

Lettre de la présidente

Spring 2014

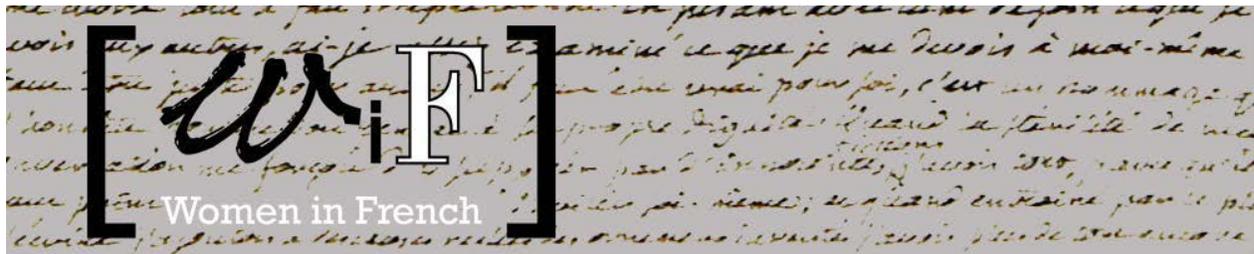
Dear Colleagues,

This spring promises to bring our members an abundance of riches. We are looking forward with great anticipation to our seventh international conference, “Femmes et mémoire,” hosted by the University of Guelph, May 22-24. You will soon be receiving volume 21 (2013) of *Women in French Studies* as well as a special volume on women and theater, edited by Cecilia Beach and Joyce Johnston. The proceedings from our previous conference at Arizona State are scheduled for publication in April.

Three issues of *Women in French Studies* are now available online through Project Muse thanks to the efforts of Catherine Montfort. We hope to have all back issues online by 2016. Catherine has done a superb job but is in need of someone to work with her and eventually take over the responsibility of working with Project Muse. If you are interested, please contact both her (cmontfort@scu.edu) and Dawn Cornelio, the editor of *WIF Studies* (dcorneli@uoguelph.ca). Dawn has indicated that she will be stepping down as Executive Editor after five years of serving in that position in addition to hosting our 2014 conference. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her hard work and dedication to the success of our journal and organization. At our business meeting in Guelph, we will be discussing the procedures to select her replacement since none are currently specified in our by-laws.

Michèle Schaal recently sent out a promotional “bannière”/sticker for you to print and display. It was created by the graphic artist who redesigned our website and contains a QR code that, when scanned by a mobile device, will open to the website. We have also commissioned a flyer that should be available shortly. Thanks to Michèle for these ideas and for coordinating their development. Please check out our Facebook page also and “like” us! We currently have 236 “likes” but could use more so that people can find us more readily. The URL is: <https://www.facebook.com/WomeninFrench> (We are NOT to be confused with the Facebook page “French Women,” a depressing reminder of how far we still have to go.) We also now have a Twitter account <https://twitter.com/WomenInFrench> that as of yet has not seen much activity. I encourage you to “follow” us and to tweet away!

Cecilia Beach and our newly elected graduate student representative, Chloe Badner, are developing criteria and procedures for the awarding of limited travel funds to graduate students who will be presenting papers at our conference in Vancouver. You will be hearing from them shortly. The substantial number of graduate students who have had papers accepted for the conference bodes well for the future of Women in French. We have also received positive feedback from those who participated in the Skype mock job interviews that we offered for the first time this past fall. Nine job seekers and eight volunteer interviewers participated in this initiative that we will offer again in the fall of 2014.



I am pleased to report that our sessions at MLA in Chicago were very successful and well attended. For MLA 2015 in Vancouver, we will be proposing, in addition to our guaranteed session, “Female Life-Writing and Scandal,” two non-guaranteed sessions. One is a joint session with the Division of 19th Century French Literature, “Scandalous Women of the Nineteenth-Century.” The other is a session on “Women in Films of the Francophone World,” a proposal that combines the two topics proposed by Bendi Schrambach and Milena Santoro that tied for second place in our voting.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a call for nominations for the positions of Regional Representatives for New England/Eastern Canada and for New York State. The voting will take place in December 2014 and terms are for three years. Please consider nominating yourself or, with their permission, someone else for these important positions.

Finally, I wish to thank you for re-electing me for a second term as your President. I will do my best to merit your confidence and I look forward to seeing many of you in Vancouver.

Mary Anne Garnett
University of Arkansas at Little Rock