CODOFIL President’s Newsletter

Warren A. Perrin  perrin@plddo.com  November 19, 2001

Dear Friend of CODOFIL:

INTRODUCTION

• CODOFIL received many messages of sympathy and solidarity from around the world in the wake of the tragic events of September 11th. We appreciate all of the messages expressing consternation, shock and horror felt by the residents, former teachers, colleagues and elected officials from throughout the Francophone world.

• Because of the tragedy, Philippe Gustin of Le Centre International announced that the Fourth Annual Acadiana Cup Golf Tournament, which was to take place in Lafayette’s sister city in Namur, Belgium, was cancelled.

• Workers digging through the wreckage of the World Trade Center in New York are being offered mouth-watering Louisiana cuisine, including gumbo and jambalaya, courtesy of Baton Rouge-area food distributors and the “Gumbo Krewe,” a group of Norco residents.

• French President Chirac was the first world leader to meet with President Bush following the September 11th attack; he said: “We bring you a total solidarity of France and the French people.” Other Francophone countries, including Canada, Belgium and Switzerland, offered to provide whatever support was needed.

• I had the honor of delivering an address at the Opening Ceremony of the Town of Brusly Centennial on October 1st; the topic of my talk: “The Acadian Presence in West Baton Rouge.”

• In conjunction with the Acadian Museum of Erath, CODOFIL hosted a Fall barbecue social on Sunday, October 14th. Entertainment was provided by “Elsebeth Krogh and Friends,” a Cajun band from Denmark. Special guest was Relie LeBlanc, inductee as a “Living Legend.”

• On October 6th, CODOFIL held its annual Board of Director’s meeting from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., followed that evening by a CODOFIL Fondation fundraiser: “La Soirée Du Cognac.” Highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a bronze commemorative plaque honoring the founder of CODOFIL, James Domengeaux. Special guest for the gala evening event was Eleanor “Na Na” Domengeaux, widow of James Domengeaux. Remarks were presented James Parkerson Roy, James H. Domengeaux, Judge Allen Babineaux and Senator Edgar “Sonny” Mouton (Ret.). Sponsor: the law firm of Domengeaux, Wright, Roy & Edwards.

• As per the House Concurrent Resolution No. 191 creating the Commission to Study the Future of French in Louisiana, the commission members are being selected.

• I had the pleasure of addressing the Lafayette Retired Teachers’ Association on September 10th.

• The French-American Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual fundraiser in New Orleans: Le Beaujolais Nouveau Gala 2001 will feature a selection of the best Beaujolais Nouveau 2001 at the Windsor Court Hotel New Orleans on November 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Windsor Court Chef James Overbaugh and Executive sous-Chef Philippe Pinon delighted guests with foie gras, frog legs and other French “classics” pairing the wines. Ronnie Kole, the musical ambassador of French wines, played some of his keynote selections to top off what was a most memorable evening.

• Dr. William Arceneaux, President of the CODOFIL Fondation, was re-named to serve as CODOFIL’s representative on the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Board of Directors.

• Representatives of various Francophone organizations of Acadia and attended the annual Bastille Day activities in New Orleans hosted by the French government. Bernard Maizere, consul-general of France, hosted more than 1,000 participants who enjoyed French champagne, wine, food and music. Le Centre operations manager Dave Domingue, led the group in singing of “La Marseillaise.” John Hernandez, III represented the Francophone Section of the Louisiana state Bar Association. Ronnie Kole, Louisiana jazz musician well-known throughout the world, received the prestigious “Order of Arts and Letters Award” from the French government.

• On October 30, 2001, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation and its Board of Trustees hosted an event to recognize Chantal and Dick Dowty for their generous contributions to the Foundation. The Dowty’s have generously contributed to the CODOFIL Fondation as well as our community and this event showed the appreciation to them for all they have done. I would like to note that Chantal recently received high recognition through the French Legion of Honor.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

• The annual fundraising event for CIV of Greater New Orleans, “Branch Around the World,” was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Christovich on October 14th. (504-539-9432).

• The French-American Chamber of Commerce asked me to serve on their board and recently honored Yves Richard, CEO of EADS Sogerma Services as “Outstanding Achievement in International Business.” Executive Director Ken Scott announced a new member drive (Fax: 504-592-9999; e-mail: infor@facela.com).

• Namur, Belgium, a sister city of Lafayette, is creating a magazine devoted to its twin cities through its Office of Fairs and Festival. The magazine will be published twice a year, beginning in March 2002 and the second edition, a retrospective with articles and photographs, will appear in the month of October, 2002. Eliane Levaque, permanent representative of the French community of Belgium, hosted her annual reception at the Faculty Club of LSU on September 27th celebrating the Belgium presence in Louisiana. Plans will soon be announced for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary to be held later this year in New Orleans.

• Zachary Richard was featured in an article (La Presse, July 14, 2001). For the fourth time in five years, he has
received the le prix Félicien décerné par ADISO.

Anyone interested in receiving an issue of Le Pélican, published by the French Consulate in New Orleans should contact Brice Germain, at (337) 532-5194.

Dr. May Waggoner, UL Lafayette associate professor of French, was inducted into the Grand-Ordre de Roc-Amadour du Diamant Noir et du Vieux Vin de Cahors. The ceremony was held in Roc-Amadour, France where Dr. Waggoner was on tour with Renaissance Cadien.

CODOFL offered its services in assisting the newly-organized Louisiana Office of Economic Development in planning future trade mission.

As a follow-up to the visit of Quebec's Minister of International Relations, Louise Beaudoin, in April 2001, two delegations from Quebec will be in Louisiana in December. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Quebec-American Office for Youth will meet with Louisiana officials in education, culture, and tourism.

PROGENY OF YOUTH

Amanda Swan, a 10-year-old fiddler from Covington, has been performing with Cabby Carrier and his "Bayou Swamp Band."

Richard Guidry reported that the Fifth Annual Grand Pique-Nique de la Louisiane was held in Sulphur, Louisiana on September 22nd hosted by Les Amis François du Bayou, and the Caissears Parish French Immersion Parent group.

Thanks to Nicole Banks for her cooperation.

Sylvie Robin and Julie Fabian of L'Ecole Maternelle, 5818 Perrier Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 899-9796, attended the CODOFL Board of Director's meeting seeking support for their immersion school in New Orleans which has been doing an excellent job.

ART

We are sad to announce the passing of Creole artist Stephanie "Etienne" Dagas after a short battle with leukemia.

Part of the history of New Iberia, was laid in a Chester Harrington painting commissioned by Dan Bouligny and unveiled on October 26th in Bouligny Plaza.

A four-part PBS TV series exploring unique American music, including Zydeco and Cajun, began October 29th.

Included are Marc and Ann Savoy, Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys who will be in the final segment on November 19th.

On November 1st at the Acadian Museum Annex at Lake Peigneur Pat Mire completed filming of his PBS documentary on Louisiana music: "Forever My Love" (Swamp-pop, Zydeco and Cajun).

Helen Boudreaux is working on a show to be held at the legendary Rice Theater in Crowley on March 23, 2002 to honor the women of Cajun music: Cheryl Cormier, Becky Guidry, Dottie Manuel, Nancy Tabb Marcantel, Eva Guidry, Yvonne Smith, Jean Murphy and Debbie Theriot. (337-832-5294).

The incredible silver collection of Jolie and Robert Shelton will be featured in a silver exhibit presented by the New Orleans Museum of Art.

A general meeting was held of the Broussard families on October 29th at Lake Fausse Point Park.

The Blanchard family held its annual reunion September 29th at Lake Fausse Point Park.

One of the first festivals organized to support the culture, it does an outstanding service for the community.

Gerald Domingue, Director of Acadian Village, presented details of how the organization partners with the Lafayette Association of Retarded Citizens to provide services to the mentally retarded of Acadiana. Bob Moore, Director, continues to organize excellent programs (Fax: 337-988-4554).

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CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2004


Freedom, Identity and Pawerin America, Dr. Barry Ancelet lectured at the Universite Sainte-Anne in Nova Scotia this summer and made a presentation during World War II for the Fall, 2001 issue of the magazine Dr. Shane Bernard has been invited by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to write an article about Cajuns was that the British Crown disapproved lieutenant governor Charles Lawrence’s actions. In Crouch and Vickie Cappell announced that Jefferson Parish School Board recently approved a new French Immersion program for that Parish beginning next fall. There are on-going discussions in Vermilion Parish for French Immersion program and preliminary conversations with a principal are very encouraging. Schubert Dauphin, CODOFIL teacher in Lafourche parish, has been named as the pedagogical attaché for the CODOFIL teachers from Québec. 

LEGAL

I was invited to participate in the LSU-Canadian Bi-annual Conference at the Paul M. Hebert LSU Law Center in Baton Rouge which took place November 2-3.

Under the directorship of Maurice Basque, Directeur Études acadiamnes, Université des Moncton, a committee of the Société Nationale De L’Acadie favoredably recommended that the Canadian House of Commons approve a resolution supporting the petition for an apology to the Acadians.

John Hernandez, III, President of the Francophone Section of the Louisiana Bar Association, and Bernard Maizeret, Consul-General of France in New Orleans, are working to organize a trip of Louisiana attorneys to Europe next fall.

The Eleventh Annual Allen M. Babineaux International Civil Law Symposium was held in Lafayette the weekend of Festivals Acadiens. Justice Harry Lemmon was honored.

LSU Law Professor Alain Levesaur, (225-578-1126) invites all jurist to join The Association Henri Capitant Louisiana Chapter.

Judge Allen Babineaux was recently honored by the Families Babineaux et Granger on September 15th at a gala dinner.

Frank Marcrist, Nolan J. Edwards Professor of Law at LSU, is seeking interesting stories of the law (225-388-1000).

FOLKLORE AND TRADITIONS

Merlne “Starwalk” Courteau has been working at Acadian Village demonstrating the native-American culture.

The Historic New Orleans Collection held a lecture which was presented by Louisiana genealogical specialist Clare Betage at August 11th.

For ten years, the New Iberia Museum Foundation has been working to renovate the Teche Wholesale Building into a museum. Their dedication has been rewarded with the approval of a major grant.

Dr. Barry Ancelet, Dean of Modern Languages at UL Lafayette, announced that the recently held Festival Acadia was very successful. Honoree for the event was D. L. Menard.

Keith Frank and Stanley “Buckwheat” Dural were among the big winners at the Second Annual Zydeco Music and Creole Heritage Awards Program at the Townhall Auditorium of the Clifton Chenier Center. Dr. David Cheramie and W. Paul Claus, president of CREOLE, Inc. and CODOFIL board member, inducted the late Alton “Rockin’ Dopsie” Rubin, Sr. into the Zydeco Hall of Fame. The award was accepted by Rubin’s ex-wife, Judge Ed Rubin.

Anyone interested in obtaining the Louisiana Folk Roots newsletter should contact Christine Balfat at P. O. Box 389, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517 (337-332-9597).

The “Louisiana Crossroads” concert series continues to be well-received. Recent presentations included performances by Michael Doucet, David Doucet and Mitch Reed. Future performances include Paul “Lil’ Buck” Senegal (Nov. 14), Sam Broussard, Daivd Greely and Friends (Dec. 12).

Creole accordionist Alphonce “Boil-Sec” Ardoin performed with a group of admirers and friends at the “Blue Moon Guest House.” For more information, contact Harold Bernard (hbernard@mindspring.com).

HISTORY

Col. John Winslow was the British officer in charge of the deportation of 1755 in Grand Pré, the largest Acadian settlement in old Acadie. In October of that year, he wrote a letter about the events of the dispersion to a friend in Boston. Dr. Carl Brasseaux at UL Lafayette formally announced that the university has acquired the letter which details one of the key events that led to the Acadians from Canada to Louisiana. UL Lafayette officials said they plan to purchase process after Acadian singer-songwriter Zachary Richard informed the university that the document was available.

Dr. Roger Paradis of the University of Maine at Fort Kent recently presented a paper to the St. John valley Historical Society, in Frederickton, N.B., where he debunked many popular myths about the Acadian deportation. One such myth was that the British Crown disapproved lieutenant governor Charles Lawrence’s actions. In fact, Lawrence was promoted governor of Nova Scotia only two weeks after the last transport of refugees left Grand Pré, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Monotoc, commander of the expedition, replaced him as lieutenant governor.

Dr. Shane Bernard has been invited by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to write an article about Cajuns during World War II for the Fall, 2001 issue of the magazine Cultural Vistas. The excerpt will be drawn from his forthcoming book about recent Cajun history, funded in part by a grant from the LEH. He and his wife, Kara, operate the terrific website “Encyclopedia of Cajun Culture” at www.cajunculture.com.

Dr. Robert Carrick conducted a successful two-credit trip to the Southwest, introducing eleven students to the wonders of such places as Mesa Verde National Park, the Grand Canyon, the Titan Missile Museum, and the Jerome National Historic Landmark as part of the department’s Public History program.

Dr. Bradley Pollock has a book scheduled for publication in the fall. Entitled Zameni to Sasa: The Black Struggle for Freedom, Identity, and Amistad in America, this work is a collection of recent scholarship.

Dr. Barry Ancelet lectured at the Université Sainte-Anne in Nova Scotia this summer and made a presentation entitled “An Evening of Storytelling: Acade et Louisiana” along with George Arceaux, folklorist from P.E.I.

The LSU Rural Life Museum presented its sixth annual Harvest Days program demonstrating the agricultural traditions of Louisiana on October 13-14.

Dr. Ibrahima Sack, Ph.D. History, Dakar, Senegal, made a presentation on October 17th at St. Martinville sponsored by the African American Museum (337-394-2258).

FOODWAYS

Dr. Florent Hardy announced a Louisiana Cookbook Cavalcade Exhibition at Louisiana State Archives which began September 16th (225-922-9505).

Cultural Lynn Boutin opened a new restaurant “Boutin’s” specializing in traditional Louisiana food and authentic Cajun music at 8322 Bluebonnet Blvd. (former Multat’; 225-8199862).

Assistant Food Editor of the Advocate, Cheramie Sonnier, recently featured Robert and Babette Schexnayder and their Oak Grove Smokehouse, Inc. food company specializing in gumbo and jambalaya products.

Dwight Landreneau, Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Department of CFT, also promotes Louisiana with cooking exhibitions.

Olga and Emery Toups represented Louisiana at the Giant Omelette Celebration in Belgium. The Abbeville Conférie will take place in Abbeville November 3-4.

Dr. Carl Brasseaux, UL Lafayette Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism, hosted a conference: “The Art of Development and Promotion: A Statewide Cultural Tourism Conference.” (231-482-5793; brasseaux@louisiana.edu)

TOURISM

Even as overall tourism in Louisiana dropped by more than 18 percent during the first three months of the year, visits from Canadians rose more than 13 percent.

Dana Baker is the new coordinator for the 2002 Festival International de Louisiane.

The 1993 attempt to clone one of Louisiana’s historic trees, the Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville, has had mixed results, a university plant scientist recently said.

The 2001 Louisiana Rural Tourism Development Conference will be held November 7-9 in Many, Louisiana. Mary Perrault will make a presentation on the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial and awards will be extended to Kermi Boullion, Acadian Museum “Living Legends” program, Travis S. Richard, Stansil Rice Mill, Guedyan, Alac Whiting, Acadia Tours with Alice, Crowley, Sandra Pellegin, Cajun Tours, Houma, et al.

Nonetheless, education vacations are growing at nearly double the national rate in Louisiana, tourism secretary Phillip Jones said.

Lt. Governor Blanco announced a joint marketing campaign between the state Office of Tourism, which she oversees, and the Popeyes Chicken & biscuits restaurant chain. The campaign will incorporate into Popeyes’ promotions promotional materials, artwork and video that depicts the state’s multi-cultural heritage.

The next Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission meeting is scheduled to be held in Erath on November 20th at 1:30 p.m. at the Acadian Museum (337-397-0012). You should contact Mary Perrault (225) 342-9149 for information or to be placed on the agenda.

Under the leadership of UL Lafayette museum director Herman Mhie, and due to the generous contribution of Paul and Lulu Hilliard of $3 million dollars, ground will be broken in early January for a new art museum to be opened in time for the Louisiana Purchase celebration to house an exhibition of art from the Musée d’Orsay, the Centre Pompidou and the Musée Carnavale.

Lt. Governor Blanco announced a new $1 million ad campaign using the Louisiana Purchase as its theme.

In 2003, the state will celebrate with the first major event being held in New Orleans at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel from January 22 - 25 in collaboration between the Louisiana Historical Association and The Historic New Orleans Collection. Additional information, contact Mary Hebert (337-367-6449).

Louisiana eleventh-graders will benefit from a $1 million grant recently awarded by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Teachers will draw upon lessons using digitized historic materials. Some of these lessons will be related to the 1803 Louisiana Purchase in anticipation of its 200th anniversary. Teachers whose lessons are accepted will earn a stipend.

Under Director Angela Falgout, as a project for the upcoming Bicentennial, the Ascension Parish Tourism Commission received a favorable feasibility report to locate the replica of the 17th century French ship of Irelvel, Le Pelican, at Donaldsonville.

New t-shirts, posters and caps are available for purchase (Mary Perrault 225-342-9149).

The State Library System will host a book festival in 2002, which will be repeated in 2003 to be used as a learning tool for the Bicentennial.

The upcoming celebration of the Bicentennial has sparked a renewed interest in Louisiana History and an exhibition is now being shown a LSU Hill Memorial Library examining the period between the purchase and the Civil War.

Dr. Denise Égée-Kudneh of the French Education Project at LSU will conduct a four-week long teacher workshop for teachers of French and Social Studies called, “The Louisiana Purchase/La Vente de la Louisiana: Two Facets of a World-shaping Event.” CODOFIL is one of the sponsors.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Governor Foster declared November 23rd, Acadian Day, an official state holiday.

Steve Riley, David Greely and Sam Broussard of the Mamou Playboys were interviewed and performed live on tape on “American Roots” public radio program with Nick Spitzer.

A controversial preliminary report by the U.S. Census Bureau suggesting that only 42,000 Louisianaans still consider themselves “Cajun” or “Acadian” prompted many reports in state and national newspapers. Historians generally
panned the estimate as flawed.

- Ron Thibodeaux and the *Times Picayune* reprinted the excellent series "Culture at a Crossroads" and donated issues to state libraries and schools. Additional copies may be obtained through CODOFIL.
- Charles Larroque continues to write well-received editorials (bilingual) in the *Advertiser*.
- Jolène Adam and the Acadian Memorial of St. Martinville was recently featured in an interesting story by Chris Segura "Rediscovering their past" (*Times Picayune*).
- The East Baton Rouge Library held the annual genealogy conference on September 22.
- Under the dynamic leadership of Louis Curet, the Friends of French Studies at LSU and members of *L’Assemblee Francaise* held a gala fundraiser "A Fête Champêtre" at "Bonnie Glen" on False River Road on October 7.
- The *Houston Chronicle* featured a "photo essay" entitled "Once-fading Cajun Becomes All the Rage" and had very nice things to say about CODOFIL.
- Gerard Sellers (504-861-7878) organized the filming of a Japanese TV documentary at the Acadian Museum in Erath and the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, featuring Japanese film star Tomoko Yamaguchi. A delicious meal was prepared by Ron Miguez and Ron Gaspard. Thanks to D. L. Menard, Terry Huval and other musicians and the terrific dancers from *Renaissance Cadien*.

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

- CODOFIL - [www.codofil.org](http://www.codofil.org)
- Acadian Museum of Erath - [www.acadianmuseum.com](http://www.acadianmuseum.com)
- Federation of International Trade Association - [www.fita.org/emc.html](http://www.fita.org/emc.html)
- Office of Foreign Asset Control - [www.treas.gov/otfic](http://www.treas.gov/otfic)
- Bureau of Export Administration - [www.bxa.doc.gov](http://www.bxa.doc.gov)
- U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service - [www.ita.doc.gov](http://www.ita.doc.gov)
- U. S. Customs Service - [www.customs.ustreas.gov](http://www.customs.ustreas.gov)
- French-American Chamber of Commerce - [www.faccla.com](http://www.faccla.com)
- U. S. State Department - [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)
- White House - [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)
- For more international trade links, visit the WTC’s website at [www.wtcno.org/links](http://www.wtcno.org/links)

**LOUISIANA FRENCH DICTIONARY PROJECT IN WORKS**

- A joint project between UL Lafayette and Indiana University will yield an 18,000-word Louisiana French dictionary designed to be the most extensive of its kind ever published. The source of words included in the dictionary will come largely from the transcription of thousand of hours of recorded archives belonging to UL Lafayette. Dr. Barry Ancialet, head of the UL Lafayette’s Department of Modern Languages, said that since the 1970s, the university has gathered interviews and field recordings that were done in the past.

CODOFIL
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