Dear Friend of CODOFIL:

INTRODUCTION

- Seventy-five relatives of fallen New York firefighters were honored guests for the annual Bastille Day Parade in Paris. After the parade, the group attended a garden party hosted by recently re-elected President Jacques Chirac. We sent a congratulatory letter to President Chirac who, in a letter dated June 3rd, thanked CODOFIL and continued to encourage us to work to promote French in Louisiana.

- On July 12th, Dr. John Bertrand was honored for his work as CODOFIL President, BESE member and life-long educator with a testimonial held in Rayne; paying tribute were Bernard Maizeret, Consul-général de France, Dr. William Arceneaux, President of the Fondation was Master of Ceremonies.

- On July 12th, Bernard Maizeret was feted for his outstanding service in Louisiana; he is soon to return to Paris ending a very successful tenure. He and his wife, Marie Jeanne, will be sorely missed; we wish them well in their new endeavors.

- Also on July 12th, in an event hosted by Philippe Gustin of Le Centre International de la Lafayette, Willis Granger, a native French speaker from Erath, was honored by Bernard Maizeret for having aided in the liberation of France during World War II.

- An executive committee meeting of CODOFIL was hosted by Dr. Cheramie on June 15th.

- The official opening of the Cité des Arts in Lafayette was June 22 with a day full of activities in French and English.

- The new officers of Action Cadienne - Elaine Clément, President, Kirby Jambon, Vice President, Michelle Broussard, Secretary and Del Guillory, Treasurer.

- Rosie Harris and CODOFIL West Bank was honored at the annual Bastille Day luncheon in New Orleans on July 14th.

- Thanks to the work of Vickie Cappel and Marie-Françoise Crouch, Jefferson and Orleans Parish are working together to continue the immersion experience at Haynes Middle School for the school year 2002-2003.

- C.R.E.O.L.E. Inc. will have an exhibit on the Creole culture at the new Lafayette Natural History museum which will open in the fall. They are also looking for permanent office space. Elaine Clément did a presentation on CODOFIL at the recent annual board meeting of the Creole Heritage Center in Lake Charles.

- Creole Heritage Education Research Society (CHERS) is a new Creole organization based on the web and out of New Orleans. They recently had their first conference, including speakers and genealogy exchanges. Christopher Landry is their Director for Languages.

- Roggwiller Tannery of Louisiana is resuming production after a fire last year that severely damaged the plant which processes 5,000 alligator hides a month. Plant owners, Daniel and Philippe Roggwiller of France were in attendance for the re-opening hosted by CEO Bernard deReynies and Gerald Domingue.

- The summer has been a busy time hosting various documentary/TV film crews from California, Australia, Denmark, Quebec, as well as a national ABC TV program on July 4th broadcast live.

- On June 17th, I was interviewed by Glen Gomez, KCIL Radio and Shelly Brown, H TV, Houma, Louisiana, to explain the recent CODOFIL activities in the state.

- Led by Secretary of Education, Cecil Picard, CODOFIL's delegation will depart September 28th for signing of Accords with the French Community of Belgium and French governments.

- On August 5th, I spoke to the Concerned Citizens for Government on CODOFIL's plans for the future.

- My wife Mary and I are planning to spend one month in France next summer promoting the Bicentennial. We would like to "exchange" houses with someone during June/July. If interested, please contact me at (337) 233-5832.

- If you know someone or a group that would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please send their address to CODOFIL at (337) 262-5810.

EDUCATION

- Recent reports from the U.S. Census showing a decline in the number of Louisiana residents speaking French, prompted an editorial (The Advertiser, June 10th "Renewed Commitment to French Language Needed") which stated that keeping the French language alive is vital to maintaining the Acadian culture: "The Acadian culture is a treasured and productive part of this area's lifestyle. The adage, 'lose the language, lose the culture' is completely valid."

- Dr. Cheramie, in thanking the newspaper for its editorial and support, pointed out that Acadiana was defined by the Legislature as comprising a twenty-two parish area, and should not be used to only refer to those parishes surrounding Lafayette.

- Brett Martel (The Advocate, June 3rd "Census Data Downplay Cajun Role in Louisiana") wrote an excellent article quoting Dr. Barry Ancelet: "If anything, the festivals and things like that made people reassess their attachment to the French-speaking world, and it no longer carries a stigma."
Anticipating a renewed drive for initiating a French Immersion Program in Vermilion Parish due to the recently-named Superintendent, Joey Hebert, the Acadian Museum hosted a rally at the Museum Café following the Erath 4th of July Parade.

Eugene Schreiber, World Trade Center of New Orleans, reminds everyone that the WTC offers classes in French beginning September 3rd (504-454-6554).

The Friends of French Studies at LSU announced, with deep regret, that Louis D. Curet, the guiding force in the formation of the organization was stepping down; he passed the torch to Lillie Petit Gallagher; Mr. Curet will serve as Treasurer. Members of the organization will receive invitations and discounts to selected events during next year’s Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Celebration (225-387-2273, www.atls.fisu.edu/fsl).

A teacher orientation conference was held the week of July 30th in Baton Rouge at the Hotel Marriott for all new teachers. Congratulations are in order for Carolyn Taylor-Ward and David Beste of the State Department of Education and Dorice Côté of CODOFIL for an exceptional job in organizing this annual event which kicks off the school year for our Foreign Associate Teachers.

With the help for Zachary Richard, Loubert Trahan and Eddie Richard, as well as CAFA, 24,000 books were donated by individuals in Quebec to French immersion students throughout Louisiana. Guy Lefebvre of the Conseil de la vie française en Amérique also contributes greatly.

Baton Rouge Magnet High School and St. Paul School in Covington shared top honors at the Foreign Language Festival.

Nicole Boudreaux, President, hosted a meeting of the Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools in New Iberia on April 19th. North Lewis and Daspit Elementary will begin immersion kindergarten classes in August.

Lafayette Parish French Immersion Programs have been a successful “magnet program:” there are a total of 760 students in the program and of those, 222 are minority students.

The Museum Café and La Famille de LeBlanc hosts French lessons and a free breakfast of Cajun favorites the first Wednesday of each month (337-937-5468 or 937-5508).

To help French Immersion seventh-grade students visit the NASA Space Center in Florida, students held car washes every Saturday from April through July.

The most recent issue of Le Tintamarre (Centenary College of Louisiana) issued a bilingual literary edition which featured Louisiana’s 19th Century Afro-Creole literature. Under the leadership of Dr. Dana Kress, editor Jennifer Gibson and director of publications Clint Bruce continues to produce excellent work.

Founded in 1998, L’Ecole Maternelle, a French-preschool in New Orleans, continues to seek students (504-899-9796; info@ecolematernelle.org).

The Confederation of Associations of Families Acadian, Inc. (CAFA) hosted a jambalaya dinner for all teachers of the French Immersion program on April 20th (Treasurer, Loubert G. Trahan, 9515 La Hwy 92 West, Maurice, Louisiana, 70555-3239, 337-893-2084, www.cafa.org).

The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) held its annual workshops for Immersion education professionals at the University of Minnesota. In attendance were Françoise Biasiolo and Marianne Chemarie of Lafayette Parish, Francoise Dewees of Calcasieu Parish and Dr. David Cheramie of CODOFIL. Immersion teachers from around the country gathered to learn the latest techniques for the teaching of reading in Immersion.

HISTORY

In May, Carl A. Brassdeaux and Ryan A. Brassdeaux were guest lecturers at Yale University’s Beinecke Library. It was Carl Brassdeaux’s second invited lecture at Yale during the 2001-2002 academic year.

Dr. Shane K. Bernard of New Iberia lectured in Jennings about Cajuns during WWII in conjunction with the Zigler Museum’s display of WWII posters. The display was sponsored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Bernard also lectured about Cajuns during WWII and the National D Day Museum in New Orleans on July 13th.

The Lafayette Museum was awarded an acquisition grant in the amount of $12,000 from the Lafayette Visitor Enterprise Fund, administered by Gerald P. Breaux, Executive Director of the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission. The grant is awarded to small museums to enhance their collections (President, Eileen Busch, 337-234-2208).

The Vermilion Historical Society held its general membership meeting at the Abbeville Cultural and Historical Alliance Center; an election was held and guest speakers included Ken Dupuy and Gary E. Theall, treasurer. Membership renewals are now available (P. O. Box 877, Abbeville, LA 70511-0877).

Cliff Deal, President, Louisiana Association of Museums, hosted the annual organization’s conference on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches (225-383-6800).

The Attakapas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), honored Zachary Richard and Dr. Carl Brassdeaux with Outstanding Citizenship Medals for their efforts to locate and purchase a 1775 letter written by Lt. Co. John Winslow outlining the deportation of the Acadians from Nova Scotia.


To help tell the story of black Americans usually down-played in history books, two children’s books were donated to five Acadiana libraries. The books “The Great Migration: An American Story” by Jacob Lawrence and “Story Painter; The Life of Jacob Lawrence” by John Duggleby were donated by the City of St. Martinville and the Cleco Corp during Black History Month.
The July-September issue of "Cajun Life and Times" by Lorraine Bridges continued the tradition of covering Cajun/Zydeco and Swamp Pop music with emphasis on Cajun songwriter Adam Hebert and Festival International de la Louisiane (Subscribe to: Banks and Associates, 100 Appalooa Street, Lafayette, LA 70506).

Dr. David Cheramie recently spoke to the Sertoma Club of Lafayette and the Kiwanis Club of Jennings about recent activities of CODOFIL while Elaine Clément spoke to Beaver Club of Lafayette.

In May, the Acadium Museum of Erath inducted Calvin Roach into the "Order of Living Legends."

The Maine newspaper "Le Forum" (www.FrancoMaine.org; Lisa_Michaud@umit.maine.edu) contained an excellent article by Roger Roy "English Only Is A Learning Disability," wherein he cited the fact that students in the French Immersion program in Madawaska and Van Buren public schools went from the 40th NCE to the 62nd NCE in reading achievement across the curriculum; whereas the students in the same school who chose not to participate in French Immersion progressed only the 50th NCE.

Audrey & Camille "The Gris Gris Sisters" helped to promote the opening of Cité des Arts and arts fundraisers sponsored by the Times of Acadiana. Bonnie Camos, author of the book "The Gris Gris Sisters" is available at Galerie de Louviane and Jefferson Street Market.


The Times Picayune" three-day special report (July 15 - 17, 2001) "Culture At A Crossroads" by Ron Thibodeaux and Angela Rozas was nominated for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize. The series won several national and regional journalism awards. Souvenir reprints are available (rhthibodeaux@timespicayune.com; 985-898-4834).

DEPICTION OF CULTURE

A feature story on Randy Romero appeared in USA Today ("Jockeys Riding for a Fall, July 31, 2002").


A film crew from Australia's Public Network, ABC TV, spent two weeks in Louisiana filming a story on the revival of the French culture in Louisiana.

Johnny and Kathy Richard "Le Bayou légendaire" a French cultural activity center, sponsored a fundraiser May 25th and honored legendary musician J. B. Pére.

Katie Davis and David Heilbroner of New York are working on a documentary on Erath jockey's Randy Romero and Shane Sellers and asking anyone having 8 millimeter film of Sellers or Romero racing on bush tracks to contact them: gball@nyc.rr.com. When the film is completed, it will air on HBO and will be entitled "The Sport of Kings."

Alan Lomax died at age 87. He, and his father John, had recorded many Cajun and Creole musicians in their homes. Much of his work was done for the Library of Congress and, according to Dr. Barry Anelet, our state was blessed by his work.

The Associated Press writer Mary Foster ("Zydeco Proves Accordion So Hot It's Cool for Music," The Advocate, May 2nd) wrote a story on the influence of the accordion at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival: "Accordions is king in Louisiana" says Steve Riley, whose accordion gives the "Mamou Playboys" much of their original sound.

Ron Thibodeaux (Times Picayune "Cajun Connection" April 30, 2002) did a terrific story on the Dewey Balfa Cajun and Creole Heritage Week in Lake Fausse Point; the second-year event attracted 100 students from throughout the world. (www.lafolkroots.org; info@lafolkroots.org; 337-332-0967). Sam Broussard was part of the song writing workshop with Mamou Playboys fiddler, David Greely. Earlene Broussard, Dr. David Cheramie, Jolène Adam, Kirly Jambon and Amanda Lafleur all did workshops on Cajun French.

The organization also sponsored Fait à la Main as upcoming workshops: Cajun French and Creole Language - Debra Clifton - August 20 and 27th, September 3 and 10th; Cajun Dance - Don Brasseaux and Jodi Hebert - September 4, 11, 17, 24th.

Artist Ivy Billiot, whose wooden carvings depicting life for the Houma Indians are on display at UL Lafayette, uses the exposure to promote national recognition for his tribe of 15,000 ethnic Houma Indians.

The April 2002 Southern Living magazine was a boost to Lafayette Convention and Visitors Center by featuring the Lafayette area in articles such as "French Louisiana Fare: on savoring the charming cultural spice of Lafayette, Breaux Bridge and New Iberia."

When the national media began referring to Yasser Hamdi, the Taliban born in Baton Rouge as the "Ragin Cajun Taliban" we responded quickly and obtained written apologies from Gloria Hammon of Time magazine and Kate O'Brien, ABC News Radio. This prompted an article by R. Reese Fuller (The Times
The bilingual Blue Moon Tours of Cajun and Zydeco culture was featured in an article in the *Times of Acadidiana* ("Any Given Saturday" by R. Reese Fuller).

*L'Association de Musique Cadidienne Francaise de Louisiane*, CFMA Governing Body (P. O. Box 91876, Lafayette, LA 70509-1876) regularly publishes news from the following chapters: Acadidiana Charter Chapter, New Orleans Chapter, Baton Rouge Chapter, Lake Charles Chapter, Chapitre De Lafayette, "Bayou Cajun" Chapter, Houston Heritage Chapter, Golden Triangle Chapter, De Fa Tras Associate Chapter and "Les Cadiens de Teche" Chapter. The 14th Annual Le Cajun Festival and Music Award will be held August 16, 17 and 18th in Lafayette.

Bruce Schultz (*The Advocate* "Playing It By Ear") did a wonderful article on blind Cajun musician Shelton Manuel.

In March, Emmeline Broussard used her Creole story-telling an music to show the rich cultural heritage of Southwest Louisiana in a performance at the LSU at Eunice campus.

The Louisiana Master Musician Series honored Merlin Fontenot, Eunice native and violonistes extraordinaire. The series has moved to the Lafayette Art House (For more information: 337-266-2098; hbernard@ mindspring.com).

Trysha Lynch edits the "Cajun and Zydeco News" from Westboro, Massachusetts (www.cajunandzydeconews.com).

On March 22nd, Glen Pitre's newest film, "The Scoundrel's Wife," starring Tatum O'Neal and Tim Curry opened in Palace Theatres in Elmwod, Westbank and Houma. The film was featured in a cover story in "Gambit Weekly" (March 19, 2002).

Horace Trahan and the New Ossun Express are among the many entertainers for the Louisiana Folk Roots fundraiser held on August 4th.

The Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserv's Acadian Cultural Center held its Summer Cultural Camps. These camps allowed children the opportunity to explore the cultural diversity that makes up and has influenced life in south Louisiana, with hands-on activities, demonstrations and other activities. (337-232-0789 ext. 11).

CODOFIL recently collaborated with Jacques Leclerc to update his information concerning the linguistic situation in Louisiana. We encourage everyone to visit this excellent site in French at: www.itfqlulaval.ca/axl/amnord/louisiane.htm.

**BOOKS**

The descendants of Jean Louis of the Congo held their first family reunion Labor Day weekend in Lafayette, the first time the former enslaved side and freed side of the family gathered together. Jean Louis of the Congo was a former slave of Simon Broussard who was freed in 1792.

*Port Acadie* Revue interdisciplinaire en études acadiennes/Interdisciplinary Review of Acadian Studies 3 (Spring/prints 2002) were available in July. They are looking for material for future issues: short, informal pieces as well as full length scholarly articles on any aspect of Acadian or Cajun culture. (Port Acadie, Université Sainte-Anne, Church Point, Nova Scotia, Canada B01 IM0; portacadie@ustannde.edncl.lls.ca).

Chere Coen recently released her latest book "Delphine" the fourth title in her Acadian series. (www.debtstover.com/chat.htm).

The latest issue of "Acadian Genealogy Exchange" is one of the more interesting ones published. In addition to all the queries and miscellaneous materials, Janet Jhn, has included some of the finest data to date (859 - 356-9825).

Alfred Silver, a distinguished author of historical fiction, including the "Red River Trilogy" and "Acadia" and winner of the Thomas Raddall Award for Fiction (he lives in Ardoise, Nova Scotia) has written "Three Hills Home" a novel of *le grand dérangement* that weaves a story that is as complex as the history itself and also very emotionally fulfilling (www.minibus.ns.ca; lmathesond@minibus.ns.ca).

The Sonnier/Saulnier du Monde Family Association held a family reunion June 15th at the Rayne Civic Center.


If you have not done so already, you may show your support of the Acadian Museum by purchasing the 300+ page book entitled "A Century of Acadian Culture: The Development of a Cajun Community - Erath (1899-1999)" by Curney J. Dronet. Books may be ordered by sending a check or money order in the amount of $20.00 payable to the Acadian Museum, 203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana (337) 937-5468, (337) 233-5832. All proceeds from the sales go towards supporting the museum.

The "ELH Agram" is the official newsletter of the Edward Livingston Historical Association. (P. O. Box 67, Livingston, LA, 70754).

"French Colonists and Exiles in the United States" can be ordered from Clearfield Company, 200 E. Eager Street, Baltimore, MD, 21202, the book sells for $23.45 (post paid).

"Cattlebrands of Louisiana" also know as "Cajun Cattlebrands" may be ordered from Glenda Schoeffler, 223 Morningside, Duson, LA, 70529 (337-873-7419).

Sharon Doucet's latest book "Lapin Plays Possum: Trickster Tales From The Louisiana Bayou" can be ordered by calling (337) 984-6090.
The Modern Languages Department of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has recently published the latest issue of its French Literary Review Feux Follets. Copies can be obtained by calling 337-482-6811.

TOURISM

Those interested in bilingual B & B experience may contact La Maison Bed and Breakfast, 8317 Weeks Island Rd., New Iberia, Louisiana, 70560; (337) 364-2970.

On September 14th Marilyn Crane will have a 50th anniversary of the LeBlanc Church and the grand opening of the building which has been renovated. (337-937-0996).

The Louisiana Craft Guild, presently operating in the Sans Souci Bookstore in Lafayette, has stepped up to bring crafts programming in Girard Park. The new event, Louisiana Crafts Festival will be held September 21-22 (337-266-7999).

Richard Laurin, Nova Acadie Tours, continues to offer some outstanding bargains for people to experience historical Nova Scotia (902-678-7560).

At the urging of David Marcantel, the City/Parish Government has been asked to make a station available for French programming on AOC.

Efforts to claim a separate Grammy category for Cajun and Zydeco acts are gaining ground according to members of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Helen Durand of the FLFA of France recently came to Louisiana and met with Marc J. Cooper, Director of Vieux Carré Commission as well as representatives of CODOFIL and other organizations in Acadiana. Clause Teboul and his group are working on several projects for 2003.

Marcus delaHoussaye has continued to provide entertaining bilingual tours of the Atchafalya Basin (337-298-2630; www.delahoussayes.com).

Cajun fiddler, Edwin Duhon and guitarist Luderin Darbone of the legendary Hackberry Ramblers will travel to Washington, D. C. in September to receive the National Heritage Fellowships award.

Donaldsonville has finalized plans to purchase Le Pêlican, a 20th century reproduction of a warship once commanded by d’Iberville to be used as a tourist attraction.

Zachary Richard is one of the state’s musicians being counted on to help boost tourism through a two million dollar nationwide advertising campaign.

Bernard and Kayla Chaillot, owners, The Local Flavor, L’Ambiance Locale ensure that their guests will be immersed in the French culture of Louisiana (337-937-4753).

LITERATURE, ART AND MUSIC

The Times of Acadiana featured an interesting article (June 19, 2002) “Cajun and Creole’s Living in the Golden State.” Letters written in response have been very supportive such as the moving one written by Brandi Putnam (July 31, 2002, The Times).

Many, including entertainment editor for the Daily Advertiser, Herman Fuselier, believe that we are entering a new era of popularity for Cajun music and Zydeco. Significantly, the CD “Evangeline Maid: A Tribute to Cajun Music” and soundtrack to the movie “Ya-Ya Sisterhood” by Ann Savoy received critical acclaim. She was featured on the cover of “OffBeat (April, 2002).

On July 3 NBC’s Nightline did a segment on “American Routes,” The Nick Spitzer program out of New Orleans

Dominick Cross (“In Tune,” The Advocate) did an interesting piece on the “Clickin’ Chickens” including Gary Newman.

Vermilionville is kicking off its new dance series, La Musique de la Ville (337) 233-4077.

Opeleous Museum of Art was featured in “Southern Living” (March 2002) (337-942-4991).

Clementine Gallery of New Iberia held a reception for painting by Melissa Bonin (337-560-1007).

Secretary of State Fox McKeithen hosted an opening for artist Don Edwards at the Louisiana State Archives (225-342-4479).

The sounds of Cajun and Zydeco music is now at Crowley’s Main Street Alive concert on North Parkerson Avenue: Disc jockey “Deno” with Corey Arceneaux & the Zydeco Hot Peppers. Contact Rita at (337) 788-4123 for more information.


In his always excellent column Dominick Cross (The Advocate) recently wrote: “In the world of Cajun music, there aren’t a whole lot of women youth there performing. In the Female Vocalist of the Year category of the twice-mentioned event, there are three nominees. Two performers, Ashley Hayes and Brittany Polaski, are in the same band. Eva Touchet is also nominated. The group is nominated for Band of the Year; Song of the Year Belle Louisiane, by Zachary Richard/Polaski, vocals; and Best Recording of the Year, Belle Louisiane.”

FOLKLORE AND TRADITIONS


The French American Chamber of Commerce had a Muscadet Wine Festival fundraiser June 28th.

Under the leadership of Kathy Ball, the Summer Cultural Arts Series continues in Lafayette (337-233-7060).

Dr. Carl Brasseaux hosted an open house at the Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism at Dupré Library at UL Lafayette on June 24th. Thanks to Maida Owens and the Louisiana Folklife program, $30,000 were allocated to the Center, allowing for the purchase of equipment.
- Louisiana Folk Roots' Jam des Amis takes place during the rue des Artistes, every 1st Saturday of the month, on the streets of downtown Breaux Bridge (108 West Bridge Street, corner of Bridge and Main).
- At the invitation of Secretary of State Fox McKeel, Kermit Boulion photographed a gathering of four former and the current governor. His photo was shown statewide and is sure to be a classic.
- Dr. Meg Marshall, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature and Professor of French at Southeastern Louisiana University received a Fulbright Research Award to do research on Linguistic Insecurity in Louisiana and Reunion Creoles at the Institut d'Etudes Creoles in Aix-en-Provence.
- Tragically, Vernon Roger, former WAFB-TV anchor and Cajun chef, recently took his own life.
- The Tickfaw Park held Cajun Day on June 29th (225-294-2218).
- The Louisiana Folklore Society held its annual meeting in Natchitoches on April 13th.
- Well-known and beloved artist Floyd Sonnier, 68, died April 6th.
- At their regular board meeting, La Famille Beausoleil Association voted to support the effort to locate the grave site of Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil.
- Charles LaRaque and Kermit Boulion worked with André Forcier in production of the 13-part documentary on Louisiana culture called “Gombo-Oh! La! La!” to be aired on TV 5.
- The 13 30-minute segments each feature someone from French Cajun, Creole or Native American background who has kept the French language as an integral part of his or her life. Some of the people who were interviewed are: André Courville; Horace Trahan of New Ossun Express; Jolène Adam, director of the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville; Gerard Dupuis; Ron Gaspard; Greg Guirard; D. L. Menard, Merline Courteau; Amanada LaFleur; and Geno Delafose.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Led by Simon and Relie LeBlanc, a group of 53 LeBlanc’s from Louisiana visited their ancestral home sites in Nova Scotia and were guests for the opening of the exhibition “Évangéline Odyssey” at Acadia University’s Art Gallery in Wolfville. Accompanying the group was legendary musician, D. L. Menard. Dr. Jean Douglas Comeau surprised him with a “Jam session” with Steve Riley and members of the band Feu Follet.
- Recent news from France-Louisiane: At the “Foire de Paris” (April 29-May 12) the stand of Louisiana was run by FRANCE-LOUISIANE whose volunteers were present to give visitors information about Louisiana and to promote the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial events. Most notably, Julia Price, Domeneaux scholar in France, did an exceptional job in promoting tourism to Louisiana. In May, in order to prepare a “Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial tour” for members and officers of FRANCE-LOUISIANE, Hélène Durand did a preliminary travel in Louisiana. In June, FRANCE-LOUISIANE members have received students and professors from the universities of Baton Rouge and Lafayette for soires of immersion in French families. Also, FRANCE-LOUISIANE arranged a visit of a Parisian maternity hospital for the students of the College of Nursing and Allied Professions (ULL). The annual convention of the nonprofit association FRANCE-LOUISIANE will meet on October 16-20, 2002 in Le Puy-en-Velay (Auvergne). A delegation from Louisiana is expected. The convention has planned to pay homage to General Lafayette in his castle of Chavaniac where he lived.
- A delegation comprised of Francophones from Florida (Haitians and Québécois) headed up by Dr. Aldy Castor of the Haitian Development Committee met with CODOFIL, Le Centre International de Lafayette and Southern University on July 22. Included in the delegation were former Haitian Prime Minister Alexis and the present ministers of Tourism and Haitians Living Abroad, as well as the Deans of the Medical and Law Schools in Port-au-Prince. Mrs. Yvonne Courage proposed closer ties between the Louisiana and Florida Francophones through her web site: www.planete.qc.ca/florida.
- The French-based TV Monde Network is seeking to expand in Louisiana.
- Council for International Visitors of New Orleans recently held a wine and cheese party. (CIV, 1600 Canal Street, Suite 609, New Orleans, LA 70112).
- Québec City’s Musée de la Civilisation teams up with the FirstUSA Riverfront Arts Center.
- The Musée Falaise Acadien Québec of Les Ormes, France opened a new exhibit by Michel Roux in the Louisiana Room of the museum. It features the art of Robert Dafford.
- Those receiving l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques in Louisiana: Mathé Allain, Jacqueline Labat, Hope Glidden and David Barry (Le Pélican, 504-523-5772).
- After 176 years, Mexico closed its consular office in New Orleans. “This is a wake up call to say that we do not want to lose more consular general offices, but we want to get more,” said José Cruz, Ecuador’s consul general and dean of city’s consular corps. Louisiana, in its renewed effort at economic development, must not ignore its international partners who do so much to aid in our historical and cultural work. This comes on the heels of New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin’s trade promotion visit to Central America.
- Many Louisiana families hosted French students once again this summer, notably Judge Herman Clause, Phylis Huval and Audrey George. Audrey and CODOFIL arranged for the lodging of France-Louisiane’s art contest winner to stay with families in Houma and Grand Côteau.

CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2004

- Giselle Bernard, La Société de développement de la Baie acadienne of Prince Edward Island attended Festival International.
- Donna Doucet, Executive Director of Grand Pré National Park announced a successful Acadian culture celebration at the park July 20 and 21.
- While on a promotional tour in Louisiana, CMA President Allister Surette met with Lt. Governor Blanco (902) 424-2220.
These meetings and many others were made possible by the Société Nationale de l'Acadie. Kudos to Denis Laplante and Valérie Roy for organizing this trip for a large delegation of Acadians in less than a month. Gaspard/Picard/Laviolette held a family reunion in Kaplan on May 4th (337-989-7003; lgaspard@bellsouth.net).

Philipp Gustin and Eddie Richard hosted a reception at La Famille Beausoleil Association.

The Advocate did a terrific piece on the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville and Jolene Adam does a great job as director.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE BICENTENNIAL

In July, I visited Montana and had an opportunity to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail along the Yellowstone River culminating in a visit to Pomeys Pillar, a national monument; this 200-foot stone outcropping bears the only visible evidence of the expedition along the entire trail: one the return trip, Clark carved his name into the rock on July 25, 1805 (For information contact Montana River Discoveries, Scott Warden, 406-651-0537 or 1-800-344-0537 or: www.riverdiscovery.com). I was inducted in the Pomeys Pillar Historical Association and agreed to work to promote the Bicentennial of that event in 2005 in return for publicity of our Bicentennial. Also, I viewed the exhibit “Discovering the Rivers of Lewis and Clark” and requested information on how that exhibit could be brought to Louisiana.

In 2003, Louisiana will host a statewide celebration commemorating 200 years of Louisiana’s cultural history. A list of Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial events and offerings can be found at www.LouisianaPurchase2003.com.

Curtis Joubert, State Coordinator of the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase was honored at the LSUE commencement and presented the University Medal.

Work is now begun at UL Lafayette for the construction of a new art museum to open during the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial December 20, 2003 and hosts works from the Louvre, the Musée d’Orsay and Musée Carnavalet from France. The driving force behind this project is Herman Mbire.

Eddie Richard, CAFA, advised that there will be a three-day celebration for the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and a mini Congrès was held in Rayne to plan the event.

Elaine Levaque and the Association Wallonia-Brussel-Louisiane will participate in the Bicentennial by receiving over 1,000 people who will visit with their sister cities as part of Festival International de la Louisiane.

“Louisiana Life” magazine selected the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial to be included in the “What’s Hot” section of their latest magazine.

The first of an estimated 600 million to 700 million Louisiana commemorative quarters began to be minted in Denver, with the rest to be made over the next ten weeks at the Denver and Philadelphia mints. The first quarter struck will be turned over to the Louisiana State Museum once the Louisiana quarter is released into circulation. The coin features the outline of the Louisiana Territory, the Louisiana State Bird, the Eastern Brown Pelican and a trumpet to note the state’s musical heritage.

New Jersey composer Robert Kapilow is working on a new symphony for the Bicentennial.

The opening ceremony of the statewide Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial will be at Kent Plantation House in Alexandria, December 20th. The official opening will take place form 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the 1800 Creole plantation house, followed by citywide celebrations.

Artwork and other historical objects form the Napoleonic era will come to Baton Rouge from France in 2003 as part of an Empress Josephine exhibition.

An Immersion Summer Institute for Teachers of French K-12 to study the facets of the Louisiana Purchase entitled “La Vente de la Louisiane was sponsored by Dr. Denise Egéa-Kuehne, Director, Immersion Summer Institute, LSU (225-578-2429).

The National D-Day Museum and Alliance Française presented an exhibition “Pétain et Degaule: Interwining Destinies” April 13 (504-527-6012).

The French-American Chamber of Commerce in support of the Bicentennial has arranged a high-profile visit to France a delegation of political and business leaders from Louisiana in October, 2002, including Louisiana’s First Lady, Mrs. Alice Foster, as well as Senate President, John Hainkel (Ken Scott, Executive Director, 504-561-0070).

The Louisiana Historical Association will sponsor a Bicentennial Conference January 22-25, 2003 at the Omni Hotel, New Orleans (UL Lafayette P. O. Box 40400, Lafayette, LA 70504).

LEGAL

Attorneys are invited to submit papers to Le Memorial de Caen to compete in the World Human Rights Conference to be held January 26, 2003 (vndere@memoircaen.fr).

With the help and support of Prime Minister Bernard Landry, the National Assembly of Quebec approved a resolution of my Petition for an apology for the Acadian deportation.

On June 12th a news conference was held at the University of Moncton where the Société Nationale de l’Acadie President Euclide Chaisson announced that all the Acadian organizations of the world had joined with me to present the Petition directly to the Queen. It was delivered to the Governor-General by Chaisson in person. The following members of the Canadian Parliament spoke in favor of the Resolution calling upon Britain to approve the Petition: Viola Léger, Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, Gérard J. Comeau, Noel A. Kinsella, John G. Byden, Laurier L. La Pierre, Eymard G. Carbin, Joseph Day and Fernand Robichaud. The merging of efforts will result in pursuing this historical recognition by going directly to the British Crown;
hopefully, the apology will be obtained prior to 2005, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the tragic deportation.

- Senator John Breaux is considering drafting a Resolution to present to the U.S. Senate requesting support for the apology; this effort would coincide with the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's rise to the British throne.

- Alain Levaseur, Hermann Moyse, Sr., Professor of Law, LSU and President of Association Henri Capuantz is making plans to hold a major conference inviting the Chief Justices of the United States, French and European Court of Justice.

- The Bench-Bar Section and the Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association hosted a reception for Francophone lawyers from Haiti, Belgium, Canada and France on April 26\textsuperscript{th} (John Hernandez, III 337-233-5330).

- In Re: Orso, 283 F3d 686 (2002), the U.S. Fifth Circuit recognized that Louisiana stands alone among the 50 states as a Civil Law Jurisdiction.

- The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional a law to make English the official state language.

- John Hernandez, III announced that the Francophone Section is sponsoring a trip to Belgium and France in September. Anyone interested in accompanying the group may contact John at (337) 233-5330.

- The Honorable Anne-Marie Trahan, Judge on the Superior Court of Québec, was recently in Baton Rouge and suggested ideas for celebrating the Bicentennial: exchange of law books and documents linking Louisiana with Québec.

**FOODWAYS**

- Philippe Gustin hosted André Point, restaurateur et chef de cuisine du restaurant St. Hillaire, Poitiers, France.

- Billy Jacob's is the executive chef for product research and development for Popeye's, was featured in an article in The Advertiser "The Business of Cooking" (June 14\textsuperscript{th}). A veteran of nine years with Popeye's, Jacob has introduced Popeye's Louisiana Legion Series which featured gumbo, étouffée and jambalya.

- Chef Pat Mould participated in the Florida Cajun and Zydeco Crawfish Festival in Fort Lauderdale.

- Sadly, Ruth Fertel, founder of Ruth's Chris Steak House, died.

- The Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University is relocating to a plantation house dating back to 1796. The site will be known as the Levert Campus.

**YOUTH**

- Louisiana Public Broadcasting did a story on the French Immersion program in Louisiana and featured the graduating class of Cecilia whose members completed twelve years of the program.

- The CFMA held its annual French-speaking contest May 26 at Acadian Village for children fluent in conversational French (337-896-8645).

- "Erin Daigle & Allons-y" performed at the River Region Art Gallery in Sorrento recently. The trio includes Daigle's grandfather, Tony Daigle, on guitar and her mother, Jeanne Solis-Daigle, on percussion.

- Nakia Davis of New Orleans was featured on the cover of "Essence" magazine, is on the lady's Professional Golf Association Futures Tour. She is seeking sponsorships (404-691-9288; i!y!!!brg«~;!.QL~;!.J!!JL)

- Ashley Hayes and Chris Stafford will be on the public radio program, "American Routes" hosted by Nick Spitzer. As both musicians and students of immersion, they will speak about the importance of the language in the preservation of the culture.

*La lutte continue. Ensemble on est capable. L'union fait la force.*

CODOFIL
217, rue Principale Ouest
Lafayette, LA 70501

Charles W. Triche, III
Director of Libraries
Edith Garland Dupré Library
UL Lafayette
P. O. Box 40199
Lafayette, LA 70504-0119