INTRODUCTION

- If you know a person or group that would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please send their address to CODOFIL or E-mail codofil@bellsouth.net.
- If you want to provide any information to CODOFIL, please send an e-mail: codofil@bellsouth.net.
- We invite you to visit the calendar on our website at www.codofil.org where Louisiana Francophone and cultural events are posted every Wednesday. To publish your events, please send details at least one week in advance to Elaine Clément (337) 262-5810 or e-mail her at Elainefc@bellsouth.net.
- The CODOFIL board met on February 26 in conjunction with the annual ALCFES meeting (see end of newsletter). One of the points brought out was to encourage greater involvement in promoting French programs with local school boards in Louisiana. Please contact your school board representatives to express your support for French in your area.
- The Perrin’s are delighted to welcome to their family their granddaughter, Lily Mae, the daughter of Jean and Rebecca Perrin Ouellet.
- Three Louisianians were honored by the French government: Jackie Labat, French teacher at St-Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge received the designation of Chevalier in the Order of Palmes Académiques from M. Patrick Rolot, Consul general of France in New Orleans. The Order of Palmes Académiques was instituted by Napoleon in 1808 to honor members of the University. Consul-General Patrick Rolot traveled to Lafayette to present the insignia of Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres to our Executive Director (and poet) Dr. David Cheramie and to Herman Mhire, professor of visual arts and Executive Director of the Art Museum at UL Lafayette. The Order of Arts and Letters was created in 1957 and is destined to those who have distinguished themselves by their artistic or literary creations. Congratulations to Jackie, David and Herman!
- Sadly missed are the following individuals who contributed greatly to the promotion of our French language and culture, some of whom were Inductees into the “Order of Living Legends”: Una Broussard Evans, Stanley Gayneaux, Loussaye Aube, J. Minos Simon, Kirmor Richard, Maxie Broussard, Bill Pain, Senator Charles Hudson, Roderick Miller, Eddie Richard, Creole fiddler Carlton “Nonc Loy” Frank, and Leon Moncla.
- Some of the international journalists who we received at the Acadian Museum in Erath included Dean Jobb, staff reporter, The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mark Poirier, CBC Canada and Then Melbye, writer from Denmark.
- On November 10th we helped Betty Bernard, dba Betty’s RV Park, celebrate her 5th anniversary by hosting 40 tourists from throughout the United States who had a social at the Acadian Museum Annex on Lake Peigneur.
- We sent congratulatory letters to Louisiana freshman Senator David Vitter and House members Bobby Jindal, Charles Boustany and Charles Melançon and requested an opportunity to meet with them to discuss CODOFIL activities. On February 15, we met with Boustany’s assistant, Tommy Hebert.
- Former Eunice Mayor J. Curtis Joubert was inducted in the Louisiana Political Museum Hall of Fame.
- U. S. Representative Billy Tauzin, dubbed the “Cajun ambassador to Congress,” retired leaving an impressive political legacy.
- Under the leadership of J. B. Borel, President, Les Amis du CODOFIL, Westbank, is doing a wonderful job organizing events in promoting CODOFIL in the New Orleans area. For additional information: jbborel@bellsouth.net. CODOFIL Westbank invites you to join them on the first Saturday of the month for their Petit Déjeuner Acadien at LeBlanc’s Restaurant on Lafayette Street in Gretna.
- As a result of a suggestion by Representative Eric LaFleur, the Evangeline Parish Police Jury held its monthly meeting in December almost entirely in French. The event was widely reported in the media.
Representative Eric LaFleur has sent out an advisory that a Resolution will be introduced in the Louisiana Legislature calling upon Congress to make English the official language. This year’s bill H.R. 997, “The English Unity Act of 2003,” was sponsored by Congressman King and has 108 co-sponsors. The Resolution was also sponsored by freshman La. legislature Representative Welker. We request that everyone express their opposition by immediately notifying your political representatives in Baton Rouge.

Terry Huval, musician and director of Lafayette Utilities System, was selected as The Independent’s “Person of the Year.” Congratulations to Terry!

In response to a “Letter to the Editor” (The Advertiser, September 1st), Dr. Barry Jean Ancelet wrote an excellent letter “Can't We Let This Tired Old Concept Just Die?” admonishing the use of the pejorative “coonass.” Our thanks to him for his tireless efforts to promote our culture and language.

Elaine F. Clement, Communications Director for CODOFIL stated: “What a Year!!! What a privilege to call myself a Louisiana woman and to work in this community! What I've most loved is seeing how the Louisiana community continues to grow. The continuation for the active twinning between St. Martinville and Goree Island in Senegal with the participation of students from Southern University, the participation of Louisianans in the 3rd World Acadian Congress in Nova Scotia, the beginnings of conversations with Maine, the beginning of new French tables on the West Bank and at Nicholls and possibly soon in St. Charles Parish, the presentation of new plays in French in Lafayette and Pierre Part.”

Chris Courville, drummer for the “Lost Bayou Ramblers,” has proposed developing a Cajun website. If you are interested in helping, call him for more information: (504) 390-2302.

Fondation President Dr. William Arceneaux wrote an excellent letter (The Advocate, February 15, 2005) in support of Governor Blanco’s Executive Order banning discrimination of any variety.

Angela Simoneaux wrote an article (“Revelry rolls in Lafayette”, The Advocate, February 9) and quoted Joel LaFleur: “Thanks to CODOFIL, we could take French lessons...”.

Dr. Bob Carriker, UL Lafayette History professor, and Nolan Theriot recently launched a website devoted to boudin: www.boudinlink.com.

CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN

Queen Elizabeth II urged religious and cultural tolerance in multi-cultural Britain in a traditional Christmas message broadcast on television and radio. On December 9, 2003, signed wherein she acknowledged against the Acadians during the proclamation, she designated July annual Day of Remembrance of I was invited to attend a dinner in Bissonnet, President of the Quebec Royal Proclamation was commemorated.

The last issue of Acadian Genealogy Exchange by Janet Jehn is again filled with excellent research material.

Donna Doucet, Director of Grand-Pré National Historic Site, was organizing a Cajun Day celebration to take place July 31, 2005 (902- 542-3631), but sadly she suffered a stroke. She is recovering and we wish her well.

Under the leadership of President Eddie Richard, who recently passed away, CAFA held a meeting December 11, 2004. He announced plans to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Acadian deportation on August 27th and 28th in a reunion to be held in Rayne.


The Broussard family has undergone a transition whereby Charles Broussard relinquished the presidency of “Famille Beausoleil” to Richard Paul Broussard. The organization is working to help the French Immersion programs champion “Acadian Heritage Day.” (Famille Beausoleil Association, 214 Highland Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506). The group met on March 5th in Maurice.

On March 19th the Acadian Memorial will hosting the first annual Acadian Memorial Festival: Calling All Cajuns and hosting a guest lecturer by Jason P. Theriot, native Cajun and author of “To Honor Our Veterans.”

Through March, the “Spirit of Evangeline” exhibition of Dr. François Paradis’ collection of Evangeline artifacts will be displayed at the Acadian Memorial.
Yvon Cyr has announced that he has completed updating his website which includes graphics of over 100 different Acadian - Cajun crests/coat of arms (cajun@acadian.org).

Anna and Ed Gauthier of Sunset retraced the original voyage of the Acadians from France to Canada on the ship Europa and they made a presentation at the St. Landry Genealogy meeting.

TOURISM

Angèle Davis, Secretary, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, spoke to a regional meeting of industry leaders in November and stated “our diversity is a strength and we need to diversify our tourism economy ... we are working on several different things to develop an eco-cultural and heritage tourism while trying to reach multiple types of markets.”
The 2005 Louisiana Tourism Summit was held January 18th in Shreveport.
A Cultural Economic Conference was held in New Orleans December 9th - 10th which focused on properly developing tourism along with the culture.
An excellent editorial appeared in The Advocate (December 29, 2004) entitled “Selling culture gets complex” wherein it was stated that “Aggressive tourism promotion, over time, often mutes the distinctions of local culture that make it attractive to outsiders in the first place ... This can certainly happen, for example, if well-meaning people try to cultivate Acadiana and its unique culture into a kind of Cajun Disneyland.”
The World Trade Center continues to do an excellent job in promoting Louisiana internationally (504) -529-1601.
Valérie Guillet is the Executive Director of the French-American Chamber of Commerce and is developing ways to re-invigorate the organization. The last Board of Directors’ meeting was held in New Orleans on February 15th (504-561-0070). The Chambers’ annual dinner was held February 14th at the Blue Room at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans.
A group of Acadiana International Good Neighbors recently attended the organization’s 50th anniversary celebration in Monterrey, Mexico. The Acadiana chapter meets bi-weekly in the Lafayette area. For more information, call Louis Michot (337) 237-1181.
Cajuns were the hit of the Christmas celebrations in Baghdad, Iraq: Specialist Keith Istre of Mermentau sang “O Holy Night” in Cajun French and Major André Vigé of St. Martinville stole the show with his rendition of “Twas the Cajun Night Before Christmas.”
To receive an excellent newsletter and keep up with U.S.-France relations, log onto: http://www.ambafrance-us.org.
The Baton Rouge Center for World Affairs held its ninth annual reception and dinner on October 18th and honored the members of the Consular Corp of Louisiana.
Shirley Gremillion, Bonnie Broussard, Rebecca Shirley and Sue Butaud represented Vermilion Parish at the McAllen Travel Show in Texas.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

News from our dear friends at France-Louisiane in France: On June 16, President C. Teboul participated at the Senate at a lunch which brought together the leaders of associations acting for reconciliations between France and the United States. On organized by the embassy of the a delegation of members from Vice-President, made a trip to Lafayette town hall. At the framework of the Congress, Randy government of Lafayette presented Babineaux-Blanco, Governor of officially thanked FL/FA for the popularity of Louisiana in France.
Independence Day FL/FA attended a reception United States in Paris. From August 23 to 31, FL/FA accompanied by Mr. G-M Braud, Louisiana and were welcomed at the beginning of the General Assembly in the Menard, President of the city/parish a reading of a proclamation by Kathleen Louisiana, dated September 24. In it she important role it played, contributing to the Hélène Durand, Mary Becnel, Jean-Claude Bachy, Randy Menard and Philippe Gustin were shown displaying the Acadian flag in the latest issue of La Gazette de la Francophonie Américaine (December, 2004).

As a result of cooperation between the French government and the LSU Agriculture Center, a documentary was filmed in Louisiana in December about the cotton industry.
• Festival International de Louisiane held its annual corporate pin breakfast November 9th at River Ranch. Festival pins, designed by Ann and Curtis Darrah, and posters, designed by Pat Juneau, are now on sale (337-232-8086).

• The World Affairs Council of New Orleans hosted a luncheon panel entitled “Louisianians in Iraq.” For more information, contact Dorothy Duval Nelson, Executive Director (504-523-2201).

• Elaine De Pues-Levaque, Représentante de la Communauté française de Belgique en Louisiane, will again host Concours Francophonie 2005 (WALBRULA@aol.com).

• Iva Clavelle and TIRRA (The International Relations Associations of Acadiana) hosted their Cajun breakfast on January 30th.

• On March 5th the Council for International Visitors of Greater New Orleans (CIV) hosted international Fulbright students. Contact Rosemarie Fowler at 504-891-5409 or by email, rosemariefowler@aol.com.

• Patrick Rolot hosted André Ferrand, Senator from France, at a reception on January 26th. Senator Ferrand also visited a French immersion class in Lafayette and was hosted by a lunch organized by Philippe Gustin.

• Bernard de Reynies, general manager of Roggwiller Tannery of Louisiana in Lafayette and former member of Millau (France) Chamber of Commerce, made a presentation February 3rd at River Ranch regarding construction for the Millau Viaduct over the Tarn Valley in France.

• The Minister of Acadian Affairs, Agriculture and Fisheries of the Province of Nova Scotia, the Honorable Chris d'Entremont, was in Louisiana the week of February 20th leading a group of 20 government and business individuals. Also attending the event was the Honorary Consul of Canada in Louisiana Patricia Denechaud.

• Vaughne Madden, former director of Congrès, visited Louisiana (February 21 and 22) and advised that Nova Scotia enacted a law allowing government services to be offered in French.

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

• Thanks to everyone at the Daily Advertiser, particularly Chere Coen, for their commitment to only use the word Mardi Gras and refrain from using the improper translation “Fat Tuesday.” Unfortunately, other journalist continue to erode the language by substituting “Fat Tuesday.” We again urge them to use “Mardi Gras” or the correct translation “Shrove Tuesday.” The Advertiser showed respect for Acadiana’s natural healers in an editorial “Move to protect traiteurs essential.” The column lauded the work of State Representative Syndie Mae Durand of St. Martinville.

• In an interesting article “R. I. Town Recalls French Canadian Roots with N. O.-Style Mardi Gras Celebration” (The Advocate, Sunday, February 6, 2005 by Elizabeth Zuckerman, Associated Press writer) discusses how the Mardi Gras tradition is maintained by Francophones in Rhode Island.

• According to Shannon Glasheen, the Louisiana State Museum - Old U. S. Mint in New Orleans has extended its exhibit of images by O. Winston Link titled “The Louisiana Photographs.”

• Gene Breaux has been elected President of the CFMA. Ed Gary has been named LeCajun Chairman (CFMA Governing Body, P. O. Box 92575, Lafayette, LA 70509-2575). The CFMA Chapitre de Lafayette held its annual Christmas celebration at La Poussiere in Breaux Bridge December 3rd with music by “T-Salé.”

• With fourteen Le Cajun awards from the CFMA under his belt, Kevin Naquin has released another CD “Never Satisfied.”

• Dominick Cross’ column (November 11, 2004, The Advocate) extolled the long-time work of Zyedco musicians raising money during the 18th annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

• Rustic furniture maker and Cajun dancer extraordinaire Don Brasseaux was featured for his fine furniture making in an article “Pieces with character” (“Weekend,” The Daily Advertiser, November 19-25, 2004).

• Jamie Bergeron and the Kickin’ Cajuns held their annual fan appreciation party in Rayne. His latest CD is selling well: “Gard Pas Ca” (337-268-7286).

• The annual premiere of the 2004 Beaujolais Nouveau wine was featured as a fundraiser at Cité des Arts (337-291-1122).

• Sharon Doucet and her husband Michael Doucet continue “TwoStep,” a reading series with a musical component at the Acadiana Center for the Arts. Developed by Darrell Bourque, the series features writers, teachers, community leaders and musical artists presenting their personal experiences in literature and music.

• The Breaux Bridge Christmas Parade on the Bayou Teche was filmed and featured on HGTV.
The very popular “Louisiana Crossroads” program continued with entertainers such as Stanley “Buckwheat” Durel, Jr., Paul “Lil” Buck Sinegal & Friends, David Greely, et al. Sadly, in December, Laura Plantation was partially destroyed by a fire. Under the leadership of Norman Marmillion, a fundraiser was recently held in connection with the Christmas bonfires. Twenty-five states and four countries were represented in this year’s Zydeco cruise aboard the Carnival Conquest ship which sailed from New Orleans. Next year’s cruise will include Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys and Geno Delafose. (337-981-7870 or 800-683-9882).

Caroline A. Picard, daughter of Barbara Picard, Mayor of Maurice, has proposed that a Louisiana town host a comic festival. For more information, check the website “Just For Laughs” (www.justforlaughs.com).

Famed Cajun jockey from Erath, Shane Sellers, a leader in pushing for better health insurance for riders, retired on December 14, 2004.

Cal and Lou Courville are continuing to offer Cajun dance lessons and their instructional video (337-234-6709).

The Louisiana Museum Foundation magazine recently featured a story on Clifton Chenier and the fact that it had acquired his crown and accordion for display.

December 18th was the annual Medicine Show to raise funds for the Dr. Tommy Comeaux UL Fund. Featured performers included The Traiteurs, Marc Broussard and Friends, C. C. Adcock and the Lafayette Marquis.

Bob Moore did an excellent job promoting Noël Acadien au Village at Acadian Village which drew more than 30,000 visitors. Some featured performers there included Nancy Tabb Marcantel and Les Amies Louisianaises.

Joe and Laura LeBlanc recently acquired Doucet Hardware and renamed it Doucet Heritage Hardware. They will work to promote heritage in Acadiana.

Paragon Casino Resort announced that a Zydeco Festival would be held on January 22nd featuring Keith Frank and the Soileau Zydeco Band, Preston Frank and The Frank Family Band and T-Broussard and The Zydeco Steppers.

Nathan Williams and the Zydeco Cha-Chas performed at a New Year’s Eve party at Vermilionville.

D. L. Menard was among many of the entertainers performing at the fourth annual Old Tyme Country Show at the Liberty Theater in Eunice.

Don Fontenot performed at the Fraternal Order of Police Hall December 31st. The Opelousas native and his band Les Amis de la Louisiane, were winners of several CFMA awards.

We should all be thankful to Paul Marx, founder of KBON 101.1 FM Radio Station in Eunice, which continues to receive world-wide acclaim for its promotion of Cajun music, Zydeco and Swamp Pop twenty-four hours a day.

Journalist and writer Robert MacNeil searched America looking to define the American-English language and his travels took him to Mamou where he visited Fred’s Lounge and Carl’s Restaurant and spoke to Tante Sue. The documentary titled “Do You Speak American?” aired January 5th on LPB.

Dr. Glynn Granger, French-speaking surgeon in Opelousas, has a change of address: 3975 Interstate 49, Service Road South, Suite 105, Opelousas, LA, 70570 (337-948-7680).

The French Twinning Committee of Scott is selling Acadian flags for yards and roadways as a fund-raiser to help send exchange students to Canada and France. The signs are double-sided and plastic-coated. To order, call Rodney Savoy (337-277-8782).

Rayjohn Coffman of Bayou Petit Caillou Productions (http://www.bayoupt.com) in Chauvin was featured in the Advocate (January 7, 2005) with his new DVD “Bayou Petit Caillou Gone Forever, Vol. 1: The Ballet at Robinson Canal.”

Louisiana’s Cajun Country will host the fourth annual Cycle Zydeco (March 31-April 3) at the annual Cajun/Creole Food and Cycling Festival starting in Lafayette and meandering through Acadiana.

The 2005 Dewey Balfa Cajun and Creole Heritage Week will take place April 10 - 16 (www.lafolkroots.org).

A terrific fund-raising event was put together by Inkie Aucoin in Ville Platte, Arrête Pas La Musique (Don’t Stop the Music), to benefit the Louisiana Folkroots program.

The Baton Rouge Genealogical and Historical Society met on February 19. Thanks for inviting me to speak to the enthusiastic group.

Sam Broussard, guitarist and vocalist with Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, was mentioned in the Smiley Anders’ Advocate column “Tonight Show” telling of the night that he appeared on the Johnny Carson Show and was received with much professionalism by Carson, recently deceased.

Robert Vincent was re-elected President of the 2005 Erath 4th of July Association.
Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu attended the Grammy's February 13th in Los Angeles to promote the category and diversity of Louisiana music. No category has yet been awarded, but local efforts, led by the Simiens, continue to get a Cajun and Zyedoc Grammy category established.

Kent Plantation House hosted their annual Open Hearth Cooking January 5 - 26.

Another outstanding group of Louisiana researchers are members of La Société des Cajuns which publishes Les Memoirs du Bayou Lafourche (velton@mobiletel.com).

The famous phrase, "Ils sont partis!" ("And they're off!") was heard for the first time in Opelousas on February 5th when Evangeline Downs Race Track hosted the Mardi Gras Futurity at its new location.

A Living Legend as named by the Acadian Museum, Richard LeBouef of Kaplan, was named King "Gumbo" for the Kaplan Chic-A-La-Pie Mardi Gras celebration on February 8th. Congratulations!

Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard 256 Mechanized Infantry Brigade celebrated Iraq's first Mardi Gras.

According to Patty Ferguson, attorney representing the tribe, as of February 4, 2005, the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe was placed on "active consideration" by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They have sixty days to turn in additional information to be considered by the BIA. We are looking for professors of history, archaeology, and anthropology to assist. We are also preparing a grant application to assist in compiling documentation and publishing a book about the tribe. Any individuals who could help in that project should contact Patty at 480 - 425-2600.

The Pointe de l'Eglise: Acadia Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc. held its quarterly meeting at the Acadia Parish Library. (337-783-8497).

HISTORY

Louisiana resident Robert Penn Warren's was made into a film in Baton Rouge. The would be an opportunity for Hollywood to hopefully will accurately depict our state. The Kermit Bouillion appears as an extra. ("Warren book headed to film," November 3, 2004)

In its Fall issue, Louisiana History Newsletter, Association, announced that Samuel C. also announced the establishment of the contributions in memory of the late Glenn R. (337-482-5412). Also, historian Ryan Brasseaux, director of research, recently completed work on the new Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum in Oil City.

Award-winning filmmaker Pat Mire is completing work on a film featuring the role of French-speaking Louisianians in World War II. In an article entitled "Mon Cher Camarade," Mire was photographed interviewing Veterans at an Erath reunion. Jason Theriot (The Times, November 10, 2004), wrote an emotional account about the sixty year reunion on Omaha Beach where PFC Houston D. Duhon of New Iberia was memorialized.

Dr. Carl Brasseaux, Director of UL Lafayette’s Center for Culture and Eco-tourism, continues to work to make the university’s extensive music archives available to scholars and the public (www.louisianacrossroads.org). He organized a presentation by Dr. John Mack Farragher at UL on March 11th.

Roland Stanbury, Director, Young-Sanders Center for the Study of the War Between the States in Louisiana, Inc., has done an excellent job in organizing the archives of the facility in Franklin. (vsc1861@aol.com).

Next year Carencro will celebrate its centennial. The event is being organized by the St. Pierre Genealogical Society (337-896-8105).

LPB received another honor for an episode of its "Louisiana: A History" series. "The Search for Order" episode four of a six-part, sweeping look at the state’s history, won a Suncoast Regional Emmy in the documentary programs category.

The Pointe de l'Eglise: Acadia Genealogical & Historical Society has added an index to its website that will include Crowley, Rayne and Church Point newspaper obituaries (www.rootsweb.ksk-laephs).

Chalmette Battlefield observed its 100th anniversary January 6 - 8th at the battlefield, a unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve.
• Karl Hakala, Director of the Jean Lafitte Acadian Culture Center in Lafayette, continues to develop and promote wonderful exhibits focusing on the French heritage of Louisiana: "Images of France and Louisiana" by Jacques and Pauline Royal.

• The Gueydan Museum opened a new exhibit in January "Swamp Spirits" (www.gueydan.org/museum.html).

• The 47th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association will be held March 17 - 19 at the Holiday Inn Central in Lafayette (Louisiana Historical Association, P. O. Box 40400, UL at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504).

• An exhibition on “Louisiana Story” opened in Abbeville at the Alliance Center Museum & Art Gallery. The center has moved to 108 South State Street. Russell Gaspard has moved his Acadian Center there also.

• The annual Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society seminar will be April 30 at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge. Speakers include Judy Riffel, writer and expert in Louisiana records sources, who will discuss finding Louisiana genealogical records.

• Dr. John Faragher, Yale University, The Arthur Unobskey Professor of American History, will be lecturing at Griffin Auditorium in Lafayette on March 11th at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Faragher released his new book on February 21 "A Great and Noble Scheme: The Tragic Story of the Expulsion of the French Acadians from their American Homeland" (W. W. Norton & Company). He provided much assistance to me for my book "Acadian Redemption: From Beausoleil Broussard to the Royal Proclamation." You are invited to attend the lecture.

FOOD

• In the annual Culinary Classic, Prejean’s Restaurant won the “Best of Show” award. Prejean’s recently-released new cookbook is simply titled “Prejean’s Cookbook.” Prejean’s owner Robert “Bob” Guilbeaux has done a terrific job promoting Cajun culture since the restaurant opened in the 1980s.

• Roland Guidry was featured in an Advocate story, "Guidry fights for chances to cook" through first grade speaking French.

• Celebrities at the American Music Awards show were provided with many Cajun Cookout of St. Amant.

• The men of the Folse family were featured in the Advocate “Food Section.” John D. recently-released a new cookbook entitled, “The Encyclopedia of Cajun and Creole Cuisine.”

• Congratulations to Whitney Atchee for his leadership in organizing the 20th anniversary celebration of the Giant Omelette celebration in Abbeville.

• Lafayette native and New Orleans’ attorney Danny Abel co-authored a beautiful cookbook entitled “The Tout Point Lodge Cookbook: Creole Cuisine from New Orleans to Nova Scotia.” Danny opened a Granada Cooking School in Spain and is the owner of Trout Point Lodge in Nova Scotia.

• Brian Boulet of Crowley is doing well with his Cajun Blast barbecue flavored sauce. It is a product of Quality Sales of Crowley.

• Recipes of Mulate’s restaurant are featured in a new Pelican Publishing book entitled “Zydeco Shoes.”

• According to Keith A. Hardison, the new Louisiana History museum in Capitol Park will be opening soon.

• Spicy Louisiana cuisine is popular all over the world and a Louisiana-style “oasis” restaurant is now operating in Bangkok, Thailand called “Bourbon Street.”

• On November 26th, Cajun cooking in general and frying turkey in particular, was the subject of a “Nightline” segment on ABC TV.

• Troy Hebert and Ryan Latiolais were featured in an article ("Business is all in the Mix," Advertiser) featuring their new seasoning blend, “Bayou Blend.”

YOUTH

• Alliance Française of New Orleans continues its series of courses, including an immersion class for children studying French (504-568-0770).

• Zachary Richard continues to develop in the celebration of Acadian Heritage Week in 2005. Francophone series for children, hour programs will be innovative ways to involve students in Francophone series for children, hour programs will be...
Dr. Maureen Brennan, Cité des Arts, and Dr. Dominique Ryon of UL, organized a French Film Festival in December, including the films *Kirikou* and *le Papillon*.

The Lafayette Chapter of the CFMA is developing a database of children musicians. (337-406-1551).

New Orleans native Alexandra Stafford advises that he is now a Board Member of *Alliance Française de la Nouvelle Orleans* and organized a free children’s event for Christmas at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie on December 12th. The event was sponsored by the French Consulate and Maurice Bakery. Students from Julie Fabian’s *L’Ecole Bilingue* sang French Christmas songs at the event (www.af-neworleans.org/calendar.html).

Zydeco musician Terrance Simien continues to involve children in the Zydeco culture. He recently appeared at Forest Heights Academy of Excellence and sought to interest the students in learning how to play music.

The long-time tradition of Santa Claus going down the annual trip on Bayou Little Caillou in Chauvin continued last December.

Part of the “Celebration in the Oaks” near New Orleans Botanical Gardens included a “Cajun Night” celebration.

Hadley Castille and his son Blake are now performing with Hadley’s granddaughter, Sarah Jayde Castille. They performed at the Blue Moon Saloon in Lafayette on January 2nd and were featured in a recent newspaper article (*Advertiser*, December 7, 2004).

Former Acadian Museum volunteer Brandon Thibodeaux is working on his advanced degree in Masters of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies in Northern Ireland. He is a graduate of Erath High School and Loyola University in New Orleans. He recently worked at the American Embassy in Paris.

Dale Savoie continues to involve his family in the French culture. He was photographed with his granddaughter Hannah Blanchard during last year’s Christmas Museum of Acadiana’s “New Year’s Noon.”

The *Grand Pique-Nique de la Louisiane*, a gathering of all French Immersion programs in Louisiana, was held at North Lewis School in New Iberia.

An interesting story (“Tribal Voices Rise Again,” *Daily Advertiser*, January 14th) discussed the efforts by Carolyn Savage to bring back life to Chitimacha language which is now taught to students.

The Historic New Orleans Collection has received an inaugural “Save Our History” Grant from The History Channel to partner with students on a culinary history project to explore the evolution of Creole cookery in New Orleans.

L. J. Alleman Arts Academy dance troupe recently performed “Les Jours de la Semaine” for Evangeline Elementary French Immersion students.

Thirteen-year old Hunter Hayes was featured in an article by Dominick Cross (Teenager’s music career going strong”, *Advocate*) wherein Hayes announced the opening of a new recording studio.

**LITERATURE, THEATER AND ARTS**

Under the leadership of Dave Pierce, the Woodlawn Players Company continue to put on wonderful plays, including “Boudreaux and Thibodeaux’s Wedding” and “Bayou Noel” (337-893-0365).

C. C. Adcock’s new CD “Lafayette Marquis” has been extremely well-received.

*Beausoleil* made up their concert at Grant Street which had been previously postponed due to Hurricane Ivan.

The Magnolia Sisters’ latest CD “Après” was terrific. The “Sisters” include Jane Vidrine, Anya Schoenegge, Ann Savoy and Lisa Trahan Reed.

Joe Castille, producer, “Evangeline: A job in marketing and promoting the Miley to direct the film which will True Love Story,” has done an excellent accurately portray Acadian culture.

The hottest rising young Cajun band around, “Lost Bayou Ramblers,” was featured in a *Independent.*

The band *Beausoleil* was nominated for a Grammy for their “Gitane Cajun” CD and Dirk Powell of Parks was awarded one for the music in the film “Cold Mountain.”

Bilingual singer/songwriter Crystal Plamondon performed at *Cité des Arts* along with Nancy Tabb Marcantel and *Les Amies Louisianaises* as part of a “Noël en Français.”

Carencro’s Marc Broussard hit it big in 2004. His debut CD “Carencro” landed him numerous spots such as National Public Radio, CNN Headline News, A&E and “The Tonight Show” with Jay Leno. Marc tries to promote CODOFIL and French in Louisiana at his performances; he’s a good ambassador for Louisiana.
• He loves Lafayette, a city that called him home once before, but Drew Landry is taking his music on the road and he is looking to return to Austin and begin touring.

• Waylon Thibodeaux of Houma is now performing at the original Papa Joe’s Restaurant and Music Bar at 610 Bourbon Street. Montegut native Timothy Molinere is his washboard player and was featured in a story “Ex-shrimper leaps from starboard to washboard.”

• Slide guitarist Sonny Landreth released his new CD “Grant Street” in late January. It was recorded in April during Festival International at Grant Street Dance Hall in Lafayette.

• Lafayette native Ramsey Gardes Ayers is one of the fastest rising young Louisiana artists in Acadiana. She was the 2004 Festival International Poster Artist, and will once again be a featured artist at Gallery Eclaireuse, 535 Jefferson Street in Lafayette, during Festival International in April, 2005. Her work will be exhibited at the gallery throughout April.

• Governor Kathleen Blanco commissioned Lafayette artist Janie Domeneaux Bayard to paint a series of six large tapestries which now adorn Blanco’s office.

• Kathy Richard of Abbeville is the new Director of Healthcare for Musicians which held a fundraiser at Grant Street in December.

• John Allen LeBlanc was featured in an article by Carol Stubbs in Acadiana Profile magazine concerning his work as a painter, artist, woodworker and historian meticulously creating hand-crafted wooden replicas of historic buildings.

• An opening reception for the “Nouveaux Artistes d’Acadiana,” was held January 8th at the Jonathan Ferrera Gallery, Carondelet Street in New Orleans (504-522-5471).

• Masks by Louisiana Crafts Guild are now on display at Sans Souci Gallery, corner of East Vermilion and Lee Avenue.

• Herman Fuselier (“Singer Remembers ‘Mama’”) wrote a wonderful story on Cajun activist and signer Helen Boudreaux. He also did an excellent review of Jackie Caillier and Ivy Dugas’ latest CD “A Bit of Two Worlds.”

• Five dynamic sculpture exhibits are on display at the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, 710 East St. Mary Blvd. presenting works by national and internationally known artists, including Deborah Butterfield, Arthur Kern and Sally Heller.

• An exhibit on the 250th anniversary of the Acadian deportation is on view at the Acadian Museum, 203 S. Broadway, Erath, through July 28. “A Day of Commemoration for the Great Upheaval: July 28, 2005” explores the beginning in 1988 to seek an apology from Queen Elizabeth II for the illegal deportation of Acadians from Nova Scotia.

• Curator Kathleen Brady, a Louisiana native, has put together in a New York gallery exhibition “Cracker: Re-thinking the American South” in which six Louisiana artists are featured.

• Crystal Plamondon & The Lucky Playboys performed at the Blue Moon on February 12 and were filmed for a Canadian television documentary (www.crystal-plamondon.com).

**BOOKS**

• Order your copy of the book **Redemption: From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen’s Royal Proclamation**. The first part of this book defines the society into which Beausoleil was born and speaks of his early life events and his militant struggles with the British who had for years wanted to lay claim to the Acadians’ rich and profitable epic odyssey during which Beausoleil led a group of one hundred ninety-three Acadians to Louisiana, the New Acadian culture would survive. The repercussions of his life ultimately descended, Warren Perrin, to begin a legal action called the Petition was resolved by the signing of December 9, 2003. Cost of book: $15.00 (plus shipping and handling). All of the proceeds from the book will be donated to the Acadian Museum. Designed the “Beausoleil” image for been embossed on T-shirts ($15.00; plus the book. They may be ordered by calling (337) 233-5832.

• Thanks to reviewers Judy Riffel of Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, Robert Briggs, Cajun Times of England and Damon Veach of The Advocate for supportive reviews of “Acadian Redemption: From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen’s Royal Proclamation.”
• Many thanks to Candice Gayle, anchor, KATC TV 3 for featuring “Acadian Redemption: From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen’s Royal Proclamation” on her program.

• 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 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.

• A new book on Louisiana folklore has just been published. “C’est ça yé dit,” Creole Folk Tales, Superstitions, Remedies, Customs, Nicknames and Linguistic Peculiarities of Pointe Coupée Parish by Brian J. Costello, historian, genealogist and writer from New Roads.


• Greg Guirard’s work is now available as note cards. He has published several books including Atchafalaya Autumn.

• On February 20, Stuart Smith, Nina Cooper and Barry Cooper, Jr. hosted a brunch with Edward Kvet, Dean, Loyola College of Music, and Brian Bromberge, Dean, Loyola College of Law.

• The Honorable Michel Bastarache, Justice of the Canadian Supreme Court, will be coming to Louisiana this year to participate in the Francophone Festivals Acadiens. He recently released a book: Language Rights in Canada, Éditions Yvon Blais, A written by former United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

• Judge H. Ward Fontenot of Cameron Parish recently published an excellent article in the Louisiana Law Review entitled “The Louisiana Cultures.”

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• Lafayette attorney and publisher Tom Angers was featured in The Advertiser (“His vote really counts”) as an elector from the 7th Congressional District. His latest book My Wars is an excellent biography by Colonel Francis C. Grevemberg (337-233-3268).

• CODOFIL assisted the Louisiana’s Attorney General’s office in defending the statute concerning the definition of “Cajun.”

• Christopher E. Bush, Senior Counsel, Art & Entertainment Law Group of LeBlanc and Associates (Michèle LeBlanc), is working to develop the new section in the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Art’s Entertainment and Sports Law Section (225-343-8111; www.entlawla.com).

• Dr. Lewis Gale, Dean of the B. I. Moody College of Business Administration at UL Lafayette, is continuing to develop business programs which will fuse with French studies to work in international Francophone affairs.

• The French 101 classes at UL Lafayette was part of Olivier Marteau’s weekly radio program “Francomix.”

• The French Consulate invites you to visit their new website: www.espacefrancophone.org which is particularly intended for French officers of the CODOFIL Consortium of Colleges: Chris Michaelides of ULM, Vice President and Sybil Carter of also to Tom Klingler of Tulane, outgoing
We encourage you to visit the Cajun Pages of Amanda LaFleur on LSU’s website: http://www.artsci.edu/fai/Cajun/Cajunlinks.html.

Molly Manson, writer with the Advocate in Baton Rouge, has requested CODOFIL’s assistance in organizing a community outreach whereby 150 Louisiana teachers will visit Acadiana as part of their continuing education.

Charles Larroque and Louisiane à la Carte held evenings of film and discussion called “Brasse dans le Couche-couche” on January 22 in Lafayette, in Thibodaux on February 3 and in Eunice on March 3 in conjunction with the Jean Lafitte National Parks.

Audubon L’Ecole Franco-Américaine in New Orleans will be participating in the Children’s World Fair at the Taylor Energy Hangar/Lakefront Airport on Saturday, March 19. The school will be celebrating the Tour de France with games, crafts, food and festivities. Then, on Saturday April 2, the school will enjoy celebrating Spring Fest beginning at 10:00 am on the school grounds at 428 Broadway St. Everyone is welcome to join the fun.

**ALCFES**

• The Louisiana Association of High proud to announce that its 25th annual 2005 at the Hotel Acadiana in Lafayette.
• The purpose of the ALCFES convention communicate, play games, participate in guest speakers to the convention, the throughout the State of Louisiana
• Congratulations to our newly-elected Brett Bajon, President (Catholic High School, Baton Rouge) Candice Bates, Vice-President & Secretary (St. Joseph’s Academy, Baton Rouge) Lexie Iskander, Treasurer (St. Thomas More, Lafayette)
• Congratulations to our scholarship winners:
  Jason Dyess Scholarship: Evelyn Owens, A.M. Barbe High School
  French Community: Erin Stickney, Neville High School
  of Belgium Robert Warshaw, Bolton High School
  Jonquières, Québec: Lauren Mouton, Abbeville High School
  Université Sainte-Anne: Tristin Broussard (full scholarship), St. Thomas More
  Alex Schneider (partial scholarship), Jesuit High School
  Claire Thomas (partial scholarship), St. Joseph’s Academy
• On behalf of CODOFIL, I would like to sincerely thank the teachers and students who have participated in our organization and our convention. Special thanks goes to Jennifer Miquez who did a splendid job organizing.
• Please do not forget to visit their new website (www.alcfes.org) for the latest on the recent convention. Photos should be on the website within the next few weeks. The next convention will be in Baton Rouge in 2006!

L’UNION FAIT LA FORCE! ENSEMBLE ON EST CAPABLE!