

Lettre de la Présidente

Spring 2011

Dear Women in French Colleagues,

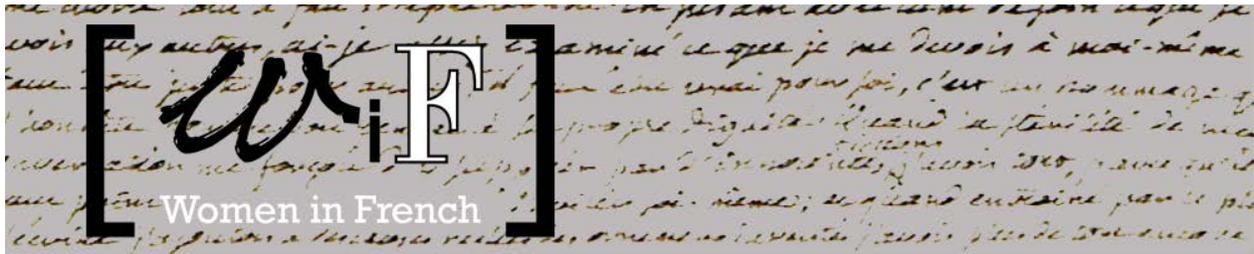
I write to you this winter with good news about our association: our membership numbers are strong, our financial picture is stable, our journal's most recent issue was just shipped, and our next Women in French conference is currently in the planning stages for spring 2012. In addition to details connected with these announcements you will also find below some decisions made at the annual business meeting in Los Angeles in January concerning our activities at future MLA conventions, and some innovations planned for this year and next.

First, I am delighted to announce that the program committee for the next Women in French conference, headed by our colleague Aleksandra Gruzinska, has been busy working on local arrangements, grant-writing, website design, and plenary speaker choices. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for the 6th International Women in French conference, to be held at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ February 24-26, 2012. By the time you read this newsletter, the call for special session proposals should be circulating widely with the call for papers to follow shortly. If you have not yet seen it, the call for special sessions is also included in this newsletter, under the Call for Papers heading, and will be available soon on the ASU website as well.

In these difficult economic times, it is reassuring to know that our financial situation is stable. You will see below in the Treasurer's Report, submitted by Eileen Ketchum McEwan, that even with a major conference, two issues of the *Women in French Studies* journal, and a \$1000 donation to *Médecins sans frontières* in January last year, our bottom line at the end of 2010 was almost exactly the same as at the end of 2009. I extend my thanks to everyone who renewed or became a new member during 2010, and a special thanks to those members who donated additional funds to Women in French this year – your gifts are greatly appreciated.

I am also pleased to confirm that our membership numbers are strong – nearly 400 members in 2010, with approximately 100 attending the conference in New York last June. If you know of colleagues who might be interested in the activities and mission of our organization, please send them to our website (www.womeninfrench.org) or give them the email address of the WIF secretary Marijn Kaplan at the University of North Texas (marijn.kaplan@unt.edu) for more information on joining.

For the MLA 2012, we have two calls for papers for WIF sessions (one guaranteed, one non-guaranteed), and we are also proposing a collaborative session with the George Sand Association this year. Please see the details of these session proposals in the Call for Papers section of the newsletter and note that the deadline for paper proposals is approaching rapidly (March 1, 2011). I want to make clear that any member of WIF and MLA may propose special sessions for the



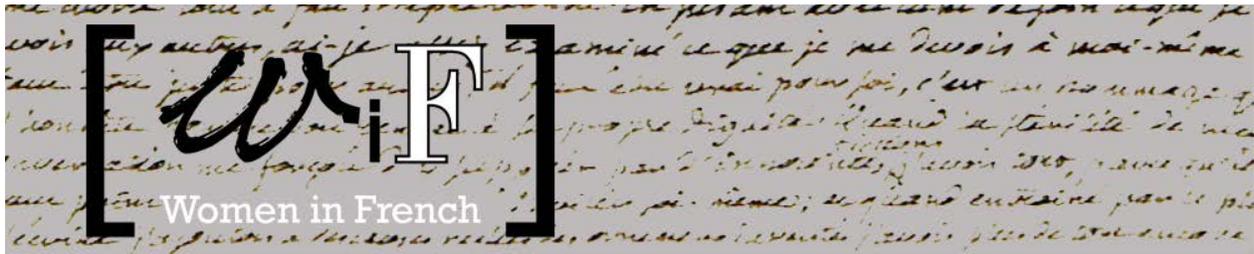
MLA convention. Our organization is guaranteed one WIF session at each convention; last October, I sent out a call for sessions and we had a vote in December to choose our one guaranteed WIF session. However, we are thrilled to see as many good quality sessions as possible on French and francophone women at every MLA convention, so please do not hesitate to use the WIF list to propose special MLA sessions that are related to the focus of our organization: Women in French. WIF will not decide on those special sessions, it is the MLA program committee that decides which special sessions to include in the program.

At the annual business meeting, held at the 2011 MLA in Los Angeles this past January, the following order was chosen for collaborative WIF sessions at future MLA conventions. If for any reason we cannot collaborate with the group listed for a particular year, we will move along the list to the next allied organization or division, reordering the list accordingly. For 2012: George Sand Association, for 2013: Simone de Beauvoir Association, for 2014: Medieval French, for 2015: 16th-century French, for 2016: 17th-century French, for 2017: 18th-century French, for 2018: 19th-century French, for 2019: 20-21st century French, and for 2020: Francophone Division.

One of our objectives over the past couple years, to make our teaching and research bibliographies accessible to a larger public, is finally going to begin this year. With the volunteer help of Cheryl Morgan and Edith Vandervoort, we will begin a long-term project to get all of our past bibliographies digitized and uploaded on to our website. If you are one of our past bibliography authors, please know that Cheryl or Edith will be contacting you in the next few months to receive your permission to publish your bibliography on-line and to receive an updated document in Word format for the website. If you would like to join Cheryl and Edith in working on the project, please contact me as soon as possible.

Another desire expressed by members at the annual business meeting in Los Angeles in January was the possibility of posting articles from past issues of our scholarly journal *Women in French Studies* in an online database, such as Project Muse. Catherine Montfort, past Executive Editor of the journal, has begun the initial inquiries required to see if this may be possible in the future.

In the past few months, the current Executive Editor of *Women in French Studies*, Dawn Cornelio, has been hard at work with her Production Editor, Marianne Golding: they prepared and shipped the special volume of selected essays from the 2008 Women in French conference last year, and sent out the regular volume of *Women in French Studies* for 2010 this past month. If you have not yet received the 2010 volume, please contact our Secretary, Marijn Kaplan (marijn.kaplan@unt.edu) since she has the latest membership list with address, membership status, and contact information. The regular volume for 2011 will be available at the end of this year.



As mentioned in an email that I sent to the e-list in January, I am very thankful for the time and energy of our outgoing officers, Frédérique Chevillot (who continues as our Vice-President), and Ruth Hottell. I send my congratulations to our newly elected regional representatives, Arline Cravens (for the Central and Rocky Mountains region), and E. Nicole Meyer (for the Great Lakes region) – bienvenue! And finally, I extend both thanks AND congratulations to our representative for the Mid-Atlantic region, Florence Ramond-Jurney, who was re-elected this year. Thanks also to Annabelle Rea and Colette Trout for their work as our Nominating committee - recruiting candidates, sending out emails, and tallying and reporting the votes. We have been working on finding a good electronic ballot system, but nothing appears suitable (or inexpensive enough) yet. More research will be conducted on that item this year.

For this coming year, we will need nominations for several very important positions, including a new Vice-President and President, as well as a new Graduate Student Representative and two Regional Representatives. Please think of nominating a qualified colleague or yourself. For more information on deadlines and requirements, please see the announcement from the Nominating Committee below.

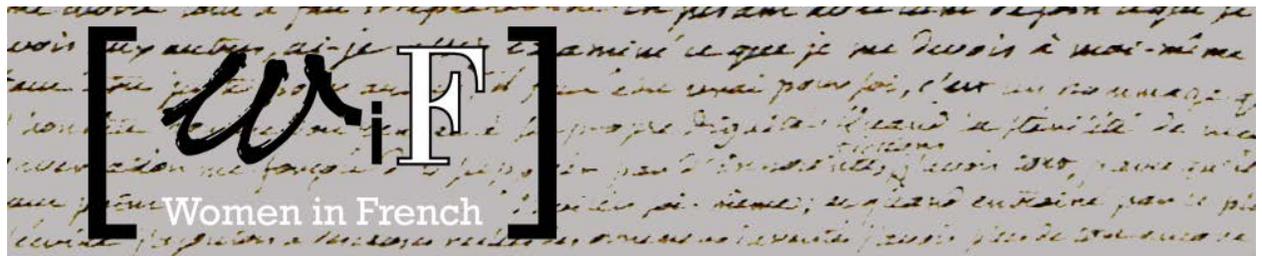
Finally, I would like to request volunteers for a position on the Women in French Executive Board. The *Women in French Studies* journal needs to fill the position of the Book Review Editor. After giving years of time as Book Review Editor, Sara Steinert Borella will be transitioning out of her position at the end of 2011 – merci mille fois Sara! She will be happy to pass on her advice and recommendations to the new volunteer who takes over the position, and her “job description,” available in this newsletter, gives a detailed list of the tasks and responsibilities required of the position. If you are interested in taking on this position, please contact Dawn Cornelio, Executive Editor, immediately: dcorneli@uoguelph.edu

Many thanks go to Bendi Benson Schrambach who has accepted the position of Advertising Manager for *Women in French Studies*.

Finally, I want to thank Cheryl Morgan, our amazing Newsletter Editor, for her never-ending patience – extending deadlines for me and other contributors and efficiently editing and formatting this document for everyone without complaint. Merci pour tout, Cheryl!

Women in French is such a vibrant group of dedicated scholars and professionals; I am only mentioning in this column the activities that you have done for our association, but I know that many of you are spending long hours working for other organizations, in addition to your own research and teaching. I am inspired by your commitment and generosity, and am honored to serve as your president.

Un grand merci à toutes et à tous,



Juliette Rogers
Macalester College