

FRANCO-AMERICAN PROGRAMS PROGRAMMES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER/2022

• University of Maine • Crossland Hall • Orono, ME 04469-5719



First Ever - Young Franco Americans Summit

L to R: Melody Desjardins, Daniel Moreau (Standing), Jessamine Irwin, Claire-Marie Brisson, Timothy St. Pierre, Patrick Lacroix, seated on the floor: Anna Faherty, Julia Rhinelander, Jason Schoeller, Camden Martin. (Photo by Lisa Michaud).



The recording of the Summit can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAX5gzY2aFDG1G8QeO1b-Ka3w3XLL3vEuc>

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On October 16th, 2021, Franco American Programs held the first ever conference for young (which we defined our age range to be 18-35) Franco-Americans; the Young Franco-American's Summit. The event was held both in-person, and over Zoom.

There were presentations by fellow Francos, a keynote presentation by Ryan Fecteau, Timothy St. Pierre presented,

Nés pour un petit pain: a class analysis of Maine's Franco-Americans; Camden Martin, The Franco-American parish schools, and their roles in maintaining the French language; Anna Faherty & Julia Rhinelander, The Franco-American Pathways podcast. Archives at the University of Southern Maine, Lewiston-Auburn College; Daniel Moreau, Dawson, and Dawson: Revisited. The 500-year story of New England Mill Cities; Melody Desjardins, Moderne Francos. A blog all about the Franco-American experience; Claire-Marie Brisson, Identity, Place, and (In-)Visibility in the Francophone North Atlantic. The afternoon ended with a Trivia Kahoot game and music by the band Gnocchi.



Year two of the Young Franco-American's Summit is scheduled for **October 15, 2022**. This year's event for Franco-Americans and Franco-enthusiasts aged 18-35 will take place at the Millyard Museum in Manchester, New Hampshire.

For more information contact
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First Building on Campus dedicated to Franco-American: Karen L. Boudreau, Esq. Hall



North Stevens will be renamed to Karen L. Boudreau, Esq. Hall on Thursday, July 14, 2022

About: Karen L. Boudreau, Esq. '80 grew up in Brewer, Maine and graduated from John Bapst Memorial High School. Despite having to work to support herself and pay her own educational expenses, Ms. Boudreau earned her Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Political Science and Broadcasting with High Honors and Highest Distinction from the University of Maine in three years. After receiving her Juris Doctorate with Honors from George Washington University, Ms. Boudreau was a law clerk for the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. During her 35 year legal career, Ms. Boudreau has represented numerous large international corporations, including IBM, Gap, Marshalls, UNUM, Sony and Accenture, both as in-house counsel and in her own practice, focusing on technology and employment matters. She holds bar admissions in six states, including Maine, New York and California, as well as admission to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States. Ms. Boudreau has been named an Attorney of Distinction and one of America's Most Honored Lawyers.

We're celebrating 50 Years!



50 years ago, a group of students at the University of Maine began advocating for recognition on campus. This summer, we'll be making plans to look at where we were, how far we've come, and what we'll accomplish in the next 50 years! If you have any fun ideas about how to celebrate or people in particular you'd like us to engage, let us know. Right now, we're imagining two types of events: some that recognize important people in our history and some that engage with Franco Americans today in order to explore what their heritage means to them.

We have begun interviewing individuals who were affiliated with the Centre as a student or community member. Please contact us if you would like to share your experiences and what role the Franco-American Centre has played in your life.

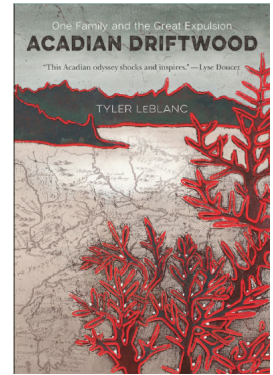
Contact: Spinette@maine.edu or Lisam@maine.edu.

Hybrid Rassemblement 2022 Franco American writers gathering

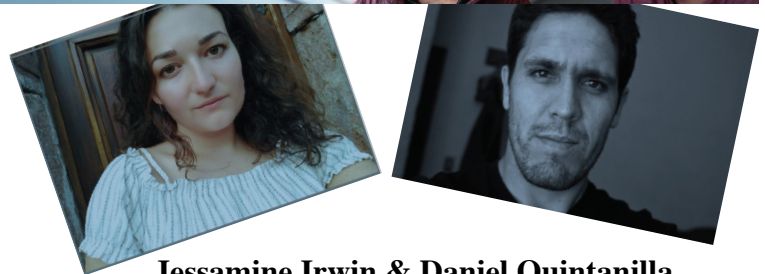
We held our annual Rassemblement, April 22-24. This year we held a hybrid gathering, attendees met in-person at the Centre as well as virtually through Zoom.

The event started Friday evening with author Tyler Leblanc who spoke about his book, "Acadian Driftwood". He shared his experiences of growing up on the south shore of Nova Scotia he wasn't fully aware of his family's Acadian roots, until he delved into his family genealogy.

Saturday began with virtual presentations and the viewing of the film, "The Intersection"/"Le Carrefour". Followed by a Q & A session with the producers Jessamine and Daniel.



Tyler Leblanc, author of ACADIAN DRIFTWOOD



Jessamine Irwin & Daniel Quintanilla

About the film, Cecile reconnects with the French of her childhood thanks to recently arrived Franco-African immigrants, like Trésor, seeking asylum in Cecile's hometown of Lewiston, Maine. Cecile's Franco roots tie her to the thousands of French-Canadians who came before her to power the local mills, and who suffered from decades of discrimination and oppression. As history repeats itself, Cecile and Trésor develop a close friendship that helps Cecile finally find her pride in being Franco-American.



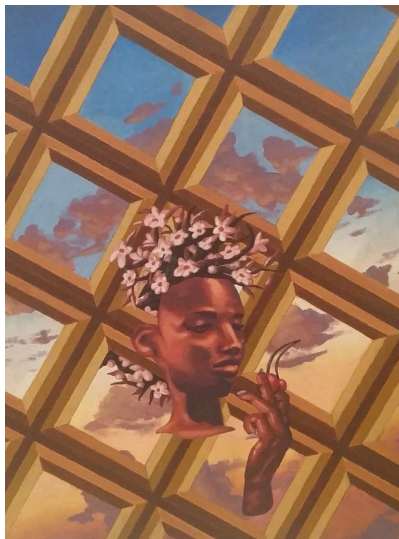
Daniel Moreau and Steven Riel



In-person attendees

<https://lecarrefourfilm.com>

RÉSONANCE vol. 4



Welcome to volume 4 of Résonance, and with it the inauguration of our new website. We are grateful to Jacob Albert of Franco-American Programs at the University of Maine for his major role in the creation of this site. The many invaluable contributions of editors Erica Vermette and Abby Paige were also key.

We invite you to explore our new offerings, which include a groundbreaking interview with the poet and novelist Bill Tremblay.

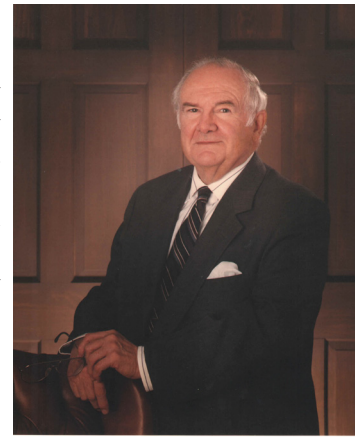
<https://www.resonance-journal.org/résonance-vol-4>

Adrien Lanthier Ringuette Library

My name is Joey LeBlanc. I am an Interdisciplinary Studies graduate student at UMO, and my work has been primarily on Acadian and Franco-American history and genealogy (with a focus on my family and the petit Canada of Madison, Maine) as well as questions of the interplay of narratives and identity formation.

Since I was introduced to the Franco-American Centre Franco-Américain last Fall, and Lisa Michaud opened the doors to the incredible resources available there, I have spent quite a bit of time in the Ringuette Library. The library has provided for me many things; research materials, a quiet study space/Zoom home base, computer and genealogy software access, and a lovely room to meet up with friends.

It is my favorite spot on campus to do homework, though every time - without fail - the bookshelves pull my attention and I flip through at least two new interesting books. The last time I was there, I even happened across a book written by an ancestor of mine!



Joey LeBlanc and our full time, genealogist volunteer, Debbie Roberge.

From the big central table, I have met with a distant cousin of mine over Zoom (who I was connected to through the Centre). She was delighted to realize where I was calling in from! I have done a lot of work on my family genealogy there as well, and have gratefully made use of the library's materials! Most recently, I have been using the computer and RootsMagic to continue adding to the amazing database of family research Deborah Roberge helped me set up.

Now I am an intern working with Susan Pinette and Jacob Albert in the Centre, and I have been coming to the library with regularity to do personal genealogy work as well as progress on my work with the Franco-American Digital Archives. I am very grateful that this space exists and look forward to spending many more hours in my favorite chair in the Ringuette Library.

To view our special collections holdings:

<https://umaine.edu/francoamerican/centre/franco-american-centre-reference-room/>

Congratulations!



Daniel Moreau and Kathie Wing graduated with a Franco American Studies minor this spring. It has been so delightful to work with these two students and so much fun to watch them learn and grow. We are so proud of them.



Donna Morin is the president of FAROG and discovered the Franco-American Centre as a freshman. She enjoyed teaching the elementary aged students French in the after school program that the Centre hosted pre-pandemic. She is majoring in communication sciences and disorders and child development and family relations. Donna is also working towards a minor in disability studies and wants to become a speech and language pathologist when she is out of school.

Donna shares that her family is Acadian and she is from the Saint John Valley which is bustling with Acadian culture. Because she grew up so immersed in Franco-American culture she didn't realize its full significance until she began working at the Franco-American Centre. Since working with the Centre Donna has gained an appreciation for preserving Franco-American history because she feels it helps explain to people how and where we came to be in the present moment. This year, Donna looks forward to leading FAROG and seeing what the club will be able to accomplish now that we are back in person.

FAS 400 - Internship in Franco American Studies

This summer, FAS 400: Internship in Franco American Studies is hosting five interns to create projects in support of Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain. Two graduate students and three undergraduates have proposed and outlined projects to:

- Build a social media strategy for FADA/PFA
- Develop an interdisciplinary social studies/languages lesson plan that meets Maine Learning Results criteria for Maine high schools
- Develop an FAQ/user guide to walk students and community members through using FADA/PFA for their own research
- Create a resource guide for Franco-American materials and objects held at a local historical society
- Process a Franco-American archival collection
- Digitize materials and create metadata to make them accessible on the web

We are thrilled to host such a creative and enthusiastic group of students! Each week, through the end of July, we meet to learn more about Franco-American archives, and to work through our projects together. Thank you to our partners in the Franco American Collections Consortium (<https://faconsortium.org>) - USM Franco-American Collection, UMFK Acadian Archives, Assumption University French Institute, and Saint Anselm College Msgr. Wilfrid Paradis Archives and Special Collections - for meeting with interns and presenting on the important work they do at their institutions!

Explore Franco-American Collections

Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain (FADA/PFA) is an online portal to Franco-American archival collections. It is a creation of the Franco American Collections Consortium, a multi-university collaborative that works together to make accessible the history and culture of Franco Americans of the Northeast and beyond.



FADA/PFA is now live!

FADA/PFA was launched in October 2021 and now provides a gateway to over 1000 archival items and collections about Franco Americans that are held in over two dozen repositories in the US and Canada. Susan and Jake will present on the portal on Wednesday, July 13, in a program sponsored by Digital Commonwealth, the digital library collaborative of Massachusetts. For more information or to register for the program, visit <https://membership.digitalcommonwealth.org/event-4846491>

Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain: Centering Franco-American Communities in Digital Discovery



Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain: Centering Franco-American Communities in Digital Discovery

Support FADA/PFA!

Help us reach our goal of \$15,000 in 2022 by making a tax deductible contribution to Franco American Digital Archives! Visit <https://francoamericandigitalarchives.org/support-fadapfa> to support interns, help us grow the web portal, and receive a FADA

Thank You gift! Merci!



Some of this years virtual events...

Pain at the Root: Le Grand Dérangement and Our Family History

Although most of their ancestors came to the United States from Québec, father and daughter Raymond A. Lambert and Megan D. Lambert St. Marie also trace their family tree to Acadians who were impacted by Le Grand Dérangement. In this presentation, Ray and Megan will provide insights into the history of the expulsion of the Acadians by highlighting some of their ancestors' and relatives' stories, while also commenting on how learning this history has enriched and informed their lives today



"Les Filles à Marier" presented by Ray Lambert and Megan St. Marie

Today known as "Les Filles à Marier" or "marriageable girls," roughly 260 Frenchwomen arrived in Québec before 1763, predating the arrival of the better-known Filles du Roi. Drawing on Ray Lambert's extensive genealogy research, he and his daughter Megan St. Marie will share a bit about their ancestors who were among this early group of French settlers in North America.



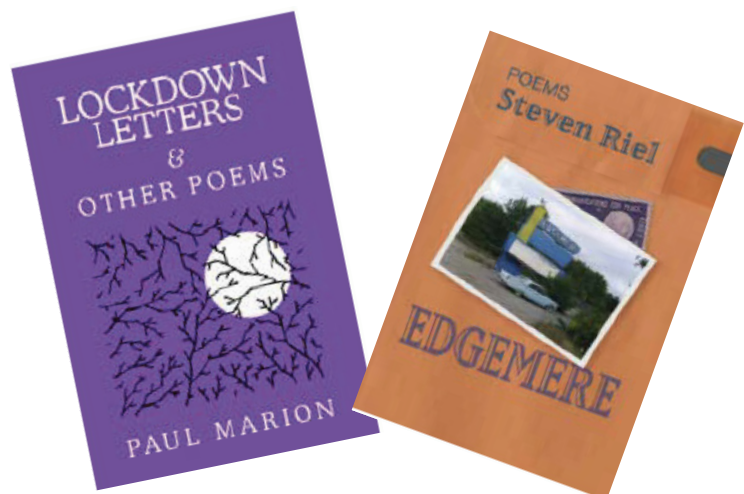
"The Franco-American Political Agenda and the Challenge of Ethnic Cohesion."

From the early years of Franco-Americans' political involvement, community leaders dreamed of creating a monolithic voting bloc that could sway elections for either party. Those hopes were frequently disappointed. This presentation explores the issues and interests that fractured the Franco electorate and undermined ethnic cohesion. As we will see, splits within the community can be interpreted as evidence of political maturation; in some locations, those divisions may actually have enhanced Franco-American influence.



Paul Marion and Steven Riel-Poetry Reading

Paul Marion and Steven Riel read from their new books. Marion, editor of the early writings of Jack Kerouac and author of several books, read from his recent publication *Lockdown Letters & Other Poems*. Riel, whose latest book of poetry is titled *Edgemere*, serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Résonance*, the Franco-American online literary journal at UMaine.



We held a Celebration of Greg Chabot's Life and Work

We honored Greg during a virtual event on November 5, 2021. Where we invited our community to join us and his family to spend time talking about what Greg's work meant to each one of us and what an impact he had on our lives.



Recordings of these presentations and more can be found at:
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/francoamericain_occ_papers/

Some of this years in-person events...

We held 2 Cooking Classes, one with Raymond Pelletier and the other with Lisa Michaud

Raymond Pelletier dressed up for his role as cooking instructor, where he demonstrated the variations of crêpes, ployes & gallettes.

Lisa Michaud followed up the following month with a cooking class about the different variations of Tourtières.



Maine Maple Weekend

We, FAROG members and our community group visited "Back Ridge Sugar House" in Winterport.



Nancy Lamarre Visited the Centre

Nancy Lamarre, accordianist extraordinaire performed for the end of year Franco-Femmes Gathering.



Our Vision Statement:

We seek to make Franco American Programs at the University of Maine into an international center for Franco American scholarly research and community engagement. The Franco American Program responds to an unmet need: it researches, teaches, and serves the French cultures of the Northeast. This need is felt locally, nationally, and internationally. The University of Maine is singularly capable of responding to this need and providing national and international leadership. The University's land grant mission to serve the people of Maine and its large Franco American population, its location close to Canada, and its role as the state's flagship campus present a unique opportunity to build upon our strengths and create a national and international profile.

Our Mission Statement:

Franco American communities constitute a large percentage of the population of Maine and the Northeast region. It is the mission of the Franco American Program to serve these communities while recognizing that cultural patterns do not stop at national borders. The Franco American Program includes the Franco American Centre as well as Franco American Studies.

The primary goal of the Franco-American Centre is to support and enhance the Franco American communities of Maine. The Centre looks to disseminate the richness of Franco history, language, and culture, as well as to bridge Franco Americans both to the University campus and to other peoples of the region.

The primary goal of Franco American Studies is to broaden the canon of knowledge on Franco American peoples, culture, and literature. It encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary research, faculty engagement, and student exploration.

Our Staff:

*Full time volunteer/genealogist:
deborah.e.roberge@gmail.com*

Director of Franco-American Programs:

Susan Pinette

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Program Manager:

Jacob Albert

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Coordinator of Community Engagement:

Lisa Desjardins Michaud

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Le Forum: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/francoamericain_forum/

Oral History: <https://video.maine.edu/channel/Oral+Histories/101838251>

Library: <https://umaine.edu/francoamerican/franco-american-library/>

Occasional Papers: <https://umaine.edu/francoamerican/occasional-papers/>

Résonance: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/resonance/vol1/iss1/>

Contact Us:

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