

NOUVELLES DE BUCKNELL

The Official Bucknell University
French & Francophone Studies Program Newsletter

In this issue

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Contact us

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- ❖ Julia Silverstein
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We want to hear from you!

If you are a graduate from our program, we would love to hear your story in order to enhance our future newsletters!

Check our [program](#) pages on the Bucknell website.

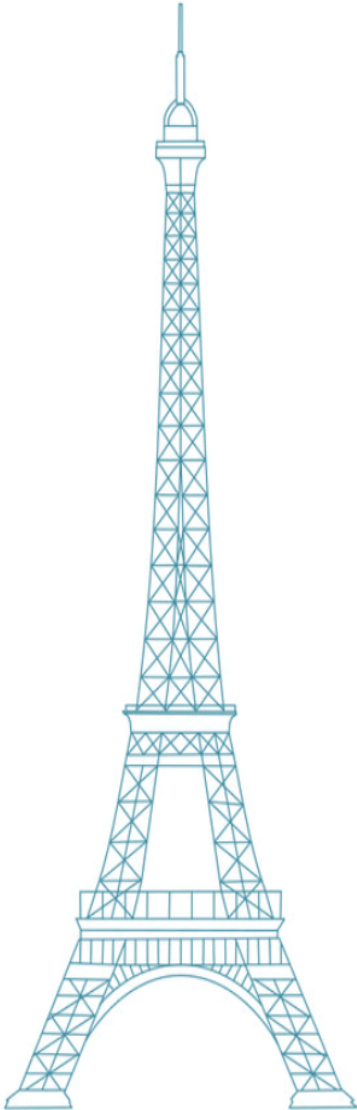


The BEF crew on one of their excursions, France, Fall 2019

Bienvenue!

Winter *avec son manteau blanc* is coming late to Lewisburg, and yet the end of the fall semester is at the door; students are already leaving campus to return home for a well-deserved break. In this issue of *Nouvelles de Bucknell* (the 13th no less), we hope you will find stories that bring back fond memories of your time at Bucknell, as well as inspirations to continue engaging with the richly diverse French and Francophone cultures. We wish you a joyful, peaceful, and warm holiday season. Safe travels!

Professor Nathalie Dupont & Julia Silverstein '20



Letter From the Editor

I'm happy and excited to be the new editor of *Nouvelles de Bucknell* because I get to engage with students and faculty in the French & Francophone Studies Program, stay up to date with relevant news in the Francophone world, and share everything *français* or *francophone* with you. As a double major in English and French, I am always excited when I get to bridge my curiosity for writing and culture. I hope you enjoy this issue filled with faculty spotlights, class close-ups, a winter recipe, and much, much more.

Please send questions, suggestions or concerns to me at jts025@bucknell.edu and *encore une fois, je suis ravie d'être avec Nouvelles de Bucknell!*

Julia



This semester we welcome our new social media coordinator, Olivia Amoruso. Olivia is a senior at Bucknell studying French and political science.

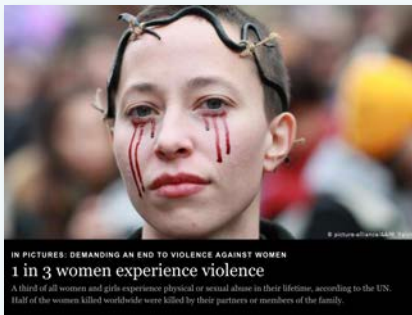
Don't forget to follow @bucknellfrenchclub on Instagram to get weekly updates on what's happening with the French Club and in the French & Francophone Studies Program.

Rallies in France Against Domestic Violence



© Reuters News Source

Thousands of protestors have gathered in the streets of France to condemn femicide. What is femicide? Femicide is a sex-based hate crime that involves the killing of a woman or girl by a man. France is protesting femicide as gender based violence increases across the country. In fact, France has one of the highest rates of murders related to domestic violence. It is reported that one hundred and fifteen women have already been murdered by their husbands in 2019 alone.



© Picture-Alliance

France Losing Bread in Rural Areas



© Getty Images

Although there are tons of bakeries in the cities of France, they are closing across the countryside. It turns out that people, especially younger generations, are eating less bread. More customers are turning to supermarkets and chains causing beloved boulangeries to go out of business and in their place new methods of supplying food, like vending machines, are popping up.



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In the Classroom

Poètes du béton

With Professor Amine Zidouh

Tell us a little bit about the course that you are teaching. What are the main goals of the course ?

Other than the purely linguistic/academic goals associated with a 200-level course here at the FFSP, I view the purpose of my course as being threefold:

First, to introduce students to the beautiful and complex political/cultural/social space of the *Banlieue*. The latter is a word that holds a lot of weight. It is a space that has suffered from a multitude of factors: a dehumanizing representation from the media; unequal access to education and work opportunities; disastrous, inconsistent, uninformed governmental policies (both from the right and the left) and the list goes on. Yet, it is also a space that has produced the brightest artists, intellectuals, teachers, social workers, entrepreneurs, (and the list goes on) in contemporary French society.

Second, to help students engage with certain artistic forms of cultural production that are not 'typically' visible, accepted, nor welcome in academia. I find it extremely ironic that many of my dear esteemed colleagues in higher-education, who generally touch on the 'trendy' topics of diversity, social inequality, still hold very bourgeois and hierarchical views when it comes to cultural production. Even if many won't admit it, it is extremely clear that a certain Nietzschean classification of 'high culture' and 'low culture' is predominant in academia. The irony reaches its apex when we remember that what we consider today



as the highest form of French art and culture (I am thinking of *La Pléiade*, for example) was once seen by the intellectuals of the time as, I quote, "vulgar rubbish." In fact, the very French language we speak today was seen as, "unworthy and unable of literary expression." Now take a moment and reflect on what I just said, then think of the current discourses that exist around new ways of speaking French, and new forms of cultural/artistic production today... Yep. Exactly.

Third, to present students with the concept of "*francophonie de l'intérieur*." This may be the most theoretical aspect of the course, and for it we draw on the likes of Kaoutar Harchi, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault and Roland Barthes as we try to focus on the ideas/questions of: (access to) cultural recognition (which may be easier for some, more than others), where does the 'value' of a 'text' lie? We engage with Derrida's concept of the *hors-texte* and we also look at the work *Je n'ai qu'une langue ce n'est pas la mienne* to understand the darker side of the coin when it comes to *la francophonie*.

Were you thinking about teaching something else besides this course and, if so, what drew you to decide to teach the course you're teaching opposed to the other one ?

I always have a thousand ideas for courses I'd like to teach, but the choice to go with this one came easy to me, as it was dictated by the very subject matter that I just discussed. It's a crucial topic, one that touches many lives, the importance of raising awareness about it goes without saying.

Will you be teaching this course in the future and, if you are, what changes would you make either in the way you teach the course or in the way you present it ?

I never really teach the same course twice, so I am always learning from my students, adapting, changing and evolving. In addition, because of the very subject matter of this course, I have access to new materials almost on a daily basis. An example of that is just two weeks ago, I showed a trailer of a new movie that came out in France called *Les Misérables* (2019). The title is an obvious reference to the novel by Victor Hugo, and the movie also ends with a quote from the author: "Il n'y a ni mauvaises herbes ni mauvais hommes. Il n'y a que de mauvais cultivateurs." The film was by the way watched by President Macron, who reportedly was deeply shaken by it, which started yet another national debate on the Banlieue.

What are some of the best and/or most intriguing questions you've been asked in regards to your class this semester? (Questions from students? Professors? Anyone else?)

I have been extremely lucky and honored to work with so many brilliant students since my arrival at Bucknell. I think most students do not realize this, but as a professor I also learn from them. My very view and philosophy of

education is not one where I see myself as providing some "knowledge" to my students, I view knowledge as something that we achieve all together, collaboratively, as a group, inside and outside of the classroom. This semester in particular I have been blessed with such a cool group, they made going to class such an enjoyable experience and a moment I always looked forward to. I would like to use this platform to thank them for such a wonderful semester.

As for your question, I cannot highlight one or two questions, as all have been intriguing and interesting in their own way. I would like, however, to highlight a production that we collectively created this semester. A film that I decided to call *From the Banlieue, with Love*, which is based on the different presentations and perspectives that were offered by my students this semester. We were able to watch the first cut of this docu-film in class with the group. Once it reaches its final version, I will share it with everyone associated with the French & Francophone Studies Program. Said's *Orientalism* to Jacques Derrida's notion of deconstruction and Bourdieu's *Language and Symbolic Power*, this course tries to help students challenge what they take for granted about *francophonie* in general and how it relates to the African continent in particular. ♦

From the Banlieue
with Love

In the Classroom

French Canon, American Readers With Professor H  l  ne Martin

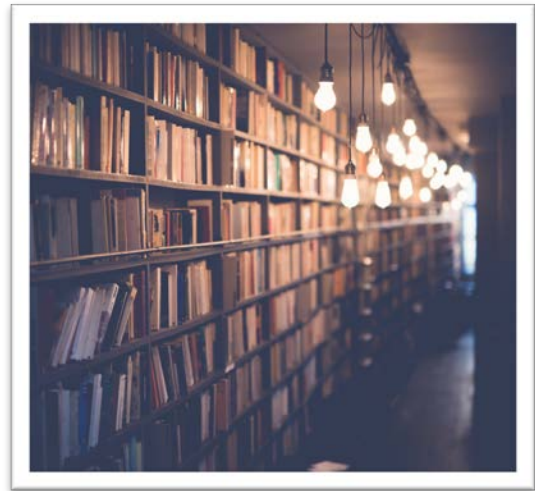
Tell us a little about the subject of your class. What are you teaching and what are the objectives of the class?

I am teaching a Foundational seminar entitled *French Canon, American Readers*. This course finds its foundation in a French tradition. Every year, hundreds of thousands of high school students take the dreaded *Baccalaur  at*, a comprehensive exam required to attend college. This exam includes an extensive reading list published by national decree which, in the last 10 years, has included Rabelais's *Gargantua*, Madame de Lafayette's *Princesse de Cl  ves*, and Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, among many others. These books are all considered "classics" of French literature. While functioning as an introduction to some of the greatest classics of French literature, the course is centered on the concept of the "classic book." The objectives of the course are to familiarize students with the historical contexts and literary conventions of several classic French texts, and to equip them with tools to analyze and think critically about literary texts and in particular the concept of the canon.

What kind of questions do you want your students to consider?

What makes a book a classic? What functions does it serve? What models do these books provide for young students? Are they still relevant today, and in which ways? What do they say about society then and now?

How does your Foundation seminar differ from the other classes you teach in French, and what do you seek to accomplish in your seminar that you don't in your other courses?



I regularly teach literature but I am not usually teaching in English, so that is the first difference. Reading English translations affects textual analysis of course but it is also a source of new engagement with the texts. I didn't look at them from a francophone perspective but from an Anglophone one and it has been very interesting to see the choices the translators made. In addition, a Foundation seminar by nature is the students' first exposure to college life. Therefore I crafted my teaching material in order to introduce them to the life of the mind.

What do you enjoy about working with first year students in particular?

The first year is a period of transition for new students and I am glad to help as much as possible to make it smoother. First year students also bring new energy and knowledge to class through sharing their points of view on the world. It is always an enjoyable and rewarding experience to work with them.

If you could recommend one book that you're reading in your seminar to our readers, what would it be?

I would recommend Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*. It is not a light read by any means but it is worth reading for its modern insights into disillusion, addictions and social climbing. Also, the writing itself is delightful! ♦

Faculty Spotlight

Professor Andrew Jones

What is your area of expertise?

My interdisciplinary research bridges 20th and 21st century French and Francophone studies, film studies, philosophy, and history. I specialize in the cinemas and literatures of postwar France, Francophone Africa, and Francophone Eastern Europe with a particular interest in representations of trauma.

Tell us a little bit about the courses you're teaching. What are some of the goals of these courses?

I am currently teaching *Discovering French* and *Exploring French*. In these courses I introduce students to the French language and help them develop their ability to speak and to write, as well as to understand both written and oral expression. In addition to teaching these linguistic foundations, my goal is that encountering French and Francophone cultures would have a meaningful effect on students, preparing them to be more culturally sensitive citizens of our global world.

What do you enjoy about working with students who may be encountering French for the first time?

I enjoy helping students discover aspects of French and Francophone cultures that are meaningful and interesting to them, and I am always delighted to see students grow in their ability to communicate in new ways. I know that it's very difficult for monolingual students to be in a class taught entirely in a foreign language, but it's amazing to see how students respond and grow by working through the frustration and overcoming their fears.



As a new professor at Bucknell, tell us about something you love regarding the French & Francophone Studies Program. Is there anything unique that Bucknell offers that you find particularly enriching for the students and/or faculty?

I love how welcoming and supportive everyone is at Bucknell. Both the faculty and the students have been a joy to work with. I noticed right away that Bucknell excels in caring for students. I am grateful to be at an institution where the faculty and the administration share a sincere desire to help students succeed not only academically but in all aspects of life.

What *composantes de la culture francophone* would you like your readers to try? (A book, a movie, a song artist etc.)

I would suggest watching the films by Radu Mihăileanu. His first feature film *Trahir* (1993) is a semi-autobiographical portrait of life under Romanian communist totalitarianism and the dangers and ambiguity of escape. Mihăileanu was born in Bucharest but fled to France where he studied film. Unfortunately, this film has never been released in the US and does not have subtitles, which makes it less accessible. However, he has since directed many magnificent films that tell extraordinary stories and that are more easily accessible, such as *Va, vis et deviens* (*Live and Become*, 2005) and *Le concert* (*The Concert*, 2009). ♦



A Little bit of French in the life of...

Professor Del Testa, *Chercheur en histoire*

David Del Testa is an associate professor of history at Bucknell. He teaches courses in modern European and modern Southeast Asian history as well as courses concerning globalization and cross-cultural contact. His current research focuses on revolutionary railroad workers in French Indochina between 1898 and 1945, and he envisages future projects on people of mixed-race heritage in Indochina and science and technology in Vietnam.

Where did you learn to speak French?

J'ai appris le français à l'université. In high school, I studied German. As a high school student, I had the idea, or even the fantasy, of studying engineering, and during that time, learning German before starting engineering was a must. Fortunately for myself and for the world, I chose history as my field of study.

French is at the root of my entire career as a teacher, and at the basis of many of my ideas, as well as my professional and personal experiences. I chose history before French, but French led me to the study of colonial history, to the learning of Vietnamese to better understand relationships with one of the French former colonies, and to the encountering of many interesting and warm people all over the world.

Even though you teach a non-French subject at an American university, is using French still a part of your life?

Bien sûr ! Mon français sert de pont entre moi et beaucoup de gens et entre moi et beaucoup de passe-temps qui me plaisent (comme la cuisine, par exemple).

If you could go to any Francophone country where would you go and why?

I always have an interest in visiting Reunion.

Have you ever considered teaching French instead of the subject you teach now?

In fact, no, but it is less a question of interest than a question of fluency. I learned French too late to perfect my accent. I did not have the favorable opportunity to live in a French-speaking country until my doctoral studies. But I have enormous respect for our tireless French teachers. ♦



Faculty & Staff

Philippe Dubois

19th- and 20th-century French literature; food studies; transnational identities, gender performance, queer theory. On sabbatical leave, AY 2019-20.

Nathalie Dupont

20th- and 21st-century French literature, poetry/poetics, literary theory, avant-garde and experimental approaches to literature, sociology and politics, film studies, Québec studies. French & Francophone Studies Program Director.

Pamela Glass

Our Academic Assistant extraordinaire!

Renée Gosson

Literature and culture of the French West Indies; commemorations and representations of the slave trade, slavery, and their abolition in France and in the French Caribbean. BEF Director and David Morton & Leanne Freas Trout Professor (French & Francophone Studies Program).

Hélène Martin

Early-modern French literature; marginalized and forgotten voices of the 16th century; regional history, scholarly, and critical editions.

John Westbrook

Post-revolutionary French intellectual history and culture; contemporary France; surrealism and the avant-garde; history of education in France. Faculty in Residence, BEF, Tours, France, AY 2019-20.

Amine Zidouh

20th- and 21st-century cultural production from North Africa; intersections between language, power and ideology; contemporary cultural production from the *Banlieue* (France); issues of memory and oversight in contemporary France; phantom Arabic; postcolonial Studies.

Recent Publications

Philippe Dubois

Co-ed. with Michael Garval of "Beyond Gastronomy: French Food Culture for the 21st-Century." Special issue of *Contemporary French Civilization* 42.3-4 (2017); including a chapter in that issue titled "Par-delà la gastronomie: Restaurer la République" (p. 441-454).

Nathalie Dupont

Co-ed. with Éric Trudel, *Poétiques de la liste et imaginaire sériel dans les lettres (XXe et XXIe siècles)*. Montréal: Nota bene, 2019.

Renée Gosson

"'Tous ceux sans qui la France ne serait pas la France': The case for a French national museum of colonial histories." *French Cultural Studies* 29.2 (May 2018): 120-137.

Hélène Martin

Co-written with Colette H. Winn, "Marie Stuart, Lettres de la dernière heure. Contribution à l'étude d'un 'sous-genre' oublié." *Renaissance and Reformation* 41.1 (Winter 2018): 55-88.

John Westbrook

"L'eau au fil des lectures courantes : l'exemple des Suzette de Marie-Robert Halt à la fin du

XIXe siècle," in *L'Eau, source de vie. Actes du Colloque d'Histoire de Montbrison*. Montbrison, Éditions de la Diana. (Forthcoming)

"Breaking Off: Monnerot's Networks and the Work of Fragmentation." *Surrealisms: Inaugural Conference of the International Society for the Study of Surrealism*. Lewisburg, PA (November 2018).

Amine Zidouh

"Écrire dans la langue des riches en étant du côté des pauvres: Abdellah Taïa." In *Abdellah Taïa. Modalités de l'engagement et du désir*. Paris: Éditions Passage(s). (Forthcoming).

Student Spotlight

Yuki Komura '21

You're a French and international relations major. How do you see your majors interacting in your studies and your future?

After Bucknell I hope to go on to law school and study international law, and potentially work for the United Nations. I'm currently on the development and sustainability track within my IR major, so I hope that I am able to focus on sustainability efforts within Europe. Because French is known as one of the most popular languages in Europe and is known as the "language of diplomacy," I wanted to ensure that I was able to speak it fluently to make myself more attractive when it comes to job applications. I hope to one day be able to work in Paris and New York, so being able to speak French fluently is something that's super important to me.

What draws you to study French and Francophone cultures?

I am really drawn to French culture, especially the parts of it that are not so beautiful. While there is no doubt that France and its culture are beautiful, there are also a lot of hidden secrets and issues within the country that really draw me. I love seeing the intersectionality of identities within the Banlieue, and those who are typically not accepted as being "French." I love to be able to learn more about injustices against groups who are marginalized within France and spread awareness about these issues to others.

What is your favorite book that you've read in French either at Bucknell or in your free time?

My favorite book that I've read in French remains, to this day, *Béni ou le Paradis privé* by Azouz Begag. This is the book that everyone



typically reads in FREN 104, but it has really stuck with me over the years because I found myself to be able to relate to Béni. Growing up as a child of two Japanese immigrants, I found myself to be able to put myself into Béni's shoes. I always had to translate for my parents, often didn't observe the same traditions as my American peers, couldn't go away for lavish summer vacations like my friends, and wished that I was just like everybody else. But now that I'm older, I am grateful to have maintained a close tie with my Japanese roots while also creating an American identity for myself, and I think I would tell Béni that one day he will be grateful for it too.

What is your favorite thing about being the VP of the Bucknell French club?

My favorite thing about being the vice president for the French Club is that I get to involve myself more heavily in the French & Francophone Studies program. The program is truly like a second home to me, and to be able to coordinate events that get a lot of students who are interested in learning French and Francophone culture is my own little way of being able to give back to the program.

Will you be studying abroad? If so, what is one of the things you are most nervous about?

I'm going to Tours next semester and I could not be any more excited! However, one thing I'm super nervous about is how I'll survive my classes. Everyone tells me that it'll be ok and French students are all really friendly, especially if you're an American, but I am super nervous about whether or not I'll be able to speak French well enough for them to understand or keep up with them because they all talk so quickly! I hope my professors won't be too hard for me to understand, and that I am able to maintain good grades while I'm over there.

Student Spotlight

Olivia Amoruso '20

It's only been a semester since you've been back from France. What is something that you brought back from France to the United States that you can only get in France? An article of clothing? A memory? A kind of food?

I brought back several items from my *séjour* in France. First and foremost, the shopping was incredible. Although, the items that I find myself gravitating towards the most are the souvenirs from our various excursions. I bought a pocket children's book from Mont Saint-Michel and carry it with me everywhere. In terms of food, I learned that the French do not snack often. They appreciate the three meals a day and that's it. I have tried to bring this habit back to the US, but it is harder than it seems.

If you could meet a French celebrity, who would you meet and what would you ask them?

If I could meet any French celebrity, I would meet Simone Veil. Although she is not a celebrity, she was a well-known political activist and lawyer who advocated for women's rights and was a key player in the legalization of abortions in France. I would love to ask her what it was like to be such a prominent figure in politics and law, both traditionally heavily male dominated areas, as a woman. What inspired her to persevere in the face of adversity? And what advice she would give to young women who would like to pursue a career similar to hers. ♦

**If you could go back to Tours tomorrow, what restaurant would you eat at and why?**

Probably Les 3 Écritoires. They have the best charcuterie plate that I have ever had. They also are only open a few days of the week because they use fresh ingredients. Additionally, if you really want authentic *pâté*, I suggest this restaurant. Also, for a quick bite, I would usually go to Pitaya, a group favorite.

What was your favorite excursion with Bucknell *en France* 2019? Tell us a little bit about it.

I loved Mont Saint-Michel. It was the best excursion because the weather was beautiful and at that point of the semester everyone was well acquainted. Also the church was beautiful and is rich with history. The view alone is breathtaking from when you first walk towards Mont Saint-Michel.

If you could live anywhere in the Francophone world, where would you live?

Probably Nice. I have many family members there and I have fallen in love with so many little places that you can only find there. Nice in the summer reminds me of how life should be. I only had the opportunity to go in the spring, but from previous trips that I have taken with my family, I know that Nice is special. Besides the gastronomic perks, the boardwalk is filled with beautiful people and adorable dogs. There's no place like it.

What's one thing you learned in France that you couldn't have learned in the United States?

My host family really emphasized the importance of *gaspillage*. This means waste in French. They ingrained the concept of finishing everything on my plate and never wasting a thing. I think Americans are less



Mont Saint-Michel © Punto Studio Foto AG - Adobe Stock

aware about how conscious the rest of the world is regarding our global warming crisis. It was eye-opening to see how a different country treats matters differently than Americans do. ♦

Prizes and Awards

Every academic year, during Commencement Weekend at the President's Senior Awards Ceremony, Bucknell offers two endowed and named awards for excellence in French and Francophone studies to members of the senior class.



Samuel Lewis Ziegler Prize

Established by the late Samuel Lewis Ziegler, M.D., LL.D., Class of 1880, this prize is awarded to the members of the class in French conversation who excel in this subject.

❖ **2019 Recipients:** Rebecca Davino and Jeanine Shea

Jeannine C. Liutkus Prize

This prize is given to the Bucknell *en France* students who, through individual initiative and perseverance, improved his or her proficiency in French, made the most of the opportunity to live in the French culture, and showed significant personal growth.

❖ **2019 Recipients:** Sarah Epsten and Sophie Giuliani

Meanwhile in Tours...

Claudia Shrefler '21

What is one thing about Tours that you're going to miss once you're back in the United States?

The one thing that I'll miss the most from Tours is the convenience of everything. The size of the city makes it perfect for walking to classes, restaurants, shops, through local gardens, etc. Every day after class, I simply walk to grab lunch at a boulangerie or a restaurant before either heading to a coffee shop to finish my homework or going shopping at some of the many stores around Tours. I am able to walk most places, but even for the occasional longer-distance trips, the tram and bus are both easy and convenient to use!

What is your past experience with French before studying abroad and how has studying abroad improved your French?

Before coming to France for the semester, I had only two semesters of French at Bucknell, FREN 101 and 102. I also participated in the *Tasting France* IP course in Summer 2018 where we spent two and a half weeks in Tours learning about the concept of *terroir*. In the beginning of this semester, my French was really not that good. While I was able to formulate simple sentences, I didn't feel that I was able to speak in complex sentences in French nor hear and comprehend people speaking French easily. That being said, I feel that my French has improved drastically throughout the semester. Having an immersive experience where everything you see and hear is French allows you to learn the language so much faster than just taking a



class or two in the US. I started the semester at the A2 level (the levels being A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2; where A1 is the lowest level and C1 is fluency), and I am finishing the semester at B2 and am taking the B2 DELF exam (*Diplôme d'études en langue française*). This kind of progress in just one semester would not have been possible for me without an immersive study abroad experience like this one.

Are you at the University of Tours or the Institute? What is your favorite class that you're taking and why?

I am taking French classes at the Institut de Touraine five days a week, as well as a gastronomy course once or twice a week. The gastronomy course (which all the BEF students are taking) contains six cooking classes with a French chef as well as classes with Professor Westbrook at the University of Tours. The cooking class is my favorite because I love learning how to cook French specialties with ingredients that we don't

have in the US. We also get to eat the food we make at the end, so you're getting an amazing meal each class as well!

In what way have you seen your experience in Tours enriching your future academic endeavors?

Not only will my future academic endeavors be improved by my progress in the French language, but they will also be enriched through my experiences with a foreign culture. Throughout the semester I've adapted to multiple cultural differences that, while challenging at first, have allowed me to become a more flexible, open minded student and person. The French education system poses different challenges than the American system, thus I've adapted to studies here in Tours by developing and practicing new techniques for learning, all of which will be extremely helpful for me to continue improving as a student in the future.

What is one thing you wish you could bring back to Bucknell from the University of Tours or the Institute? Class size? Homework load? Time for meals? etc.

One thing I wish I could bring back from Tours is the cultural value of mealtimes. In the US, especially in college, it seems that meals are just something you rush through so you have time to finish homework, go to meetings/practice, etc. In France, people treat meals not just as a time to eat but as a time to socialize and relax with family and friends. Every meal lasts for at least one hour, and dinner at a restaurant can last for up to three to four hours. The French use these times to communicate about each other's days and build connections with those around them, something that I find

very admirable. It's amazing how something as simple as taking your time through a meal can change your day, but I truly feel that this cultural tradition is something that I'll miss the most and that I will need to implement into my life in the US.

Have you traveled while abroad and if so where did you go and what was your favorite place?

I have traveled a good amount while I've been abroad. Around France, I have visited multiple castles, as well as the regions of Normandy and Provence in the North and South of France, respectively. During our mid-semester break, I traveled to Porto, Portugal and then to Munich, Germany. I also took a few weekend trips throughout the semester to Paris and London. While I have loved everywhere that I have visited, I would have to say my favorite places were Provence and Germany. I really enjoyed traveling to other parts of France because you could find influences of the neighboring countries in these areas. For example, Provence, being located in the southeastern part of France, had Italian influences seen in its architecture. The weather in southern France is amazing too, which is another reason I enjoyed visiting Provence! Germany was another favorite of mine because I have German heritage, so it was really interesting to experience a culture that I have a connection with. I also visited the Neuschwanstein Castle while in Germany (the most visited castle in Europe), and it was absolutely breathtaking! I feel so lucky that I was able to visit so many amazing places while I've been abroad, and I'm already making plans to come back to Europe in the future. ♦

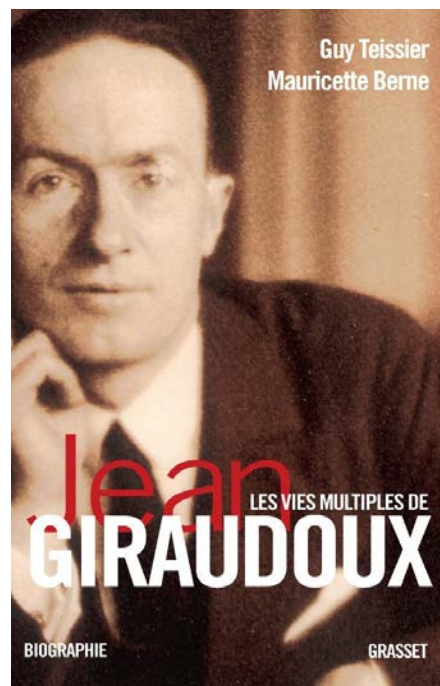
In Memoriam

Guy Teissier (1938-2019)



Guy Teissier was a Professor of French Literature at the University of Tours. He was a well-known scholar of the playwright Jean Giraudoux. He also had a special interest in Arabic literature, especially that of Iraq. While a visiting professor at Rutgers University, he came to give a lecture here at Bucknell in the fall of 1985. From that moment on he was a friend and a strong supporter of Bucknell en France, opening the doors of the University of Tours, teaching program courses and advising the program until his retirement. BEF owes much of its success to the contributions of Guy Teissier.

Allan Grundstrom
Professor Emeritus of French
Bucknell University



G. Teissier with co-author M. Berne in November 2012 at the Association Guillaume-Budé, section Orléans, discussing Giraudoux and the Antiquity.

It is in recognition of the enduring role Guy Teissier played in the life of BEF that we remember and honor him with *Les Rencontres Guy Teissier*.

Thanks to those who have donated in his memory: Allan & Ann Grundstrom, Rachel Crane, Philippe Dubois & George Goshorn, Mark & Adelyn Elliott, Angèle Kingué, and John Westbrook.

Event Spotlight

Les Rencontres Guy Teissier

On Friday, November 1st, 2019, two of our former French and Francophone studies and Bucknell en France students—Jayne Wieboldt ('88) and Nathan Humberston ('07)—returned to campus to discuss how their studies of French and their experiences abroad influenced them professionally and personally. Over 30 participants joined them during lunch in Walls Lounge (Elaine Langone Center). This was the first of a series of amicable rencontres between our current students and French and Francophone studies alumni on the unique opportunities that their shared passion for French has provided them.



Jayne Wieboldt ('88) is proud to have been part of the first class of pioneers for the Bucknell *en France* program in the autumn of 1987. While studying at Bucknell University, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in business administration and a minor in French. Jayne also holds an MBA in finance, with specializations in management of financial institutions and international finance, from the Fordham University Graduate School of Business Administration in New York.

Her career has largely been spent working within financial institutions, with a total of more than two decades in the US offices of BNP Paribas, a European banking group.

Jayne is currently employed as the head of compliance reporting and analytics in the

corporate and institutional banking division of BNP Paribas in New York.

To this day, Jayne remains in close contact with her host family from the Bucknell *en France* program in Tours.



Nate Humberston ('07) is currently a French teacher at both the middle and upper school campuses of The Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida. Nate believes in the value of studying the French language and Francophone world



not only for practical applications, but also for the enjoyment and personal growth encouraged by the endeavor.

Nate particularly enjoys visiting different reaches of the Francophone world. In addition to the semester he spent living in Tours with Bucknell *en France*, Nate has also lived on the island departments of Guadeloupe and Réunion as an English language teaching assistant in French schools.

Nate earned his degree from Bucknell with majors in French and Francophone studies, international relations, and political science. He also spent a semester as a graduate student and teaching assistant with the Department of French at the University of Virginia. ♦



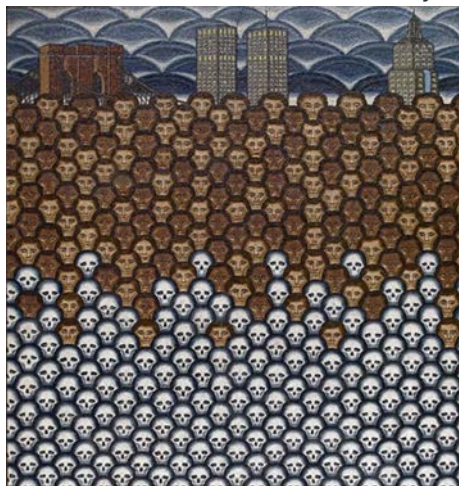
Event Spotlight

Commemorating Slavery

Every year, visiting scholars from all over the world come to campus to share their research, knowledge and international perspectives on a wide range of subjects related to French and Francophone Studies. Here's what happened this semester...

This fall, Professor Renée Gosson organized a series of two conferences on the theme of **commemorating slavery both in France and in the United States** by Anne-Claire Faucquez, associate professor of North American history and civilization in the Department of Anglophones Studies at the Université Paris 8.

On Wednesday, October 23, from noon-1pm, Professor Faucquez offered a talk in French titled "Commémorer l'esclavage en France vs. aux États-Unis: une approche comparative," which brought up interesting considerations: why commemorate slavery? What signifies commemoration? What's interesting about this comparative approach between France and the United States? While her presentation explored many fascinating points about history, identity, and the remembrance of pain, one of the last thoughts she left the students with was as follows: *"bien que l'histoire de l'esclavage en France et aux États-Unis soient différentes, toutes deux expriment une voix commune"* ("even though the history of slavery in France and in the United States are different, it exists between the two a single voice").



On Thursday, October 24, from 4:30-6pm, in her lecture in English titled "Commemorating Slavery at the New York African Burial Ground: Shaping the Present by Unearthing the Past," Professor Faucquez spoke about an accidental discovery of bones at the future site of a new federal building in lower Manhattan in 1991 and the two-decades-long fight to preserve and to honor the memory of the slaves buried there. She focused on the visual design of the museum (at what is now the African Burial Ground National Monument), which serves three objectives: to show the history of slavery in New York as it was practiced between the 17th and 19th centuries, to tell the story of the cemetery (its location, its use by slaves in the city, how it was forgotten and then rediscovered), and to highlight the battles that took place between New York's African American community and the city's authorities over the development of

this memorialization and heritagization project. ♦

Roger Brown, *Twentieth Century Plague: The Victims of AIDS* (1995), installed in the lobby of the Foley Square Federal Center lower Manhattan. Brown's statement: "On this ancient cemetery site below the modern skyline of New York City a contemporary tapestry of human faces, each made thin and hollow by the ravages of AIDS, descends like some medieval nightmare into a mosaic of death heads in memory of those of all races who have suffered and died too soon."

Event Spotlight

Dîner en blanc with our Seniors

The origins of the *dîner en blanc* began in Paris in 1988 when Frenchman François Pasquier held an outdoor dinner, asking all of his guests to wear white. The tradition of white was said to have been so that his guests could all be able to spot each other. The most recent “*dîner en blanc*” at Bucknell took place this year on November 6. Students who studied in Tours, French exchange students, and French faculty and teaching assistants were all invited to this event where hors d'oeuvres were served and memories abroad were revisited. The idea of the event this fall was for the 2018-2019 Bucknell en France groups to reconnect as well as mingle with the native Tourangeaux through fun activities such as naming all the châteaux in the Loire valley. *Album-photos d'une soirée remplie de fous rires et de nostalgie.*



French Exchange Student

Linda Hamidat

What are you studying in France?

English.

What is one of the most interesting or delicious things you've eaten in the United States so far?

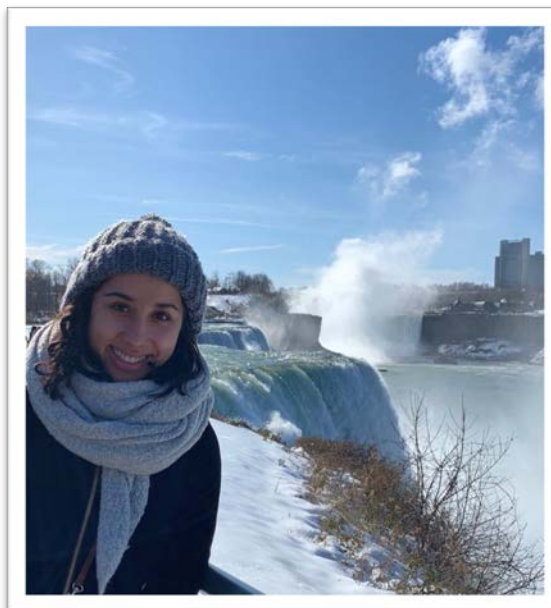
So far my favorite thing in the US is definitely cookies. I can't honestly count the number of cookies I've bought while studying at Bertrand Library. My two favorite cookie place in the US are the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia and the Levain Bakery in New-York, especially the dark chocolate and peanut butter one.

What do you miss the most about French culture that you can't find in the United States ?

100% cheese! And my family of course... Also the French meals, the one you spend taking hours to eat and talk, we really try to maintain this French tradition with the other exchange students by preparing the diner every night and spending time together.

Where have you traveled to since you've been in the US, what was your favorite place, and where would you still like to go ?

Since I arrived in the US I went two times to NYC (for the NY film festival which was amazing!) and the second time with my friends who came to visit me from France. We also went to Philadelphia for Fall break and to Niagara Falls. I am planning to go to



Montréal, NY (again) and Washington for the winter break. I would also like to go to New Orleans perhaps for the Spring break.

What's your favorite part about being at Bucknell ?

I would say being independent. We really grew in maturity since we arrived here, I also really like the classes I am in as well as the whole college spirit we found here. We've discovered with the other French student a genuine passion for sports, we have the chance to have amazing facilities to which we go every day to relax from the stress of the classes. We really love basketball with Jeanne [another exchange student from Tours], we never miss a game.

What are some "American" expressions that you've learned ?

"So far so good." "Have a good one." We're still looking for what is the one! ♦



French Exchange Student

Florian Wozniak

What do you miss the most about French culture that you can't find in the United States ?

I would say these evening when you organize a chill meal with only few friends in order to discuss and spend a good time together.

What place on Bucknell's campus reminds you the most of home ?

Market Street is the place reminding the most France and particularly Tours with all its commercial streets like Rue Nationale.

In no more than three sentences, describe the feeling you felt when you first stepped off the plane in New York.

I was very anxious as it was my first flight, I was wondering what could have happened with the customs authorities (and yes I forgot my DS2019 at home 😊 [Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status]). But I was very happy and excited to be finally on the New Continent!

Where have you traveled in the past, what was your favorite place and why, and where would you still like to go?

I went to Edinburgh (Scotland) twice where I have also been to England, and I have also traveled to Spain and Italy. Actually, I do not have a "favorite" place because I enjoyed all these trips. Meanwhile, I wish to head to each continent to discover a lot of customs and meet people who live differently. ♦

What are you studying in France?

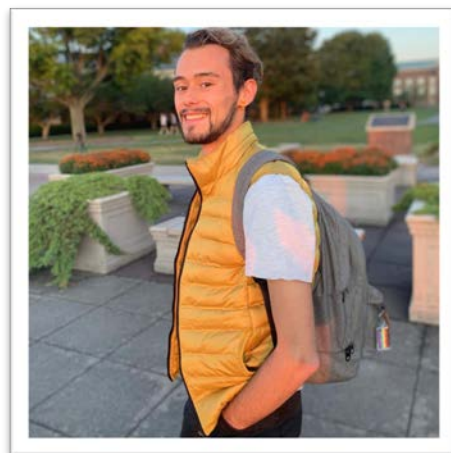
Foreign Languages.

What is one of the most interesting or delicious things you've eaten in the United States so far ?

For the most interesting thing I have eaten, I would say the cheese steak in Philly, it's incredible to wonder how just cheese and ham in a "baguette" could create a really tasty dish. For the most delicious one, the donuts from Dunkin Donuts are on the first place, there are so many different donuts, all as good as each other.

Meet our TA : Quentin Griffon

At the Université de Tours, Quentin is currently completing a B.A. degree in modern literature with a specialty in the teaching of French as a second language.



What activities have you done in the classroom that your students enjoy doing the most ?

What my students enjoy the most are games in general, especially when the class is divided into teams. I realized that American students are very competitive and that the best way to get them involved is to start counting the points. I think that one of the games my students liked the most in recitation was "What's on the screen?" which consists in showing the students different images to have them review their vocabulary by saying the word out loud and write it on the board to earn points for the team.

What are the indications that you know your student is having a "breakthrough" moment ?

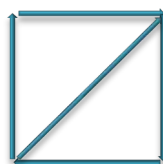
I think that the most visible indicator of a breakthrough moment is when a student reuses a piece of information or a structure, learned in recitation, in class. As a first-time teacher, it makes me very proud when I realize that my students are actually learning something in my class that helps them understand the content we go through afterwards. Also whenever a rather shy student raises his/her hand to answer a question is a bit of a breakthrough moment for me so I try my best to acknowledge that and value their answer.

What do you love about teaching French culture to American students ?

One thing I love about teaching French culture to American students is that I learn as much as they do ! Some things that seem "normal" to me as a French person turn out to be very different on the other side of the Atlantic. It helps me question my assumptions about daily life and keep an open-mind when it comes to cultural differences. I'm also very passionate when it comes to my regional culture or French culture in general. It's always great to see how surprised and interested students can be when we discuss those topics.

What's the funniest question a student has asked you ?

I think that one of the funniest things a student ever asked me in class was "What is that that you are drawing on the board?" Let me give you some context: as I was counting the points during an activity, I started drawing crossed squares on the board. One of the students thought I was miscounting the points and asked what I was doing. I discovered that day that the way we draw points is not the same in France as in the US which lead to a confusing yet funny moment.



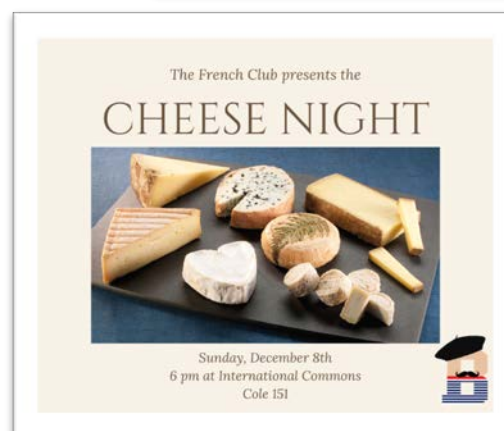
If your students came away with one thing after being in your recitation, what would you want them to come away with ?

I think I would want them to come away with an insight of the French culture. I consider this as my "mission" as a French Foreign Language

Teaching Assistant and also the main reason I am here: to add cultural aspects to the language as well as an insight into the way we speak French not only in France but in other Francophone countries, something that I think is hard to get from texts only. ◇

French Club Updates

The French Club had three main events this semester: a picnic with outdoor games, a foreign short film night, and, of course, the famous cheese night! The Club has created a new logo and you can now follow us on Instagram @bucknellfrenchclub!



Every week, on Thursday at noon, at the Bison (ELC), the French Club organized a French table animated by our two French TAs, Laura Nicolle and Quentin Griffon. Everyone—from beginners to most advanced learners of French—was welcomed to practice speaking French in a relaxed atmosphere! This is a great place to meet other students interested in the French language and culture, and to practice your speaking skills!

Morceaux de la culture francophone

*Looking for something new to engage with during the holiday season?
Here are some of the faculty's and student's recommendations.*

Watch a Francophone film recommended by Professor Andrew Jones:

- ✓ *Trahir* (Radu Mihăileanu, 1993)
- ✓ Two historical fictions : *Le silence de la mer* (Jean-Pierre Melville, 1946) and *Camp de Thiaroye* (Ousmane Sembène, 1988)
- ✓ Two documentaries: *Lumumba, la mort d'un prophète* (Raoul Peck, 1990) and *Même pas peur !* (Ana Dumitrescu, 2015)
- ✓ A ridiculous comedy: *La Soupe aux choux* (Jean Girault, 1981)

Explore the music, films, and texts from the course *Poètes du béton* by Professor Amine Zidouh:

- ✓ Music: Chilla - Sale chienne; PNL - Au DD; PNL - Le monde ou rien; Angèle - Balance ton quoi; Sefyu - Oui je le suis; Keny Arkana - V pour Vérités; Ninho - La vie qu'on mène; L.E.J. - Pas l'time; Medine - Don't Laïk
- ✓ Films: *Banlieusards* (Kery James et Leïla Sy, 2019) (available on Netflix) and *Voyoucratie* (Fabrice Garçon et Kévin Ossona, 2018)
- ✓ Texts: *Les jeunes de banlieue mangent-ils les enfants ?* (Thomas Guénolé); *Cœur de banlieue* (David Lepoutre); *Regarde ta jeunesse dans les yeux* (Vincent Piolet); *Je n'ai qu'une langue, ce n'est pas la mienne* (Kaoutar Harchi); *La ségrégation urbaine* (Marco Oberti et Edmond Préteceille)

Read a French or Francophone novel taught by Professor Hélène Martin or Professor Nathalie Dupont

- ✓ Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*
- ✓ Azouz Begag, *Béni ou le paradis privé*
- ✓ Didier Daeninckx, *Meurtres pour mémoire*
- ✓ Annie Ernaux, *Les Années*

Cook a warm and comforting soupe à l'oignon (from *My Paris Kitchen* by D. Lebovitz)



Soup Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons (2 ounces/55g) unsalted butter
- 2½ pounds (1.2kg) yellow or white onions, peeled and very thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 teaspoons sea salt or kosher salt, plus more if needed
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more if needed
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup (180ml) white wine or sherry
- 2 quarts (2l) chicken stock
- 1 to 2 teaspoons sherry vinegar or balsamic vinegar, plus more if needed

Toast Ingredients

- 6 thick slices hearty white bread, or about 18 thick-sliced pieces of baguette, well toasted
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic, peeled and left whole, for rubbing the bread
- 3 cups (255g) grated Emmenthal, Comté, or Gruyère cheese

Steps

1. Melt the butter in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onions and sugar and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft and translucent.
2. Add the garlic, salt, and pepper and continue to cook for 1½ hours, stirring less frequently and decreasing the heat to avoid burning as the onions continue to cook down. (You may wish to use a flame diffuser if your cooktop doesn't allow low enough heat.)

As the onions cook, if they brown on the bottom of the pan in places, use a spatula to scrape those appetizing brown bits into the onions because they'll add flavor. The onions are done when they have collapsed into a thick amber-brown paste.

3. Stir in the flour and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Add the wine and use a flat utensil to loosen any and all brown bits from the bottom and sides of the pan, stirring them into the onions. Add the stock, bring to a boil, then decrease the heat and simmer slowly for 45 minutes. Turn off the heat and add the vinegar, tasting it to get the balance right, adding a touch more vinegar, and salt and pepper, if desired.

4. Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C). Set six ovenproof bowls on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or aluminum foil.

5. Divide the hot soup among the bowls. Rub both sides of the toasted bread slices with the garlic. Put the toasts on the soup, then sprinkle the tops with the grated cheese. Bake the soups on the upper rack of the oven until the cheese is deeply browned, about 20 minutes.

Alternatively, if your bowls can withstand the heat, you can set the cheese-topped soups under a hot broiler, cooking them until the cheese is melted and starting to brown.

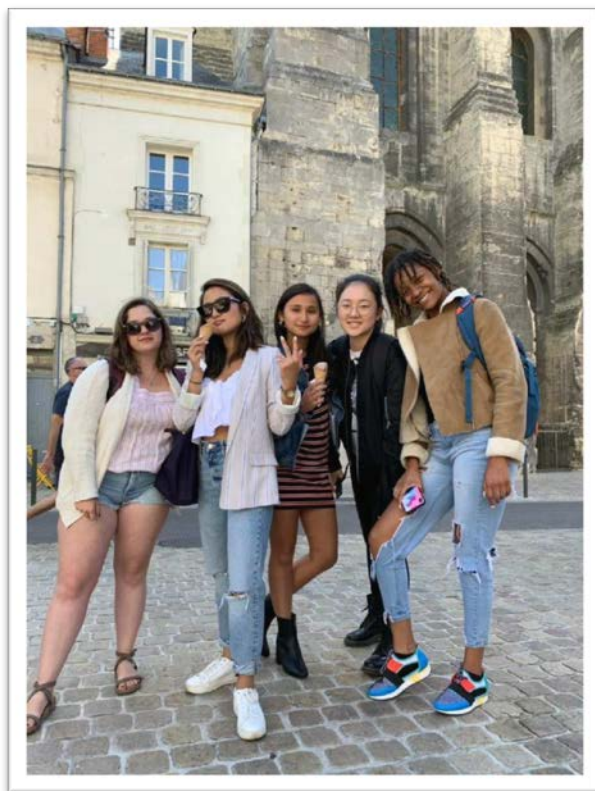
Serve immediately. *Bon appétit!*



The BEF crew during their cooking class in Tours, Fall 2019

Can you say these French tongue twisters...?

- ❖ *Lili, Lulu, Lala et Lola*
- ❖ *Ces sons se succèdent sans souci*
- ❖ *Trompe-l'oreille*
- ❖ *Qui sont ces six singes suisses?*
- ❖ *Sachez, mon cher Sasha, que
Natasha n'attacha pas son chat*
- ❖ *Douze douches douces*



The BEF crew in France, Fall 2019

COMING UP...

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A little bit of
French in the life
of...

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