

Lettre de la présidente

Fall 2015

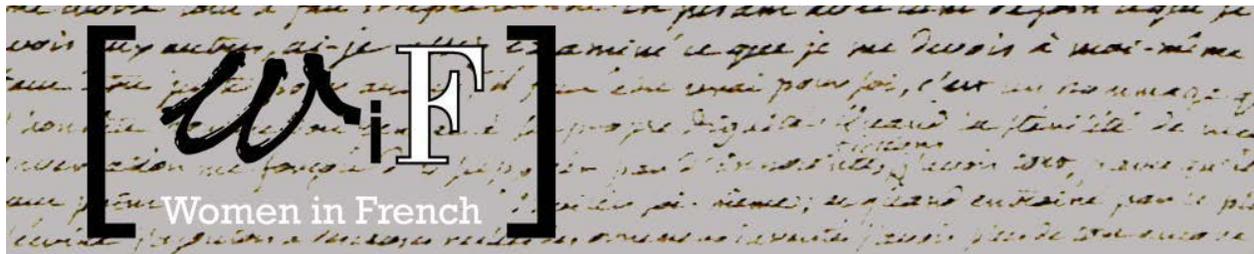
Dear Colleagues,

This will be my final letter to you as President of Women in French. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to have served in this position for the past four years. One of the best parts of the job has been to work closely with a group of wonderful and dedicated people. I can't mention everyone but I do want to especially thank our Vice-President Cecilia Beach, our Treasurer Molly Enz, Web Manager Michèle Schaal, *Newsletter* Editor Cheryl Morgan, our former Secretary Marijn Kaplan and our current Secretary Theresa Kennedy. All of them have put in untold hours of work to help make Women in French the successful organization that it is.

We are all looking forward to the next Women in French Conference at Gettysburg College June 9-11, 2016, organized by Florence Ramond Jurney. Please note that we have formalized a process for graduate students to apply for partial funding for travel not only to our biennial conferences but also to the annual MLA conference as well as regional MLA conferences if they have had a paper accepted for one of our WIF sessions. Please contact Cecilia Beach or your Regional Representative for more information.

Please take time to vote in our December elections. As in previous years, you will receive an email link from **votingplace.net**. All members will be voting for a new President and Vice-President; there will also be elections for Regional Representatives for the South and the West. Also on the ballot is a change to the bylaws that adds “and Canada” to our mission statement. The revised sentence will read: “An additional purpose of the organization is to share information and concerns about the status of women in higher education in the United States **and Canada.**” This change is recommended due to results from the survey of members conducted by Cecilia Beach. It provides overdue recognition of the importance of WIF's Canadian membership and also is in keeping with the structure of the MLA of which we are an Allied Organization. This does not mean that we do not welcome and encourage members from outside the United States and Canada.

The Women in French Studies issue with selected articles from our 2014 spring conference in Guelph will soon be in press if not already printed by the time you receive this newsletter. Congratulations and thanks to Dawn Cornelio, Margot Irvine and Karin Schwerdtner not only for organizing a fantastic conference but also for having such a fast “turn around” time for the publication of the proceedings. Juliette Rogers, the new Editor of *Women in French Studies*, indicates that Volume 23 (2015) is on track to be in your mailboxes by late November or December. And last but not least, Catherine Montfort and Christine Probes are hard at work on a special issue devoted to “Voyages de Femmes” that should be arriving early in 2016. Thanks to all their hard work we truly will have an *embarras de richesses* to look forward to in the next few months.



Finally, in addition to the mock interviews for graduate students that we have offered the past few years, WIF is launching a new mentorship program for graduate students and emerging scholars, led by Cecilia Beach. Please contact her (fbeach@alfred.edu) if you wish to volunteer as a mentor, to be a participant, or for further information.

Thanks to all of you again for having chosen me to serve as President these past four years. It has been a particularly rewarding and fulfilling experience for me as I transitioned into “retirement.” I hope to see many of you in Gettysburg next June.

Mary Anne Garnett
University of Arkansas at Little Rock