Bonne année 2015! An old Schoolhouse Rock song about numbers that often played during Saturday morning cartoons had lyrics that stated “three is the magic number.” On that note, it is my pleasure to say “bienvenue” to students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community to the third edition of “La lettre du faucon rouge,” the newsletter of the French programme at IUN. We hope that you will enjoy this year’s publication. Along with news and information, we are also pleased to introduce a new section to the newsletter entitled “Alumni Spotlight” that will feature an alum of French Studies at IUN. The selected Francophone destination for this edition is the homebase of the director of French at IUN: the Canadian province of Québec. This academic year brings some changes to the French programme. We are happy to welcome a new faculty member to our team: Madame Betsy Glazner. Betsy is a graduate of Ball State University and she arrives at IUN after teaching at the prestigious Indiana Academy school. Madame Glazer is well-travelled and her energy, enthusiasm, and exuberance for all things related to the French language will greatly benefit our students. We also welcome Madamoiselle Zaira Becerra (IUN, B.A. 2014) as the new lab assistant of the Frank Caucci Language and Listening Lab at IUN, and Madame Sherri Sosh (IUN, B.A. 2013) as the new administrative assistant of the Department of Modern Languages. Bienvenue à vous deux! In other news, I am honoured to have been named a “Diversity Fellow” by the Office of Multicultural Affairs here at IUN, which enabled me to conduct academic research in Morocco, France and Belgium. More surprisingly and quite unexpectedly, I was ranked as one of the “Top 25 Professors in America” (#19) by the website “Rate your Professor” and was subsequently featured in several local and national media publications as a result (e.g. NWI Times, USA Today, Business Insider). I am very humbled by this recognition. It is truly an honour and a privilege to be a professor at IUN. In closing, we in French Studies continue to work hard to boost our visibility as we encourage everyone to study a foreign language in order to expand their world view. In an age where technological advances have made our planet far smaller, knowledge of a global and diplomatic language such as French becomes more important than ever. We count on your further support as we continue to be a vital part of the IU-Northwest academic community. Merci beaucoup et bonne lecture!

Faculty Spotlight

Betsy Glazner, Betsy’s love of French started in middle school but really took off at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana where she was president of the French club, created a French-Study Night through the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, and often assisted French professors with their classes as a graduate student. She earned a Bachelors in French, and a Masters in Secondary Education. While at Ball State, Betsy had the opportunity to travel and study abroad twice at l’Université de Caen focusing on FLE (français langue étrangère), History, and Translation. Last year she taught at the Indiana Academy where she found her professional stride. Three of her first year students placed in the top 10 in the state of Indiana, and two placed in the top 20 in the United States in Le Grand Concours, which is a national French language competition. Betsy loves to travel and most recently she has visited Canada. She has also been to Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. At home she has a husband, who means the world to her, and a dog (named after Freddie Mercury).
Featured Destination: Québec

First known as La Nouvelle-France (New France) from the time of its founding by Samuel de Champlain in 1608 after Jacques Cartier's initial visit in 1535, the Canadian province of Québec is the second most important French-speaking region of the world after France.

The area that now makes up the province of Québec was once the anchor of French North America. Once New France fell under British control in 1763, a tumultuous era followed as French speakers in Canada demanded (and ultimately received) rights following the birth of the United States in 1776. From 1763 until the 1950s, Québec's economic life was dependent on the agriculture and forestry. As the population swelled, many Québécois migrated towards urban centres in the province. During the 1960s a “Quiet Revolution” was marked by changing societal and political changes concerning Francophones in Canada, resulting in the birth of the vibrant Québec that we know of today. Constant agitations on the part of Francophones in Québec during this period resulted in the bicultural and federally bilingual nation of Canada where the French language and culture were officially recognised as an integral part of the country's “Two founding peoples” policy. Despite this, Québec has held three referendums in regards to its place in Canada, most recently in 1995. The province is known for its peaceful, yet proudful nationalism and Québécois remain fiercely attached to their language and culture.

Québec is the only part of North America where French is both the majority and official language, and this fact gives the province a unique character that makes it a very popular year round tourist destination as well as a bridge between Europe and North America. Québécois are well-known for their passion, spontaneity, friendliness, as they celebrate their particular cultural flavour and unique joie de vivre.

Québec has a population of approximately eight million people, the majority of whom live in the St. Lawrence River valley. There are also 70,000 Aboriginal peoples living in the province, consisting of 10 different First Nations, along with over 9000 Inuit who live in the far north.

Québec is home to a variety of landscapes and is heavily forested, a veritable paradise for lovers of the outdoors. Additionally, Québec contains over one million lakes and thousands of rivers, many of which are suitable for whitewater rafting. Québec's ski areas are ranked amongst the best in eastern North America and its network of snowmobile trails is the world's largest. The St. Lawrence River from Québec City eastward is the world's largest estuary and is home to a native population of beluga.

The province offers a little something for everyone. Due to its duality as a North American region with a European influence, Québec's literature, theatre, art, cinema, poetry and more are world-renowned. Contemporary Québec is also a global leader in the aerospace industry, an innovator in harnessing and exporting hydroelectric power (supplying much of the Northeastern United States with electricity), and its métropole (Montréal) is one of the world's most diverse cities whilst its walled capital (Québec City) is often ranked as one of the most beautiful places in the world to visit.

West African French Slang & Expressions

“Chanter la pomme” = To flirt
“Ça a pas d’allure” = It/this does not make sense
“Il mouille (il pleut)” = It is raining
“Attache ta tuque” = Get ready
“Acrrocher des patins” = (hang up your skates) To retire
“Barrer la porte (verrouiller)” = Lock the door
“Bébéles” = Small toys or “Knick knacks”
“Bibittes” = Bugs
“C’est écoeurant (C’est fantastique)” = It’s cool
“Être tanné (en avoir marre)” = To have had enough, to be frustrated
“Fin de semaine” = Weekend (in continental French it is said week-end)
“Grand parleur, p’tit faiseur” = One who talks a lot, but does little
“Un dépanneur” = A corner store
“Être dans les patates (se tromper)” = To be in error, to make a mistake

Québec trivia, did you know?

The word Québec comes from the Algonquin language word meaning “Where the river narrows,” which make reference to St. Lawrence River’s changed width at Québec City.

The most photographed hotel in the world is the Château Frontenac in Québec City.

The motto of Québec (as shown on its license plates) is Je me souviens (I remember). The true metaphorical meaning makes reference to the survival and continuance of the French language and culture in North America.

Québec City is the only walled city in North America and it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

Québec is a founding member of La Francophonie (a global political organisation that includes all French-speaking areas) and is a leader in French language art, poetry, music, culture, literature, and cinema.

In 1995, the province of Québec almost separated from the Canadian union in a sovereignty vote that was 49.5% in favour of separating, 50.5% against.

Immigrants have long been a part of the Canadian mosaic and Québec is no exception to this. Although Montréal is the second largest French-speaking city on Earth after Paris, it also ranks as one of the most diverse in the world.

Québécois love festivals. The world’s largest jazz, comedy, and French-language music festivals are all held in Montréal each summer and the largest winter festival in the world is held in Québec City each February. Smaller festivals are held in cities and towns across the province.

Over 90% of the world’s supply of maple syrup comes from Québec.
Study Abroad scholarship for IUN students (Frank Caucci Scholarship)

The Frank Caucci Memorial Scholarship, so named for the late Dr. Frank Caucci (who was a long-time professor of French and former Chair of the Department of Modern Languages), has been established to enable IUN students to further their knowledge by living and studying in another country. Students of French or Italian who have a GPA of 3.0 or better in their language courses and who have been accepted into an overseas study programme administered or affiliated with Indiana University are eligible for this award. The amount awarded will be determined in part by the number of students who will be studying abroad in any given year. We are pleased to offer current students this great new opportunity for funding and everyone is encouraged to apply for an IU study abroad programme and this scholarship.

Study Abroad - IU French

Indiana University offers students a variety of overseas study options, including in many French-speaking countries. Students who choose to study abroad in a Francophone country have outstanding opportunities to learn about a unique culture and history that differs from their own, all whilst improving their reading, writing and speaking abilities in the French language. The following programmes in French-speaking countries are sponsored by Indiana University: Aix-en-Provence, France (semester or year), Rwanda (semester or year), Rennes, France (semester or year), Paris, France (summer), Québec City, Canada (summer), and Dakar, Sénégal (summer).

Financial Aid is available for all overseas study programmes. In addition to traditional sources of financial assistance, IU-Northwest students who wish to study in a French-speaking country are encouraged to apply for the Frank Caucci Memorial Scholarship (please see related section).

Student Spotlight

Leelan Bhagwandeen

1. Why did you choose to study French? I chose to study French because I have always liked the way it sounds. It's a language spoken by dignitaries, artists, and high end designers.

2. What is your favourite French subject so far? I really enjoyed the French film class. It was interesting seeing how the language and culture changed over time in the French speaking world.

3. What was the most challenging French subject? Conjugation. I always have a hard time remembering how to conjugate in French.

4. Do you plan to continue with French studies once you graduate? I would like to go to France next summer to study French before going to graduate school.

5. What are the advantages to studying in a small programme at IUN? What's great about a small program is that you get to know your professors and your classmates.

6. Have you used French outside of IUN? I had the opportunity to speak French in France a couple years ago. It was a great feeling being able to order food and make purchases using French. I have also used French at work to communicate with Haitian guests.

Old world charm can be found in Québec.
Alumni Spotlight - Cassia Martin

I am currently in the last few months of my PhD studies in English Literature where I am specifically looking at the narrative techniques in the four novels of Frances Burney (from the 1770s) here at the University of Aberdeen in the north of Scotland. After submission my next big step will be the VIVA (oral examination), where I defend my thesis work. I am actually looking forward to opportunity for in depth discussion with Burney scholars.

I chose to study French during my undergraduate studies at IUN because a great deal of literary theory has roots in France, and developing that element of my literary culture would be beneficial. As it happened the author I am now studying married a French man and the language and culture influenced her fiction and her letters extensively.

One of the advantages to studying in a smaller program at IUN was the ability to develop relationships with the professors that enhanced my own work. If the course group is too large one can become lost in the crowd. The smaller study groups give the professors more time to devote to each student and to challenge them in more directly relevant ways. I would eventually hope to end up teaching in a similar situation, as it gives students the opportunity they would struggle to find elsewhere.

Aberdeen is a multicultural community and I have had many opportunities to use my French outside of the academic circles. I have a friend’s wedding at the end of the month in France and I will be surrounded by French speakers. It will be another terrific chance to try my espionage joke in French again.

As I previously mentioned having French as a part of my academic background has enhanced my critical skills when working first-handedly with French material. Many of the earlier translations of Burney’s letters and journal entries were not direct translations but rather loose translations, and it was nice to be able to read the originals for myself. I have also benefited from the French literature course, which I took in my last year or so at IUN, as using the theory and having a general French background in the literary history was helpful for considering Burney in her historical and social context.

My advice to those currently studying French would be to have fun and enjoy it. You will not benefit from your studies unless you give it your very best effort. The parts of my education that have stuck the longest with me have always been the areas that I was truly passionate about and gave a proper effort towards. Travel as frequently as you can! Always eat anything offered to you! Drink your beer warm and don’t forget to make friends everywhere you go. Locals make the kindest hosts and give the traveller the most genuine experience of a community.

Pi Delta Phi

The IUN chapter of Pi Delta Phi (French honour society), known as Xi Gamma, was founded in 2007 and has inducted over 25 present and past students into this prestigious organisation. To become eligible for membership in PDP, students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 in all French courses and have completed one upper-level course. All students of French are encouraged to become lifetime members of PDP and earn the right to be recognised at commencement with honour cords.