



Dear Carleton alum majors or minors in French and Francophone Studies,

Bonjour! Ça fait trop longtemps! In this month of “la francophonie,” we thought you might enjoy receiving the department’s latest news, and we also have a few invitations to extend to you.

### YOU'RE INVITED!

Three members of our department will be retiring (some prefer the term “graduating”) from Carleton this year: Scott Carpenter (1990- present), Christine Lac (1997-present), and Cathy Yandell (1977-present). It has been a good run! We invite you to come to their retirement/graduation receptions if you are in the area, and also to send them your congratulations, memories, or good wishes as they ride into the sunset and begin new chapters.

**Scott Carpenter.** Reception: Friday 26 May, 4:30-6 pm, Alumni Guest House. Remembrances and anecdotes will be collated by Anna Hagen, [annahagen@carleton.edu](mailto:annahagen@carleton.edu).

**Christine Lac,** [clac@carleton.edu](mailto:clac@carleton.edu), Reception: Friday 5 May, 4:30-6 pm, Weitz Center for Creativity 236. Please send remembrances and anecdotes to Christine, via email or at Carleton (French and Francophone Studies Dept., One North College St, Northfield, MN 55057).

**Cathy Yandell,** [cyandell@carleton.edu](mailto:cyandell@carleton.edu). Reception: Friday 28 April, 4:30-6 pm, Anderson Hall Atrium. Please send remembrances and anecdotes to Cathy, via email or to 514 5th Street East, Northfield, MN 55057.

Also, please let us know how you’re doing – personally, of course, but also by contributing your updates to the [Alumni Directory](#) (which will eventually be linked to our webpage). Feel free to browse the [ERST webpage](#) and make yourselves at home!

## WHAT ARE THE PROFS UP TO?

**Sarah Anthony** joined the department last spring and is thrilled to be continuing on as a Lecturer in Fall 2023. Since she became a member of the department, she has contributed to a French textbook, [Odyssée](#), and its accompanying educator's guide. In collaboration with Alida Soucé (McGill University), she is currently creating a portal for educators and researchers of French as a Second or Foreign Language. This portal will provide resources for teaching, showcase current research, and offer opportunities for networking.

Although **Scott Carpenter** doesn't officially retire this year, his last courses on campus will take place during Spring Term – in particular his Creative Travel Writing course and his famous five-week course on *Madame Bovary*. In his idle hours, he's working on the sequel to his award-winning book, [French Like Moi](#), as well as on other writing projects.

**Stephanie Cox** is working on the final chapter of her graphic novel project *Queen of Diamonds*, about Lulu White, a Black madam who lived in New Orleans at the turn of the 20th Century. She has also started collaborating with Chérif Kéita to adapt the life story of Nokutela Mdimba Dube to a graphic novel format. Otherwise, she is enjoying the challenge of working with a new French textbook, *Défi Francophone*, and adjusting to its novel approach.

**Chérif Keïta** has been enjoying considerable success with his latest film, "Namballa Keita: A Soldier and His Village," about the life of his late father, who survived WWII as a colonial soldier [*tirailleur*] and returned to the French Soudan with the ability to read and write in French, a tool he used to promote education in his village and throughout Mali before independence. The film recently garnered the Jury Prize for Best feature documentary from the Diaspora at the Premières Rencontres Cinématographiques de SYA (Burkina Faso). He is also preparing an American edition of *Bound to Violence* (Yambo Ouologuem), the 1968 novel that inspired the 2021 Goncourt Prize laureate Mohamed Mbougar Sarr's *La plus secrète mémoire des hommes*.

**Christine Lac** is officially retiring in June and savoring her last year teaching at Carleton. Putting some order in the office vortex allows for many trips down memory lane. Former TAs, former students, I see your names, I find your old papers: what wonderful anchors to past experiences and future endeavors. And for my current students and TAs, thank you for accompanying me.

Éva Pósfay has kept busy with research on the *chanson française*, public space and memory in French-speaking Switzerland, and intercultural theory for her course in cross-cultural studies. This winter, she has been enjoying teaching French 102 while preparing for the 2023 Paris program. She is very much looking forward to reading in the splendor of the jardin du Luxembourg.

Sandra Rousseau has just been awarded tenure. She is now enjoying a long sabbatical in France where she conducts research on BD from the Middle East and brushes up on her 2023 slang. In the fall she will teach a new course on Eloquence where students will learn the French art of arguing!

This year, Cathy Yandell is having great fun teaching “Banned Books” and “Gender and Sexuality in the Francophone World.” She has recently published articles on Montaigne, Ronsard, the body, and possessed nuns in early modern France. Her first book without footnotes (!) will be out at St Martin’s Press in May: [The French Art of Living Well: Finding Joie de Vivre in the Everyday World](#). She will be leading an alumni tour to southern France and northern Italy in May 2024 and would love it if you could join her!

### NEW PROFESSOR FOR NEXT YEAR

Joining the department in the fall will be Anthony Revelle, a native of Normandy who is in the process of completing his PhD at the University of Michigan. His specialty is Medieval French literature and culture, and his new courses for 2023-2024 will be “Food in French Fiction” and “Medieval Bodies and Borders” – welcome aboard to Anthony!

### ALL THINGS FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE

The department is teeming with activities: French table, a French radio show, a recent talent show, an ice cream social (that was before winter!), an evening of francophone tales, and a student soccer match France/Spain (as in real life, the French team won ;-)), a French and Francophone film festival, and invited speakers. This year we’ll be hosting Carleton alum [David Wright Faladé](#) in the spring, and, if all goes well, we will have visits by [Mohamed Mbougar Sarr](#) and [Kim Thúy](#) in 2023 and 2024.

### YES, WE STILL HAVE PROGRAMS ABROAD!

[Paris](#): The program still continues to thrive with homestays, exciting courses from art history to literature to politics, and an impressive array of cultural activities. After a hiatus in the Paris program during the pandemic, students in the Paris programs of 2022 (led by Scott Carpenter) and 2023 (led by Éva Pósfay) once again experience the most beautiful city in the world (no prejudices here!) and a tour of Provence.

Sénégal: A fortunate group of students explored both the complex history and the vibrant contemporary culture of Sénégal during the winter break of 2021, accompanied by Chérif Keïta. A future program is currently being planned.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?**

We would love to hear from you! Please send us an email if you'd be interested in speaking to students about your work related to French or if you have leads for internships. And of course, we will be delighted to see you if you return to your alma mater!

Restons en contact, et bonne année 2023 à toutes et à tous!  
(Questions, comments? [cyandell@carleton.edu](mailto:cyandell@carleton.edu))

Photo credits: Yug, public domain  
Carleton College