"French Day"

A morning of presentations in French on French culture, and a contest for high school students

Friday, March 1, 2013

9:00 am — 1:30 pm

Voyager en français is the theme of this year’s French Day, which seeks to celebrate aspects of the Humanities — history, literature, art, music, communication, and global studies — through the lens of the French language. One of the most remarkable aspects of French today is that it is the only language other than English spoken on five continents. The film competition is designed to highlight this global status by drawing attention to the places and situations in which one can speak French in the world today.

The best films will be showcased during a student film festival. The top three films will win first, second, and third prizes and press releases for the winning schools' achievement.

This program is aimed towards students at the French 3, 4, and AP levels, but students of all levels are welcome to attend.

The Presentations

9:30 am — 10:20 am and 10:30 am — 11:20 am (two sessions)

You will be asked to choose two presentations from the following four topics. Groups of 10 or more may be divided among the presentations (see registration form).

Global French Translation: Tips, Techniques, Technologies

Speaker: Kathleen Loysen, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, MSU

This interactive workshop will focus on exploring the crucial role of translation for communicating in today's global economy. Why is translation considered a necessary and burgeoning profession, in fields as diverse as business, government, international affairs, journalism, and the arts? We will discuss ways of becoming a professional translator, and students will participate in several hands-on activities involving translation methods (what works? what doesn't? how can we tell?), including the use of professional interpreting booths.

Tasting France

Speaker: Elizabeth Emery, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, MSU

A brief lecture will discuss the ways in which France’s unique geography has led to the development of an astonishing range of regional culinary specialties, all with their own flavors and symbolism. After this multimedia overview of the ways in which geography has informed French culture, participants will be able to taste and rate items from different regions.

Bonjour Québec!

Speaker: Harriet Saxon, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, MSU

This workshop will explore the history and culture of Québec through two animated films. Crac brings to life the development of Québec, as a “rocking chair” tells the story of a family. Le Chandail, a charming film about a boy and his love of hockey, contrasts the old and the new. Bienvenue au Québec!

Singing Culture: On the State of Pop Culture in Francophone Africa

Speaker: Daniel Mengara, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, MSU

Using excerpts from films and videos, this presentation highlights the importance and centrality of song in the recording and transmission of African cultures. It also describes how the youth in Francophone African cities have engaged in transpositions, adaptations, and reappropriations of African culture even as they have embraced such popular music styles and genres as Hip-Hop and Rap.
Film Festival Guidelines

All submissions — in .mov or .mp4 format — must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, February 14, 2013. They may be sent: 1) electronically, via the free services www.yousendit.com or www.dropbox.com to ros@mail.montclair.edu or 2) by USPS, on a CD or flash drive addressed to Sally Garson, Institute for the Humanities, Montclair State University, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043. Submissions must be accompanied by the information requested in the "Film Submission Form" below.

1) Films should be set in a place outside of France where French is spoken and they should involve a scenario or situation during which characters must speak French to resolve a problem. A good example of this kind of project is the 2006 film Paris, je t'aime, in which twenty directors each made a five-minute film set in a different arrondissement of Paris. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJG0lqukJTQ]

2) The setting must be identified early in the film, either in opening credits, through use of an image (i.e. city sign or map), or by the characters themselves. The audience must see images of the country or city during the film. This may be conveyed through photographs, drawings, or other media, but third-party images should be acknowledged in the credits (we don’t expect you to travel for this project!).

3) No film may be more than five minutes long, including credits (shorter is fine).

4) The film must be appropriate for all audiences

5) The film must acknowledge the participating school in opening or closing credits.

6) Each school may submit only one entry per class.

7) Content must be original: authored and performed by the students of the participating school.

8) Images borrowed from web sites, magazines, or other sources must be acknowledged in the final credits.

9) The film must be submitted as a .mov or .mp4 file no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, February 14. The file title should be expressed as: teachername.school.classname. Submissions should be accompanied by the "Film Submission Form" or by a cover letter providing the information requested there.

10) By entering the contest, students and teachers agree to the official rules and accept the judges’ decision.

Judges

The judges will be made up from a panel of French-speaking Montclair State University faculty, students, and alumni.

Judging Criteria

• Does the film address the French Day theme (i.e. Voyager en français)? Does the audience learn about a French-speaking country outside of France? Does the film present a situation or problem that characters resolve by speaking French?

• Creativity. Have the authors created a unique scenario? Are the story, script, and characters interesting and engaging? Is the film memorable? Will the viewer be inspired to share the film with others?

• Quality of the French. Do characters speak clearly and comprehensibly in grammatically-correct French?

• Aesthetic quality of the film. This is the lowest criterion, but all things being equal judges will give precedence to those films that have good sound quality and clear, steady pictures.
Registration Form (2 pages)

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All school groups, whether or not competing in the film festival, must complete this form, and return it to the Institute for the Humanities by the deadline date with a check or PO number.

School Groups that plan to attend the workshops and submit a film, must complete both the "Registration Form" and the "Film Submission Form."

Registration deadline: Thursday, February 14, 5 p.m.

Teacher: ___________________________ Department: ___________________________

School: ____________________________

School Mailing Address: ___________________________ (zip) ___________________________

Daytime Phone (with extension): ___________________________

E-mail: ___________________________

Confirmation and program information will be sent via e-mail. Print Clearly.

# students: _______ # teachers: _______ Parking: bus/van: _______ #cars: _______

Class level(s) of students attending "French Day": ___________________________

☐ I would like to receive 3 hours of Professional Development Credit. (Add $25.00 per teacher to the registration fee.)

Total Amount Enclosed: $ ___________ PO Number: ___________

Presentations: 

Choose two. You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Mark your two choices below, by writing in the number of students and teachers for each talk. Note that since space is limited in some of the lecture rooms, groups of 10 or more may be divided among presentations. We will try our best to give everyone their first choice selections.

Global French Translation  Kathleen Loysen

Tasting France  Elizabeth Emery

Bonjour Quebec!  Harriet Saxon

Singing Culture  Daniel Mengara

Film Submission form - Continued on next page.
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Film Submission Form

School name: ____________________________________________________________

Sponsoring teacher: ______________________________________________________

Class level(s) of students competing: _______________________________________

Title of film: ____________________________________________________________

Student authors: _________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Student performers: _____________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Email contact: __________________________________________________________

Phone contact number: _________________________________________________

Film submitted as: .mov format [ ] .mp4 format [ ]

File title (teachername.school.classname): ________________________________

Films may be sent 1) electronically, via the free services www.yousendit.com or www.dropbox.com to ros@mail.montclair.edu or 2) by USPS, on a CD or flash drive addressed to Sally Garson, Institute for the Humanities, Montclair State University, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043.