inviting all Louisiana Veterans to visit the city and province for the Walloon Festival September 15 - 17. For more information, contact Philippe Gustin at Le Centre International (337-291-5474). Le Centre International, is organizing a trade mission to Spain in May 2002. (337) 291-5474.
- The President of Lebanon, the General Emile Lahoud, has extended an invitation to the State of Louisiana to attend the next Sommet de la Francophonie in Beirut on October 25-27, 2001.

FOLKLORE AND TRADITIONS

- “Louisiana Voices” has created CD ROMs for use in classrooms. For more information: Echo Olander, Louisiana Voices, 3246 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70115 or heylabaa@msn.com.
- Brenda Barrett, National Park Service, toured the Atchafalaya with Jason Stagg, Director of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission, as part of a promotion for the 13-parish area under development.
- There is a new exhibit of work by members of the Louisiana Crafts Guild at their new home, the historic Sans Souci bookstore, which recently re-opened in Lafayette after extensive renovations. Some of the work currently on exhibit include: Mary Perrin’s artist books, Tanya
Nehrbass Schulze's pottery, the painted woodwork of Diane Pecnik and rahu-fired pottery of Joy Kepler, as well as Cindy Kilgore’s woven pine baskets. Call 337-266-7999 or 337-507-3316 for more information.

- The “Crossroads” series continues to attract good audiences. For more information, call 337-233-7060. The monthly Louisiana Master Musicians Series continues at Chris’ Poboy on Jefferson Street in downtown Lafayette for regular Wednesday performances. Recently, L. J. Melançon, son of sharecroppers and a native of Sunset, and Allen Simon performed at the event. Contact Harold Bernard at 337-266-2098 or hbernard@mindspring.com for more information.

- In preparation for its eight-city tour of France in July, Acadia’s folkloric troupe Renaissance Cadienne performed in Lafayette on June 23rd at the Art House. This month, the troupe will be in Paris, Troyes, Lyon, le Puy en Velay, Tours, sur-Rhone, Lamastre and Cheylyard, with its programs of songs and dances and its recreation of a Louisiana-Acadian wedding from 1900 (Dr. May Waggoner, 337-984-6766).

- Sadly, Zydeco promoter Wilbert Guillory died of a heart attack at age 70. He was the founder of the original Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival.

- Michelle Broussard is the new president of Action Cadienne. (1044 Leger Rd., Breaux Bridge, LA, 70517).

- Dr. Maureen Brennan’s Cité des Arts is progressing nicely and will support French programs in Lafayette.

TOURISM

- Louisiana remains one of America’s favorite places to have a good time. A record 23 million visited in 2000, up from 21 million the year before, Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco announced. The numbers will be even better when data about overseas tourists becomes available later this year. About 1 million foreign visitors - who typically stay longer and spend a little more money in the state - are estimated to have visited Louisiana last year. “The numbers reflect solid growth and, according to Philip Jones, is directly linked to FrancoFête ’99 and its efforts to attract visitors from France, Quebec, Belgium and other French-speaking areas. Lt. Gov. Blanco has been creative with leading Louisiana in the direction of cultural tourism” (The Advertiser, May 4, 2001).

- Under the leadership of President Jean Ouellet, Festival International de Louisiane experienced its most successful festival with an estimated record total of 190,000 people attending from April 25 - 29. “We salute the army of volunteers who staged another successful Festival International de Louisiane this year. It was a cultural tour de force - unique, entertaining and enlightening. The scope of the work behind the scenes was a spectacular as the festival itself.” (The Advertiser, April 30, 2001). The highlight of the festival was “A Tribute to Clifton Chenier: All the King’s Men” led by Buckwheat Zydeco which reunited members of Chenier’s Red Hot Louisiana Band, including his son, C. J. Chenier. Travel writers were brought to Louisiana by the “Louisiana Music Train” and experienced our state’s unique culture. During Festival International de Louisiane and the Jazz Fest many executives from the nation’s music industry converged in the state to discuss the possibility of using Louisiana’s rich musical heritage to help grow the music business (“Lafayette Picks Tune for Industry”, Bruce Schultz, Advocate, April 28, 2001).

- A master plan for community development was developed by the Greater Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce sponsored by the roundtable discussion with Mark Allemond of Development Concepts, Inc. of Breaux Bridge. A touchstone was the Cajun hospitality and use of the French language. (“Development Issue for Abbeville,” The Advertiser, May 5, 2001).

- U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu visited St. Landry Parish in April to support two projects she said will showcase and protect natural and historical treasures in the area.

- Vermilion Parish has voted to utilize the French language and culture in its promotional activities for the coming year. USA Today (June 15, 2001) recognized Bourque’s Club of Lewisburg as one of the “Top 10 Great Places To Hear Country Music in America.”

- Travel Holiday magazine named St. Martinville as one of the “10 Best Small Towns in America.”

- Acadian Village seeks ambassadors for tours (Bob Moore, 981-2364).

- Mark Falgout and Catherine Schoeffler are opening a new hostel in Lafayette that will cater to French-speaking travelers.

- The Lafayette Convention and Visitor’s Commission held their monthly luncheon at the Depot at Magdalene Place on July 11th in connection with the opening of the new tourist center.
FOOD

• The French-American Chamber of Commerce hosted a visit from Lycée Professional Renée Bonnet (trade school) of Toulouse, France in April.
• C. J. Stelly, bailli of the Lafayette chapter of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs hosted a group of Académie Gastronomique Brillat-Savarin that visited Louisiana in April.
• Chef Patrick Mould travelled to the Northeast U.S. in April to teach Cajun cooking at several cooking schools. He also participated in the Springtime Cajun Dance Festival in upstate New York.
• Louisiana cuisine specially prepared by Chef Roy Lyons of the Frog City Café in Rayne and Louisiana music by Joe Simon’s Jazz Quartet will be featured.
• The Louisiana Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Le Centre International de Lafayette, has organized a delegation to exhibit at the fourth annual European Ethnic and Specialty Food Show. Guests will be invited to a special “Louisiana Luncheon,” prepared by Chef Roy Lyons (www.LaTechnologyGuide.com).
• Louisiana native, Danny Abel, and his partners, were featured in Food and Wine magazine “A Refuge in Acadia” concerning their work to establish the food school and bed and breakfast melding the Louisiana and Acadian cultures of Nova Scotia.
• Cynthia and Dickie Breaux’s latest restaurant, Grapevine, in Donaldsonville was featured in the Morning Advocate food section (June 21, 2001).

BOOKS

• A new book from Le Comité Des Archives De La Louisiane, “Civil Birth and Death Registers for the City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1874-1918” can be ordered by sending a check in the amount of $32.50 (non-member) or $27.50 (member) payable to Le Comité des Archives, c/o Ann Riffel, 2576 Bartlett Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70805.
• Researchers interested in the Ory family lineage may want to check out the latest issue of Les Voyageurs, a publication of German-Acadian Coast Historical and Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 517, Destrehan, LA 70047.
• Louisiana-native Chere Dastugue Coen, now in California, will be in Louisiana this month promoting the Cherie Claire series which uses the Acadian historical background for the romance novels (661-286-1105; ccoen@ix.netcom.com).
• “Brusly 1901-2001: A Place to Call Home” was recently released in anticipation of the town’s Centennial scheduled for October 1st (Brusly Centennial Committee, P. O. Box 826, Brusly, LA 70719).

DEPICTION OF CULTURE

• Conservative talk-show host “Moon” Griffon resurrected a controversy when he used the term offensive “coona–” at the Acadiana Republican Women’s luncheon in March. CODOFIL responded quickly and denounced the use of the pejorative. The local newspapers were inundated with various “Letters to the Editor.” A poll conducted by Asteur showed that 87.5% were “highly offended” by the use of the term.
• In May, a large number of Louisiana entertainers participated in a festival organized by Cedric Benoit in Branson, Missouri: “The Cajuns are Coming.”
• Charles Larroque,Advertiser columnist (bilingual) is promoting Gumbo-oh-La-La. In conjunction with André Forcier of Quebec, he is putting together a major series on Louisiana culture to be aired by TV 5. Sponsorships are still being accepted. (337-233-5616).
• On May 5th, the Cameron Preservation Alliance-Sabine Pass Lighthouse, Inc. held a ceremony in Cameron Parish transferring ownership dedication of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse.
• The Louisiana Folk Roots Dewey Balfa Cajun and Creole Heritage Week held in April surpassed all expectations. Performers included Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, Preston Frank Family Band, Michael Doucet and Friends, Balfa Toujours, Boozoo Chavis (recently deceased) and the Magic Sounds, Bois Sec Ardoin, Mitch Reed, Sam Broussard, Hadley Castille, D. L. Menard and Lil’ Buck Sinegal.
• A Mass in French will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
• Acadian Village continues to work, under Bob Moore's leadership, to preserve Acadiana's history. It recently incorporated the Fernand Stutes' Bar, a landmark located on Ridge Road, participating in the dedication were Bob Hamm, Judge Allen Babineaux and Gerald Domingue.

• The Acadian Memorial has a steady flow of patrons since it opened five years ago. Figures compiled by memorial director Jolene Adam show a spike in the summer months of 1999, when the Congrès Mondial Acadien-Louisiane 1999 was in full swing (337-394-2233).

• Kermit Bouillion, Director, Acadian Museum, Living Legends program, honored the following people: Jimmy C. Newman, Grand Ole Opry Star featuring Cajun Country), D. L. Menard (Birthday of Erath's Greatest Recording Star), Milton Adams (Early Vermilion Parish musician), Euda Delcambre (Former Sheriff of Vermilion Parish), Nolan Cormier (Cajun Musician famous on Bourbon St.), Richard J. Guidry, Education Programs Coordinator Foreign Languages and Bilingual Education, Louisiana State Department of Education, Don Montoucet, and Hadley Castille (Opelousas Native creates unique style).

• Joe Kopacz, President of the Cajun Connection of the Tampa Bay area, prepared a moving tribute to Lou Ella Menard, recently deceased wife of D. L. Menard (941-922-2761; joek67@home.com).

• Russell Gary and the Fa-Tras band performed at Kent Plantation House in Alexandria in connection with their annual Cochon de Lait fundraiser.

• Zachary Richard was recognized for the outstanding Canadian sales of his past two albums Cap Enragé and his latest release Coeur Fidèle.

• The Times of Acadiana as an “Arts Picks” honored the Acadian Museum of Erath for July.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

• The Daily World had a terrific editorial on March 22nd complimenting CODOFIL on its work to preserve the French language.

• Dr. Margaret Marshall wrote a wonderful letter of support that was published in the Advocate (March 29th) concerning the need to continue and expand French programs in Louisiana. In Port Arthur, Texas Groves Mayor Brad Bailey hope to reverse an ordinance that had prohibited dancing in order to allow people to dance to the Cajun music at a market.

• Controversy continues to swirl around the loss of National Public Radio in the Lake Charles area. The station, KRVS, had operated there for a number of years providing French programming. KRVS general manager Dave Spizale is asking station subscribers to support the idea of a new full service public radio station in Lake Charles.

• Patsy Huval, President of the CFMA, continues to coordinate the various chapters who do a terrific job in promoting the culture of Louisiana.

• Louisianans visiting in Stanhope, N. J. in June experienced a taste of home at Michael Arnomes 12th Annual Crawfish Festival held at Waterloo's Concert Field. Performing there were Erma Thomas, Doug Kershaw, Marcia Ball, Boozoo Chavis and Sonny Landreth.

• A partnership of the University of New Orleans, Louisiana State University, and the LSU system held a conference on "International Education as Economic Development" (Becky Rutter, Project Director, 504-849-8156).

• Business editor Terry O'Connor (Advertiser) did an interesting article “Making his Marks” to show how the Marks Hardware founder Chester Marks and his family prosper by continuing to incorporate French in their business practices.

• Ron Thibodeaux, staff writer with the Times Picayune, did a terrific three-part series beginning July 15 on “Culture at a Crossroad.” His paper may put an extended version of the article in booklet form for distribution.

EDUCATION

• The Lafayette French Immersion 2001 graduating class at Paul Breaux Middle School presented “La Revue 2001” at Vermilionville.

• Nicole S. Boudreaux, President of the Consortium Immersion Schools, held its most recent meeting May 11th in St. Martin Parish. Dr. Fred Genesee from McGill University in Montreal who spoke of the benefits of the program addressed the group.

• Member to the BellSouth Volunteers Evangeline Life Members Club donated coloring books and crayons to second-grad French Immersion students at Myrtle Place Elementary.

• Cecil Picard, Superintendent of Education, was recently honored as a “Living Legend” at the Acadian Museum.

• Jeff Humphries, LSU Foundation Professor & Chair announces that the department received a
The Friends of French Studies at LSU and the Department of French Studies sponsored a fundraiser on May 13th where participants enjoyed tasting French wines. New Orleans oilman and engineer Pat Taylor and his wife, Phyllis, donated $600,000 to the LSU Department of French Studies to endow ten professorships in French. The state eventually will provide a matching grant of $400,000 to bring the total endowment to $1 million. The donation will provide funds to attract top faculty to the LSU French department.

The UL Lafayette Alumni Association for his work honored Judge Kaliste J. Saloom, Jr.; he is helping to organize a delegation to attend the World Francophone Summit in Beirut, Lebanon in October (337-233-5832).

Ten LSU students will spend their summer in a sister city of an Acadiana community. The LSU French Studies Department has initiated a community service program with villages in France’s Ubaye Valley, including Bacelonette and Jausiers, the sister city of Arnaudville.

An article discussing the state leap test quoted a student from East Baton Rouge Parish, Damarius Cockerham, who, it turns out, is in French Immersion; he stated: “I can speak two languages, English and French.” ("Last Bell" by Charles Lussier, Advocate, May 25th).

Dr. Jean-Douglas Comeau, Université Sainte-Anne, again will have a large number of Louisiana students participating in the French Immersion program beginning July 5th. (902-769-2114 ext. 201, voltaire1000@hotmail.com).

Under Richard Guidry’s leadership, numerous articles appeared throughout the state as a result of 120 students and faculty of French Immersion courses around Louisiana converging on the State Capitol on May 31st to host a luncheon for the Acadiana delegation. The group opened the afternoon session of the Legislature with 17-year old Assumption High School student, Jody, delivering the opening prayer to House Members in French. Also, Shawn Wilson, a Lafayette first-grader, delivered the Pledge of Allegiance in French and four Calcasieu Parish kindergartens entertained Legislators with a French song.

Relie LeBlanc, president of the Famille de LeBlanc, Inc. announced the beginning of “Le Petit Dejeuner Cadien” every first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. at the Museum Café in Erath.

GazetteAsteur@aol.com announces a new jam session “En Français.”

The Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge was the site of the Foreign Associate Teachers annual orientation from July 30 to August 2, 2001. CODOFIL and the State Department of Education welcomed around one hundred new teachers of French and Spanish from nearly twenty different countries.

Once again, Allen Simon will be offering his Cajun French lessons. For more information, contact him at 337-984-0621 or call the CODOFIL office 1-800-259-5810 or locally in Lafayette, 262-5810.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE BICENTENNIAL

A Louisiana delegation presented Spain’s King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia with an Acadian flag March 31 in Jackson, Mississippi. I had the honor of speaking French with King Juan Carlos who expressed his personal interest in the relationship between the Acadians and Spain’s effort to help them relocate to Louisiana. The King was inducted as a member of the SAR in 1999 and Lynn Breaux organized the trip. As Chairman of the International Relations Committee for the 2003 Louisiana Bicentennial, I invited the royal couple to participate in the re-enactment of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase on December 20, 2003 at the Cabildo with President George W. Bush and President Chirac of France.

Sylvie Lemieux, director of the Quebec Archives, offered to organize an impressive exhibit on the shared Louisiana and Quebec heritage: Napoleonic Code and Civil Law. Russell Gary (337-652-0165) continues to tour the state speaking to groups and urging them to organize for 2003. Mary Perrault, Special Events Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Tourism, is coordinating the event and may be reached at (225) 342-9149 or mperrault@.crt.state.la.us.

The Confederation of Association of Families Acadian met in Maurice in May to draw upon their experience and enthusiasm as a result of FrancoFête ‘99 and the Congrès Mondial Acadien-Louisiane 1999 to plan events for 2003.

The State of Louisiana has pledged its cooperation to work for the establishment of a National French Heritage month in connection with the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the French on Saint Croix Island in Maine. Part of this celebration would involve the Louisiana Purchase.
• Sadly, L. J. Foret, long-time Cajun musician and writer, died in April. “The Scoundrel’s Wife” starring Tatum O’Neal and Tim Curry, a movie based upon a story written by Glenn Pitre and Michelle Benoit, has completed filming and is now being edited in Los Angeles.

• Twenty-five Louisiana artists won Fellowships sponsored by the Louisiana State Arts Council. French anthropologist and artist, Ghislaine Loyre-de Hauteclouque, showed a collection of her painting in May at Clementine’s Restaurant in St. Martinville.

• Whiskey River Landing had its annual Memorial Weekend Bayou Bash featuring Feu Follet’s release of their new CD, “Belle Louisiana” followed by Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys.

• Sadly, Wilson “Boozoo” Chavis died on May 6th. The National Endowment will posthumously honor him for the Arts. He was remembered by many and memorialized by Time magazine as follows: “Louisiana-born King of Zydeco who helped popularize the genre with his 1954 Paper in My Shoe; In Austin, Texas. He packed dance halls with his rhythmic sounds until the late ‘50s when he began long hiatus. But upon hearing about an impersonator in 1984, he returned to launch a renaissance of button-accordion Zydeco. (Time, May 21, 2001).

• Hadley Castille’s latest CD, “Quarante Acres et Deux Mulets,” has received terrific revues as well as FeuFollet’s.

• Kevin Wimmer of Balfa Tourjours was featured in the Morning Advocate for his fiddling (June 11, 2001).

• Pat Mire completed the shooting of his new documentary “Fried Chicken and Gasoline” filming at the home of Alphonse “Bois Sec” Ardoin.

• Asteur (www.asteur.org) is inviting everyone for Cajun music jam sessions on Saturday afternoons “en français.”

• Nicholls State University’s Ellender Memorial Library is exhibiting more than 100 examples of Houma Indian art through September 15th.

• Jackie Callier, Ivy Dugas and Cajun Cousins performed June 30th at the Liberty Theater in Eunice for Dr. Barry Ancelet’s Cajun radio and TV show “Rendez Vous Des Cajuns.”

• Artist Mary Perrin was featured in “Artworks (June/July 2001) and her new exhibition on handmade books which opened at the Sans Souci Bookstore.

• The Modern Languages Department of UL-Lafayette has recently released the latest edition of their literary review, FeuxFollets. An Internet version is in preparation.

HISTORY

• Dr. Barry Ancelet, UL Lafayette, recently hosted Acadian historian from Nova Scotia, Danny LeBlanc.

• Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr., State Archivist and Director, is publishing a very interesting brochure on the operation of the Louisiana State Archives. The Louisiana State Archives will host a series of lectures during “Achieves Week” July 9th-11th at 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge. For more information, contact Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr. at (225) 922-1200.

• Secretary of State Fox McKeithen hosted the opening of the exhibit “We the People,” at the old State Capitol. Featured in the exhibit is Mayor Pro-Tem of Erath, Robert Vincent.

• The Vermilion Historical Society had its annual meeting on April 25th featuring a lecture by Ken Dupuis, Abbeville’s premier historian and Gary E. Theall, attorney, speaking on the year “1878.” (Vermilion Historical Society, P. O. Box 877, Abbeville, LA 70511-0877).

• Dr. Carl Brasseaux a history professor at the UL Lafayette and director of the Centre for Cultural and Eco-tourism, was recently awarded the 2001 Garnie W. McGinty Lifetime Meritorious Service Award for his achievement in humanities in the state. Brasseaux has published more than thirty volumes of materials on Louisiana and French North America.

• Under the leadership of Diane Losavio, Executive Director, the Louisiana Association of Museums held their annual convention in Baton Rouge in April.

• Nadine Carter Russell was given the Outstanding Support Award by LAM President Cliff Deal.

• The Acadian Museum of Erath made a presentation on promoting local museums to the international community. Special guest was Noelle Giguere, Program Specialist, Office of Museum Services, Washington, DC, who made a presentation on obtaining grants to help state museums. (202-606-8550, n.giguere@imls.gov).

• Xavier Perriot traveled from France to Vermilion Parish two years ago to experience the culture. The anthropologist is working on a thesis with the subject being the “Cajun cowboy.”

• A special luncheon program honoring Ronnie Kole with the prestigious Order of Arts and Letters Award from the French Government will be held in New Orleans on July 12th at the World Trade Center. CODOFIL will attend the Brusly Centennial Celebration on October 1, 2001.
• We are contacting companies that utilize the Cajun/Creole/French culture for their marketing and reminding them that they should not "strip mine" the culture, but seek ways to ensure that donating funds for the establishment of scholarships and professorships protects the culture. Thus far the response has been favorable.

• The Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association held its most recent meeting on April 27th; President John Hernandez, III organized a productive program and led a group to attend the Quebec Bar Association in May consisting of: Attorney General Richard Leyoub, Judge Herman Clause of Carencro, Ward Fontenot of Cameron, Gaynor Soileau of Ville Platte, Perrell Fuslier of Oakdale, Kermit Bouillion, Attorneys Warren A. Perrin, John Hernandez, III, Louis Koerner, Jr., Jay Zainey and John Litchfield. The Francophone Section was named by the Louisiana State Bar Association to be the official host for the various Francophone Bar Associations that visit Louisiana. Plans in 2002 are being developed with the assistance of Bernard Maizeret, to attend the Paris Bar Association and Eliane Levaque, Belgium representative, to attend the Belgium programs.

• The effort to obtain an apology from the British for the Acadian deportation was given a terrific boast by the introduction of a Resolution in the Canadian Parliament by Deputy Stephanie Bergeron of Quebec and the announcement by Gérard-Marc Breaux of Nantes, France that a memorial plaque would be unveiled on June 22nd in Penryn, Cornwall, England remembering the 73 Acadian men, women and children buried in unmarked graves in the churchyard.

PROGENY YOUTH

• Helen Boudreaux again did a wonderful job organizing the Young Stars of Cajun Music “Wall of Fame”. Those inducted were: Brandon Moreau, Colby Leger, Lee Hardy, Stephanie Cormier, Bryan La Fleur, Jeffery Thibodeaux, Greg Mouton, Blake Miller, Lyle Guidry, Gavin Guidry, Julian Devillier, Jon Paul Leger and Blasien LeBlanc.

• Matthew Courville and The Cypress Knees Band recently played the Bach Lunch on the grounds of the Natural History Museum and Planetarium.

• Developer of the "Zydecajun" style of music, Wayne Toups, graciously offered to assist CODOFIL; on May 19th he spoke and performed to second-grade students at St. John’s Elementary in Lake Charles.

• Carey LeBlanc, Director of the Youth Committee at the Acadian Museum of Erath, recently graduated with honors from Erath High School and will be attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette majoring in Architecture. He will continue to serve on the Executive Committee but will be replaced by the new youth director, Elizabeth Trahan.

CODOFIL
217, rue Principale Ouest
Lafayette, LA 70501