

FRANCO-AMERICAN PROGRAMS PROGRAMMES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS SUMMER NEWSLETTER/2023

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



UMaine Franco American Programs receives \$350K from National Endowment for the Humanities



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We're proud to announce that we were just awarded a grant from National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize nearly 40,000 pages of French-English family correspondence, historic scrapbooks, manuscripts, artworks, personal diaries, songbooks and other personal papers for the Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain

<https://shorturl.at/BGKR7>

Congratulations! We are so proud of our student Joey LeBlanc who will be starting his PhD in Franco American Studies this fall



For his internship, Joey created a digital collection comprised of barn photos from the St. John Valley, and explored how the structure/methods used to build them were unique to the region and its Acadian history. Joey created a digital exhibit on Maine Memory Network.



*Double barns, Fort Kent, ca. 2010
Photo Contributed by Acadian Archives*



Congratulations Neily Raymond

Congratulations Neily Raymond, who was selected as part of the Inaugural Voyager Scholarship Cohort out of 100 rising juniors nationwide. “Voyagers,” represent 35 states and territories, as well as 70 colleges and universities, holding a common curiosity about the world with the conviction to make a positive change. With this scholarship, Neily will pursue travel opportunities to advance her career as a science writer, documenting human dimensions of environmental change in vulnerable communities.



2ND ANNUAL YOUNG FRANCO-AMERICAN SUMMIT HELD

October 15th, 2022, the Summit was held at the MILLYARD MUSEUM in Manchester, NH. Those attending received a FREE Museum tour and PoutineFest tickets were also included.

This years Summit, organized by Daniel Moreau, was filled with captivating presentations by Franco-American scholars and keynote speaker Claire-Marie Brisson about French Canadian fashion, music, lineage, architecture, and discussions about Franco-American diaspora.



Join us at the Young Franco-American Summit this fall



October 15, 2022 participants, Top (left to right): Meghan Murphy, Alex Torno, Brian Thomas, Dr. Claire-Marie Brisson, Emma Brewer, Timothy St. Pierre, Camden Martin, Matthew Schwab Bottom (left to right): MJ Osgood, Sibelle Gris , Joey Leblanc, Jacob Michaud, Madeline Soucie, Daniel Moreau, Nicole Pelletier, Emily Vaccaro, Melody Desjardins

Calling all Franco-Americans and Franco-enthusiasts aged 18 to 35! Come to the Young Franco-American Summit, the only Franco-American event for young voices to share ideas, discuss their experiences, and network within their age group while celebrating Franco-American culture.

Interested in attending or presenting?

Contact

Melody Desjardins at

melody@modernefrancos.com

DATE: October 14, 2023 (attendance at NH PoutineFest to follow)

LOCATION: Nashua, New Hampshire (venue to be announced)



STUDENT FAROGERS-HAD A BUSY YEAR

With President Donna Morin at the helm, FAROG held fundraisers for a student trip to Québec, held a food and toy drive, attended Culturefest, cooked Franco foods for the Wilson Center, attended Francophone Day/Culture at the State House, and held an officer election for 2023.



Standing, l to r: Thomas Shetxline, Matt Wilson, Matt Frost, Michael Mutlu, Seated l to r: Molly Sirois, Gianna Cilley, Sophie Ladd, Rachel Ouellette Front l to r: Donna Morin, Kayla Pollier & Jessica Hutchinson



Jessica Hutchinson & Donna Morin selling tickets for Quebec Trip fundraiser



Emily Vaccaro, Quebec Trip Fundraiser



Students cooking french fries for poutines. Wilson Center Thursday Dinner.



Francophone Day/Culture at the State House



(See more FAROG on page 4)

Food & Toy Drive, December 13, 2023:



CultureFest 2022:



Donna Morin and
Matt Frost



Donna Morin and
Lisa Michaud (Advisor)

Holiday Potluck, December 9, 2022:



Quebec Trip, February 17-20, 2023:



2023 Election of FAROG Officers:



President: Gianna Cilley



Vice president: Emily Vaccaro



Treasurer: Javier Ahumada



Secretary:
Atilgan Micheal Mutlu

Franco-American Programs was busy too: Hosted Students from NYU, March 14, 2023



In collaboration with French Professor Jessamine Irwin, the Franco-American Centre provided a presentation by Susan Pinette, held a discussion and also offered a traditional luncheon for the guests. The group then left for Quebec City.



National Poutine Day Potluck, April 11, 2023:



On April 11 we celebrated National Poutine Day. Nancy Lamarre played the accordion she was accompanied by students on the spoons. There were different variations of poutine, royal, vegan and traditional.

The yearly “Rassemblement,” April 21-23, 2023:



Every year, Franco American Programs organizes a “rassemblement” or gathering of Franco American artists, writers, and creatives. This annual event aims to create a culturally supportive space in which members of the Franco-American creative community can share their work.

Portions of this year’s gathering was hybrid, to allow for participation from those who were unable to attend in person.

Friday evening guest author Pierre Lavoie spoke about his book, *Mille Après Mille*. His talk was followed by a film screening of the *Palm Beach Story*, a film starring Rudy Vallée.

On Saturday, guests participated in sharing their writing and research (both hybrid and in-person).

Robert Sylvain shared his inherited notebook of old Acadian ballads written by his Mémère which he performs for his audience. <http://robertsylvain.com/>

Susan Pinette introducing Pierre Lavoie, author of MILLE APRÈS MILLE



Robert Sylvain



Steve Muise (Fiddler) & Robert Sylvain



Claudette O'Connell and others



James Jarvis

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

May 6, 2023



Donna Morin graduated with a bachelors in Communication Sciences and Disorders, double degree in Child Development and Family Relations, and a minor in Disability Studies.



Matt Frost graduated with a Chemical Engineering degree.



James Jarvis graduated with a BA in History

Our Community Group, Franco-Femmes



In November 2022 our ladies group made and donated blankets to the Homeless Shelter in Bangor. And we attended the Feztival of Trees at the Anah Shrine Temple in Bangor.



In December Claire Bolduc offered to help Ray Pelletier hem his pants. She gave a quick "how to" sewing class.



Lin Larochelle, Lisa Michaud, Josée Vachon, Martha Mitchell & Emma Phillips



In March 2023 we attended a Josée Vachon concert in Lewiston at the Franco Center.

The group meets weekly for lunch at the Centre.

Lisa Michaud, Lin Larochelle, Martha Mitchell & Emma Phillips

ABOUT THE CENTRE

On February 5th, 2023 the Centre suffered a burst pipe which flooded 6 office spaces and caused significant damage to our building.

The hardest hit of those 6 offices happened to be our Archives: 50+ years of materials drenched and in water.

We hauled all of these boxes to dryer areas and spread everything out all over the place, wherever we could lay it down. We froze materials that we did not have time to get to immediately. It was a mess, but somehow, we survived and most of the materials did too.

The University stepped up, thank you Douglas Cyr and facilities! They have replaced flooring, ceilings, and have painted. It is still a work in progress. As a result, we have been doing a lot of moving, remodeling and organizing.

The Damage



The Clean-up and Renovations



The Kitchen & Dedication



Our New Kitchen Remodeling has been made possible by our generous community donors:

- Lin Laroche
- Kristin Langellier
- Claire Bolduc
- Ginny Sand
- Megan St. Marie
- Patrick Boisine
- Josee Darchon
- Debbie Roberge
- Allen J. Boisine
- Karrie Bennett
- Philip & Martha Whitehouse
- Louise Tanguay-Ricker
- Michael J. Guignard
- Mark & Judy Labine
- Pierre Girard
- Havier de la Prade
- Robert & Ginette Doucette
- Jacqueline Blesso
- Lucille Langlois
- Richard & Juliana L'Heureux
- Beverly Ann Trask

Our newly applianced kitchen is dedicated in loving memory to Raymond Pelletier. Ray shared his love of cooking with us.

Within one month of my asking for donations to buy new appliances our community came through. Thank you all so much for making my dream a reality!



The Recovery



Tanja Kunz

We are still recovering from the flood that hit our archives in February. We saved as many of the files as we could. In the process, however, many of the folders and files were jumbled and mixed up as we had to take them as quickly as possible out from under the water and out of their wet boxes. Luckily, Tanja, an IPhD student, has joined us for the summer to help out. We're taking the time, since we have to go through the files anyway, to organize and sort through them. It is a big job but in the end, we will have an organized collection of materials from 50 years of Franco American activism.



Lorraine Kunz, Aide

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY!

This year was a very difficult year to say the least.... but we were blessed with wonderful volunteers. Thank you all for your help, when we needed it most and for all that you do! A shout out to the University Paint Shop, Grounds, Electrical, Plumbing, Douglas Cyr, Michael Munson and all others who have helped with the clean-up and renovations.

- Alex Baron**
- Martha Mitchell**
- Lin Larochelle**
- Debbie Roberge**
- Ginny Sand**



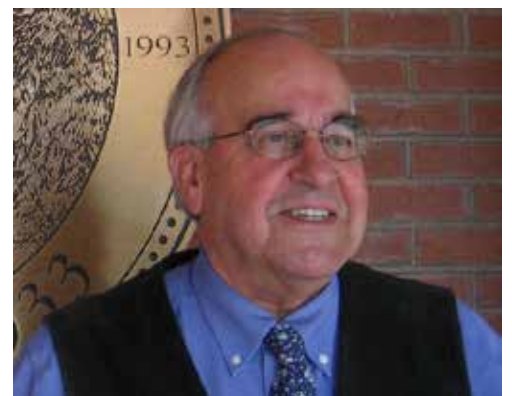
OUR GREAT LOSSES: Thank you for the memories. May you RIP.



*Pamela McInnis Beveridge
June 4, 1947 – February 22, 2023*



*Michael Parent
April 27, 1946 - May 5, 2023*



*Raymond Joseph Pelletier
November 2, 1942 -
May 15, 2023*

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.

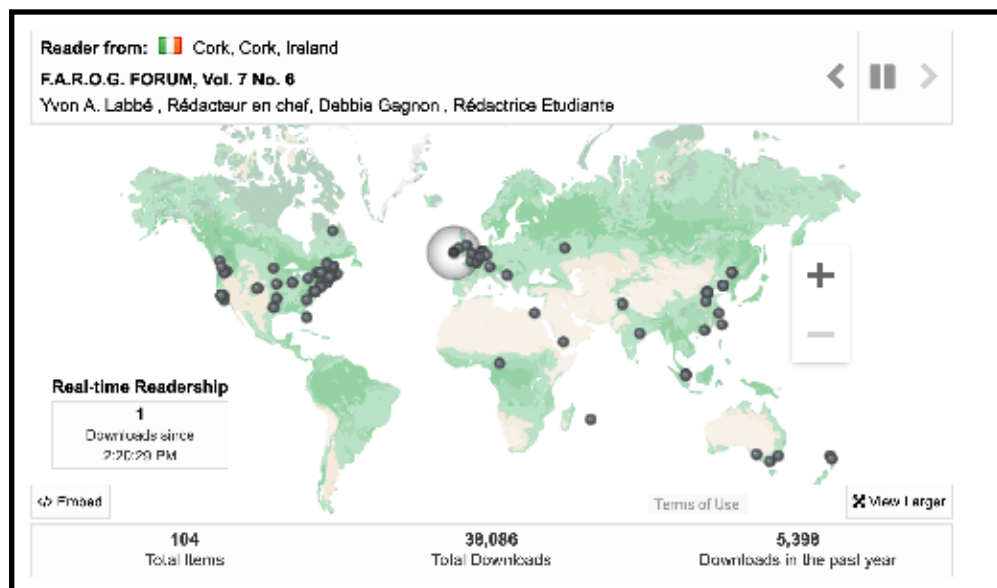
The primary goal of Franco American Studies is to broaden the canon of knowledge on Franco American peoples, culture, and literature. It encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary research, faculty engagement, and student exploration.

Director of Franco-American Programs: Susan Pinette
Email: Spinette@maine.edu

Our Staff:

Volunteer/genealogist: deborah.e.roberge@gmail.com

Coordinator of Community Engagement: Lisa Desjardins Michaud
Email: Lisam@maine.edu



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/>

FADA: <https://francoamericandigitalarchives.org>

Contact Us: Franco-American Programs, 110 Crossland Hall Orono, ME 04469-5719