

# Notes from Wescoe

2025

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# Chair's Message

by Bruce Hayes



I think I will title this chair's message "Transitions." When we take time to reflect about what has happened over the previous year, as we often do this time of year, we can be surprised by how much has happened, how much has changed. That feeling is particularly acute for me this year. I wrote my first chair's message almost 10 years ago, in 2016. Now I write my last

chair's message. We are a department in transition, which can sometimes make one feel anxious. Not me. I feel really good as I prepare to step aside and return to "civilian" life after more than 15 years in administration. I marvel at how much has changed in this department and at this university since I arrived as a freshly minted PhD almost 25 years ago.

This past year we said goodbye to Corinne Anderson, a devoted instructor who taught for decades in our department. You can read her obituary at the end of the newsletter. Corinne loved teaching French and she loved working with students. This year we also welcomed a new member of our department, Abigail Fields, who had been an undergraduate at KU and has been hired as our new Hall Assistant Professor of French Studies. Abigail brings new ideas and creativity that are sure to strengthen our department and take it in new directions. In conjunction with other language departments, we also hired a new administrative associate, Mariah Hicks, and we said goodbye to Wyatt Haywood, who took an administrative position in a different unit at KU. Transitions.

We began a new tradition this year at our annual honors ceremony in April, bestowing our first award of Outstanding Alumna to Betty Kagan, a passionate advocate for language study and, most importantly, studying abroad. Betty's study abroad fund has provided funds for several of our students to

study abroad and will continue to do so well into the future. Because of our department's long-established tradition of generous giving, we continue to provide substantial support for students in our department. This last year, we provided more than \$90,000 in scholarships to students. This makes me incredibly happy. I cannot think of a more transformational experience during my youth than the time I spent living in France.

This summer I co-directed our Paris Summer Language Institute. This year we had a special student, Stuart Boley. What makes Stuart special? Well, he first did the Paris SLI in the summer of 1975 as a KU undergraduate. 50 years later, he returned as a retiree and fully participated in the program. What a treat it has been to get to know him. You can read his story in the latest issue of the KU alumni magazine.

[A retired Jayhawk in Paris - Crimson & Blue - KU Alumni](#)



Bruce Hayes, Patrick Herring and Stuart Boley on the Summer Language Institute Program Summer 2025.

The part of being chair that I have valued the most has been the interactions and work I have done with students, both current and former. I know so many more alums now than I did a decade ago, and that has enriched my life. This past year, in addition to the alumni encounters I have had in Lawrence, I got to see alums in Boston, London, Paris, and Tucson, Arizona. Whatever changes happen, that is what I hold onto, the relationships that make this work so much more than a job. Thank you for all the wonderful ways you have supported me

and supported our department during my tenure as chair. I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season.





# Message from the Director of Graduate Studies

by Van Kelly



As we close the fall semester, it is a great pleasure to review the accomplishments of our graduate students in French and Francophone Studies, but especially so as this is my last semester serving as Director of Graduate of Studies, a responsibility that I have enjoyed greatly, because

of all the excellent Masters and Doctoral candidates whom I have had the honor to advise and learn from. We all welcome Professor Christine Bourgeois who will be taking over the duties of Graduate Director in spring semester 2026 (indeed she and I have been co-directing KU French and Francophone graduate studies this fall semester, in anticipation of the transition).

This fall, we welcomed Hayden Ullmann to our M.A in French and Francophone Studies. Hayden did his undergraduate degree(s) in French and German at the University of Nebraska. Members of our M.A. and Ph.D. class of 2024—Caleb Downs, Patrick Herring, Marcus Hooper, Kamba Kombat, Seth Middleton, and Laila Vehabovic—are busy making very good progress on



Marcus Hooper and Laila Vahabovic play pétanque on the lawn outside Watson Library.

their course work and literature reading lists for the Masters and Doctorate. Two members of the graduate classes of 2023—Laurel Aspegren and John Gorman—graduated with the M.A. in French this past spring. Laurel’s M.A. included a Master’s thesis, “Je kiffe ton flow!: L’influence des emprunts lexicaux à l’anglais et à l’arabe sur le français contemporain,” directed by Professor Kimberly Swanson and successfully defended in spring 2025. Congratulations to John and Laurel, these two *magistri artium* who join the hallowed ranks!



Laurel Aspegren and John Gorman at graduation.

The honors that our graduate students have so rightly earned do not stop there. At our spring graduate recognition ceremony, Laurel Aspegren received the award for Excellence in Graduate Studies in French. Laurel also received the award for Outstanding Departmental Service for her excellent work organizing and hosting the French Table and other French and Francophone cultural activities for the department. Seth Middleton and Laurel Aspegren, both very accomplished and dynamic teachers of beginning French, received the David Dinneen awards for Pedagogical Excellence in French. Doctoral candidates Ousmane Lecoq Diop and Brigid Enchill are writing the final chapters of their dissertations (Ousmane, “Navigation et traduction culturelles multidimensionnelles: La question des langues entre Sénégalité et cosmopolitisme au Sénégal contemporain”; Brigid, “Literary and Filmic Representations of Sovereignty, Corruption, and Governance in Francophone Haiti and Western Africa”) and will defend their dissertations in spring 2026. Patrick Herring

was the Graduate Assistant for the Paris Summer Language Institute this past summer. Marcus Hooper was Webmaster and Social Mediamaster for the KU French Club.

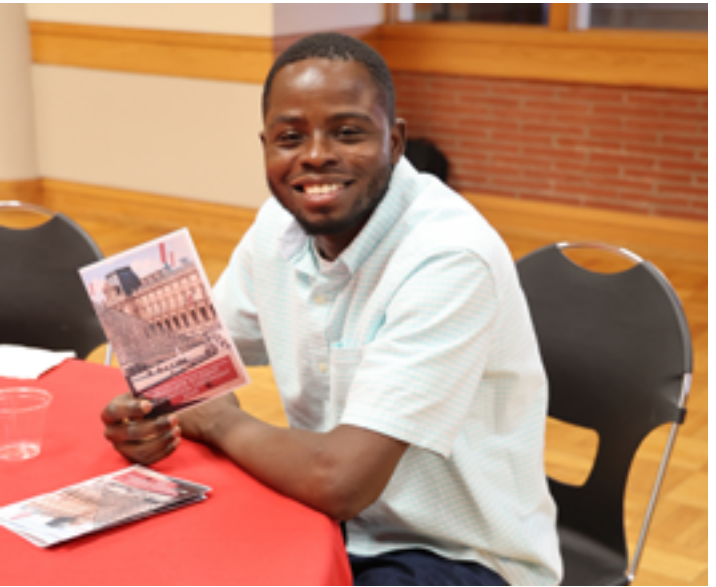
Our graduate students have been active in the field of French and Francophone Studies. In October, they attended the public talk and seminar of renowned French intellectual, essayist, and novelist Pascal Bruckner, “What is a French Intellectual?: This Typical Parisian Species,” sponsored by the KU French Center of Excellence. Ousmane Lecoq Diop facilitated Wolof and Arabic Language Tables for the KU Department of African and African-American Studies, and performed the role of radio broadcaster and announcer in the outreach play “Radio Mille Collines” on the Rwandan genocide of 1994. In spring 2025, Brigid Enchill was Presenter and Facilitator of the Digital Workshop on Knightlab Tools—Activating StoryMaps in the Classroom,” organized by the KU Institute of Digital Research in the Humanities. She was, as well, Guest Speaker for the KU Global Scholars Program on the topic of “Using StoryMaps to Tell Interactive Stories in Course Work and Projects.” At the Fifth Global Africas Conference at Florida State University, she presented her paper “Afrotopia, Speculative Fiction, and the Future of a Reimagined Africa in Sylvestre Amoussou’s *L’Orage africain*.”



Pascal Bruckner speaks at “What is a French Intellectual?: This Typical Parisian Species.”

Congratulations to all these graduate students, whose activities continue to be and impactful. They represent us in an exemplary fashion in the university community, nationally, and abroad.

We have many reasons to be proud of our students, as they further our longstanding excellence in French and Francophone graduate studies.





# French Undergraduate Program

by Paul Scott



During this past year, we have focused on recruitment and on streamlining our French major and minor requirements. Once quite rare, double majors are now fast becoming the norm and it can be hard for students to enroll in classes to satisfy the requirements of both (and sometimes three)

majors. With this in mind, we have rolled out an asynchronous online version of FREN 326 Introduction to French Literature, needed for both the minor and major while proving to be an indispensable class for non-humanities students to prepare them for upper-level classes in literature and culture. At the same time, we are introducing an externally administered proficiency exam for our majors during their senior year, which provides them with the added value of an internationally recognized proficiency level, a common request from both the professional schools and potential employers. The department will meet the costs associated with this qualification.

As a department, we focus greatly on encouraging students to study abroad for its linguistic, cultural, and personal benefits. Most if not all of us are products of this kind of opportunity. In June, I visited our partners at the [Université catholique de l'Ouest](#) in Angers, where our students can spend a semester or year studying French classes and living in a homestay. With

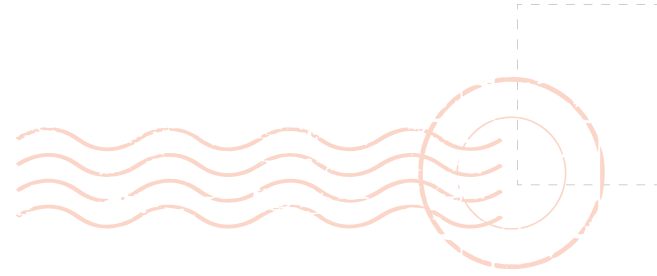
Bruce Hayes, I co-directed the Paris Summer Language Institute in May-June of this year, with 19 student participants. Next year will see the long-anticipated roll out of the Paris Summer Institute which offers an English-language version of the program aimed at students with no French, though participants will take an asynchronous class in basic French before arriving in class and will practice this at group dinners and in their Paris homestays.

Last of all, and crucial to our mission in promoting French, our French Club and French Table remain vibrant, thanks to the support of faculty and graduate and undergraduate volunteers. Our end-of-semester joint French and Italian Tables coffee-tasting at local roastery Repetition Coffee continues to be our best attended event and providing an informal and convivial way to round off the semester – studiously avoiding the topic of whether French or Italian café culture is the best!





## Postcards from France



My study abroad experience allowed me to complete my French major while immersing myself in a new city and culture. Without this opportunity, I would not have been able to finish a double major or live abroad before graduation. It became a summer I will never forget as I was able to see the Cliffs of Étretat, witness PSG win their first-ever Champions League title, visit Sainte-Chapelle, attend a show at the Moulin Rouge, and connect with people from entirely different walks of life.

Josephine Butler



The Paris SLI program gave me the invaluable opportunity to immerse myself in the language and culture I'd spent years studying. In just one month, I exponentially improved my French speaking, made countless new friends, gained unforgettable memories, and acquired a new passion for my French studies and for life as a whole. I'm infinitely grateful for the doors this program opened for me, and I am eager to partake in future abroad opportunities.

Max Bryan



I studied abroad in Angers, France, and had an amazing time improving my language skills, meeting new friends, and exploring new places. I improved my language skills enough to pass the DELF (French language certification) at the B2 level and also be able to understand most of my French friends' slang. I am so thankful for my experience and wouldn't change a thing about it!

Audrey Patterson

My time in France was phenomenal! I am an illustrator, so being able to be surrounded by so much art and culture was very energizing for me. Being able to read many of the information pamphlets and posters about the artworks helped me connect even more to the pieces I saw.

Liam Kille





The opportunity with the SLI Paris Program to spend weeks immersed in the French I have been studying for years gave me a new level in my French academics, enriching cultural experiences, new international relationships, and so much more. I adored every aspect of this program, and while it meant the world for me to go and experience all there was to offer in the moment, exploiting every moment I had to try something new and learn something I otherwise never would have, I have noticed that I have also brought back a more permanent change. My ability and confidence in French has grown past what I believed capable of. I'm so grateful to have had this chance to grow as a student and as a person, and I will cherish the memories I made this past summer for the rest of my life.



Kaitlyn Hogan



This summer I was in Rennes, France, primarily to finish up my French major, but also seeing all the sights, experiencing French culture, and eating great food! I have countless memories, as well as connections with people I never would've met if it weren't for this experience. Counting down the days until I can go back!

Ava Scanlon



My experience studying abroad has been nothing short of incredible. I have had the opportunity to make so many new friends and immerse myself in an entirely new culture, all while furthering my French abilities like never before. I have thoroughly enjoyed living in Angers and experiencing all the city has to offer.

Mahen Kudagammana

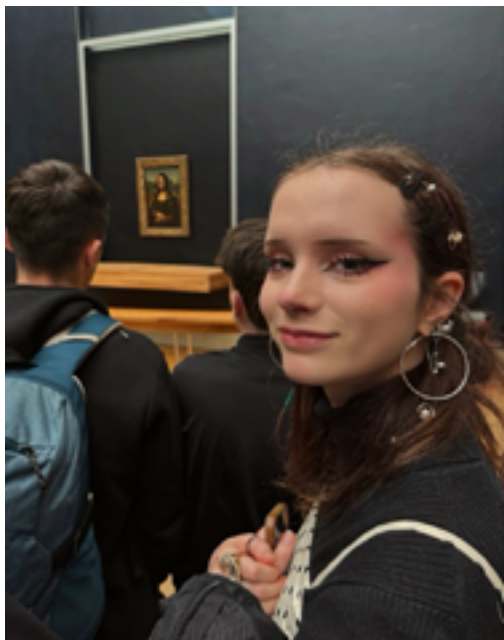
My study abroad experience had been a lifelong dream of mine since I started learning French at the age of 5. I was finally able to experience the culture of France and embrace the language and tradition to its fullest. It was a once and a lifetime experience.

Sean Orvis



Me and my host family in their Paris home





Studying abroad has helped me build my self-confidence and fulfill my ambitions! I have learned so much about the French culture and language that could not have been taught to me in a classroom. I am so grateful for this experience.

Susanna Thimmesch

The Summer Language Institute in Paris and the opportunities I had while in France have given me a better understanding of French politics, culture, and history. With the program, I had the incredible opportunity to visit iconic museums and historical sites in Paris and in Normandy to gain an understanding of French art and history. Living in Paris for four weeks and being able to discuss the differences between French and American culture with my host family and other students at the language school was an invaluable experience. Attached is a photo from a day trip to the Palace of Versailles.

Kaylee Johnson



Studying in Paris pushed me to improve my conversational fluency in French, as well as hone my skills in grammar through rigorous study at Etoile Institute. During this program, I gained lifelong friendships with fellow students and Claire, my Parisian host, as well as reconnecting with old friends. Pictured is me (left) with friends I had not seen in over a decade!

Elizabeth Mooney

My study abroad experience sincerely meant so much to me. Knowing how much it means to me now, I think I would have sold blood if your scholarship hadn't come through. I am so grateful for how this study-abroad trip expanded my life and perceptions. I never thought I would get to do something like that. Thank you so much.

Jordan Gilmore

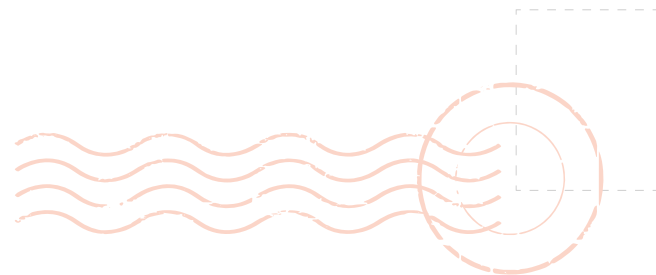






My study abroad was an incredible experience for me. I was able to earn credits towards my major, become much more confident speaking the language on an everyday basis, and learn about what it looks like to live abroad, even though it was only for a short time. It was a challenging experience for me, but one I wouldn't trade for anything.

Audrey Glynn



## Italian Undergraduate Program

by Patrizio Ceccagnoli



After the success of our Spring 2024 events, we were delighted to once again welcome Stefano Maccagno, the official composer of the National Cinema Museum of Turin. Maestro Maccagno presented a remarkable cinematic concert featuring a screening of Giovanni Pastrone's *Il fuoco* (1915), accompanied by his live piano improvisation.

This Fall 2025 event was organized in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago and the School of Music at the University of Kansas. We are proud to continue strengthening our partnership with the Institute in Chicago and with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which continues to recognize and support our cultural mission as the only academic program in Italian in the State of Kansas.

We were also honored to participate in the annual celebration of the *Week of the Italian Language in the World*, attending literary events in Chicago and presenting the short documentary *US: Gen Zitaly*, created by Francesca Beretta and directed by Pierluca di Pasquale.



Stefano Maccagno plays for the concert "Il Fuoco"



Di Pasquale during the making of "Gen Zitaly"

As in previous years, we were fortunate in 2025 to organize a rich series of international events. In February, for the seventh induction ceremony of the Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society, we hosted a presentation by Prof. Stiliana Milkova (Oberlin College) and Prof. Saskia Ziolkowski (Duke University), who explored the global legacy of Natalia Ginzburg. Later in the spring semester, our own Prof. Edward Bowen hosted a screening of the film *Zamora*, followed by a Q&A with its director, Neri Marcorè. In April, American poet Catherine Theis (University of Southern California) visited campus to present her English translations of Iolanda Insana's poetry at Watson Library.



As always, our lively Italian Club organized a rich array of initiatives in collaboration with the French Club, including film series, outdoor games (bocce and soccer), food tastings, and cooking classes. Prof. Francesca Beretta and the Language Program

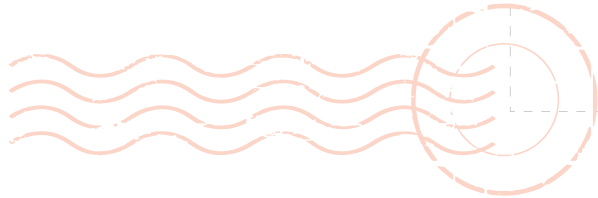




continued to host the weekly Italian *Tavola* at Wheatfields Bakery and launched a new series of Italian classes at Prairie Moon Waldorf School, with the enthusiastic participation of our wonderful students. Several of them also took part in the traditional Halloween event, Haunting the Humanities KU Festival—where even Baby Jay stopped by to say ciao!



# Postcards from Italy



For me, being able to study abroad has allowed me to gain so many new perspectives and knowledge on the lives of others across the world. It has also given me the space to grow in my Italian studies, and I cannot wait for a chance to return.

Lydia Crist

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to study abroad in Florence for the Summer 2025 semester! As someone who is nervous to open-up at first, I owe a lot of my recent personal growth to this experience which challenged me to meet new people and make new friends! Thanks to the generous scholarship I received from the department, I was able to afford this wonderful opportunity which has ignited in me a deeper sense of purpose and further inspired me to continue reaching my academic and future career goals!

Alanah Cole



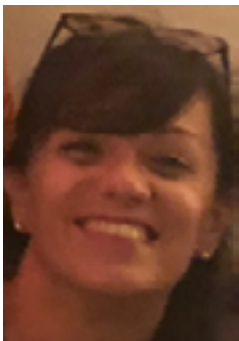




## Christine Bourgeois

Christine Bourgeois has had an exciting year of new and old projects, both inside and outside of the classroom. A particular highlight was attending the Medieval and Renaissance Center Conference at NYU this past spring, organized in conjunction with the Metropolitan

Museum of Art. Christine presented a paper on a medieval mandora (think lute but smaller) that has since flourished into an exciting new collaborative project. Over the summer, she was lucky enough to take a little trip to Palazzo Davanzati in Florence to do some research.



## Francesca Beretta

In 2025, Francesca Beretta dedicated her work to developing extracurricular digital projects, including a short docu-project titled US: Gen Z Italy, created with her friend and filmmaker Pierluca di Pasquale.

The project explores students' hopes, expectations, and how they imagine using the Italian language in the future. The corto has been featured by the Italian Cultural Institute in Chicago for the Week of the Italian Language in the World.

She also collaborated on a pilot episode for a multilingual digital project involving Italian, English, and Latin—an ongoing co-authored project set for completion in 2026. The pilot episode was presented at the AATI (American Association of Teachers of Italian) conference in Princeton in April.

For the third consecutive year, Francesca directed the Study Abroad Program in Florence, where a fantastic group of Jayhawks studied, cooked, explored, and enjoyed la dolce vita.

Together with longtime lecturers Lauralyn Bodle and Massimo

Ferrara, Francesca continues to expand Italian engagement in the local community. Massimo is currently teaching a course for K-State, while Lauralyn and Francesca have organized weekly Italian-language activities at the Prairie Moon Waldorf School.

Recognizing that many students want to learn a language to travel and work abroad, Francesca is also developing internships in Italy to give them meaningful work experiences conducted entirely in Italian.

P.S. Follow us on IG at @ku\_italian.



## Edward Bowen III

Edward Bowen received the Jessie Marie Senor Cramer & Ann Cramer Root Teaching Award in Spring 2025. He's especially grateful to the Cramer family for providing this valuable financial support for

research and teaching. In March, Bowen published an article titled "The Strategies of Launching and Circulating Films in a Cinema Chain in Mid-1960s Rome" in *Comunicazioni sociali - Journal of Media, Performing Arts and Cultural Studies*. One of the highlights of his year was traveling to Milan in March to give two presentations at a conference on Italy's movie theaters at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. This fall, the UK-based journal *The Italianist* accepted Bowen's article on the use of long takes in Ettore Scola's grotesque film *Brutti, sporchi e cattivi* (Ugly, Dirty and Bad, 1976). Bowen enriched his analysis of the long takes by conducting interviews with crew members and examining the film's original screenplay and an unpublished collection of illustrations and notes taken on set by the film's assistant director. In Spring 2025, Bowen enjoyed teaching FMS/ITAL 331: Mafia Movies and ITAL 315: Advanced Composition and Conversation. He took a research leave in Fall 2025 to work on his book project on the role that cinema reuse has played in urban renewal efforts in Rome.



## Patrizio Ceccagnoli

Patrizio Ceccagnoli recently published an article on *Giacomo Leopardi and animal studies* in the French journal *Cahiers d'études italiennes*. Over the Fall, he released three volumes of translations from English into Italian: two works by

Canadian poet Anne Carson—*Come l'acqua* (Crocetti) and *La Norma sbagliata* (Utopia Editore)—and a translation of Michael Ondaatje's *Un anno di cose ultime* (Garzanti). In the Spring, he delivered the keynote address at an international conference dedicated to the work of Anne Carson at her alma mater, the University of Toronto. Later in the Fall, he introduced Gian Maria Annovi's latest book at the Italian Institute of Culture in Chicago and presented a lecture on the form of the lyric essay at the University of Bologna.



Patrizio Ceccagnoli with the poet Elisa Biagini at the Italian Institute of Culture in Chicago.



## Abigail Fields

I can't say how honored I am to have joined FFIT this year as the Hall Family Foundation Assistant Professor of French. As a KU alum (and an alum of this department!), I know how special it is to be a Jayhawk, and I am so happy to

be back teaching French language and literature in the

department where it all began for me! I've been so lucky to be surrounded this semester by kind and generous colleagues and bright students who inspire me by their commitment and openness in the classroom. I attended the Nineteenth-Century French Studies annual colloquium in Reno, NV, where I spoke about George Sand and the setting of the veillée (a peasant gathering and site of oral story-telling). I also attended the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment annual conference in College Park, MD, where I participated in a roundtable on the future of environmental media publishing. I continue to act as co-editor of the online environmental humanities journal, The Goose, and I am at work on my first book project, tentatively titled *The Literary Field: Agriculture and Narrative Theory in the Nineteenth-Century Novel*.







**Bruce Hayes**

Bruce Hayes had an eventful 2025. In the spring, he put on another successful French version of the TV show Shark Tank in his Business French class. The group of “potential investors” he recruited was comprised of an impressive assemblage of alums and friends of the department who zoomed in from all over the US and France. Deals were made and a good time was had by all. In May, one of our impressive undergraduates, Marian Frick, successfully defended her honors thesis Bruce directed on Marguerite de Navarre’s Heptaméron. In the summer, he had the chance to take the group of Paris SLI students on a tour of Normandy and Brittany. This fall, he invited Jeff Persels from the University of South Carolina to campus for a theatrical presentation of Montaigne’s Essais, performed in costume. Research-wise, he participated in three conferences: the Modern Languages Association in New Orleans, the Renaissance Society of America in Boston, and the Sixteenth Century Studies



Society in Portland, OR. He also completed a contribution on comic satire and the birth of atheism in France for the forthcoming Routledge Companion to Literature and Humour. He is looking forward to completing his tenth and final year as chair and plans on riding his bike more next year.



**Caroline Jewers**

Caroline Jewers was on sabbatical leave in the spring semester, and spent her time at the British Library in London researching Early Modern printed romances of chivalry and the sixteenth-century print trade in Lyons and Paris for a new project on this unusual corpus looking at how a variety of authors and print houses made these texts into a homogenized commercial product. She attended the International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo, and the Mediterranean Studies Association meeting at the University of Gibraltar. She will co-edit selected proceedings of that meeting with Jennifer Ballantine Perera of the Garrison Library and University of Gibraltar. She was also able to return to France and visit friends and archives. Being in London gave her the chance to host friends and colleagues for lunch there! Seen here: former KU graduate Dustin Alkire, who now lives in France, with Bruce Hayes and our new colleague Abigail Fields. Caroline did not manage to persuade them that British cuisine was as good as French!



Building in Angers



**Van Kelly**

Van Kelly attended two professional colloquia, the 20th and 21st Century International French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he presented his paper “Reading the Outside In: Paris’s New Urban Grafts in *Le Grand Paris des Écrivains*,” and the African Studies Association convention in Atlanta, Georgia, where he presented his paper “Enlarging the Sphere of Self: Spirit Haunting versus Spirit Solidarity in David Diop’s West African Novels, *At Night All Blood is Black* and *Beyond the Door of No Return*. His article, “Anamorphoses of the Quest: Disappearing Authors and Texts in Mohamed Mbougar Sarr’s *La plus secrète mémoire des hommes*,” appeared in the journal *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies: Sites*, volume 29.3 (2025). In spring semester, he taught the course “Paris, City of Lights and Legends,” which included a very uncritical examination of fashion in the series Emily in Paris and the BBC version of Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* as well as more critical looks at Paris as modern metropolis and livable city. This semester, he is teaching a mixed graduate/undergraduate course in French, “Identités francophones,” with works ranging from Ken Bugul’s novel *Rue Félix-Faure* and Ananda Devi’s novel *Pagli* to Felwine Sarr’s autobiographical essay *Méditations africaines* and his most recent musical album *Naïssan*. In June, he visited Dakar, Senegal with intense research sessions at the Musée des Civilisations Noires and its very rich collection of contemporary West African art, as well as his favorite restaurants for culinary research, *Séoul*, *Ko-Tao*, *L’Epicerie*, and *Chez Loutcha*.



**Paul Scott**

In the summer, I co-directed my fourteenth summer program in Paris with a group of highly motivated and curious participants, many of whom

had never been overseas. On almost every program is a student who has never before seen the sea and co-director Bruce Hayes, who often oversees the travel portion, has the pleasure of witnessing the reaction of someone glimpsing the beauty of the beach for the first time. After the end of the program I travelled to Seoul, South Korea, to spend a month researching Korean manhwa (graphic novels) featuring zombies. Seoul and Busan have dedicated manhwa libraries and I worked in both of them. I have been learning Korean for the past couple of years and see many resonances with France and the French. Both cultures are proud of their language and gastronomy and both place great value in the genre of comic books as an art form.



In March, a special issue on French science-fiction comic



series *Valérian et Laureline* that I co-edited appeared in the journal *European Comic Art*. My co-editor was Christina Lord of UNC-Wilmington, who did her PhD with us and it was rewarding to collaborate with a former student who has made her mark as a prominent scholar of French science-fiction. In the summer, a chapter I wrote on Korean TV zombie shows was published in a collection of essays themed on [The Post-Zombie](#). Zombies are a fascinating cultural phenomenon that are constantly evolving to reflect societies’ preoccupations and anxieties. This interest is



not limited to my own narrow academic interest: the asynchronous class I offer every winter and summer break on Zombies, Aliens, and Monsters continues to be our highest enrolled French class – and even, rumor has it...- often includes KU basketball players.



**Kim Swanson**

Kim Swanson serves as the Language Program Director for French, overseeing curriculum and instruction for our 1st- and 2nd-year French courses. Along with teaching courses on history of the French language, French phonetics and teaching methodology over the past year, she also finished development of fully asynchronous versions of our 4-semester sequence of lower-level courses. These asynchronous courses will allow us to reach new groups of students, including those who are doing fully online degrees at KU, and high school or college students from other institutions.

Professor Swanson also had the opportunity to work with two of our amazing students on their theses last year. Tyler Hausthor defended his BA Honors Thesis “Le Modèle d’Acceptation de la Technologie appliqué aux apprenants d’une langue seconde” in May 2025. This project involved a survey of our KU French students in 1st/2nd-year courses and their attitudes and motivations for French study. In examining the results of the survey, Tyler adapted the Model of Technology Acceptance to determine if such a model could predict a student’s intention to continue French studies. Laurel Aspegren also undertook an original study in her MA Thesis “« Je kiffe ton flow ! » : L’influence des emprunts lexicaux à l’anglais et à l’arabe sur le français contemporain,” also defended in May 2025. Laurel collected data from French podcasts, a reality television series and interviews in order to explore how lexical borrowings from Arabic and English are integrated into contemporary spoken French, with a focus on their linguistic adaptation and sociolinguistic significance.

Professor Swanson is nearing completion of her project in conjunction with KU’s Open Language Resource Center, an

online, open-access French phonetics program entitled “*Quel accent ?!*” This program will be free for use by both university and K-12 teachers or independent learners of French, with plans to implement it in our KU French phonetics course starting Fall 2026. It includes interactive activities that provide learners with immediate feedback, and presents both Standard/International French, as the version that is recognized and understood by Francophones around the world, as well as an exploration of variations found in other Francophone regions/countries.

**Corinne Anderson**



Corinne Dolores Anderson of Lawrence died peacefully in hospice care at home on April 22, 2025. She was 81 years old. Corinne was born on February 19, 1944, in New Haven, Connecticut, the daughter of Vincent and Dolores (Bouffard) Harmon. She graduated as valedictorian of her class at Notre Dame College in Staten Island, NY, and went on to master’s and doctoral studies in French language and literature at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She was awarded grants from the Fulbright Program and the French government to study in France—a country whose culture she cherished deeply throughout her life.

While at UW, she met her former husband, Robert Anderson. They moved to Lawrence in 1970. Corinne taught French for more than forty years at the University of Kansas, where she was deeply involved in both teaching and advising. She led KU’s Summer Language Institutes in Paris, Normandy, Brittany, and Strasbourg and was honored with the Mortar Board Award for Excellence in Teaching. She joined KU’s Undergraduate Advising Center in 1998 and served as a faculty advisor until her retirement in 2014. She loved advising—during her final weeks of life, she was still giving guidance to her nurses at KU Medical Center about their courses of study.

Corinne also taught at Carroll College (Waukesha, WI), Washburn University, and Bishop Seabury Academy. She served as president of the Kansas Foreign Language Association and was a member of Friends in Council.

Corinne had many interests. She loved the ocean, art, music, good food, her dogs Walter and Alex, and traveling with her family. She had a strong dislike for Donald Trump and wasn’t shy about saying so. She had many meaningful friendships throughout her life, including close relationships with colleagues, former

students, and new friends she made later in life, especially in her weekly coffee group. In the final weeks of her life, she received many messages, calls, and visits from friends, which meant a great deal to her and to her family.

She is survived by her son Christopher and grandson Amane; her son Matthew, son-in-law John, and granddaughter Nora; her siblings Joan, Tom, and Fred; and her niece and nephews Amanda, Seth, and Jeff.

Obituary courtesy of [Lawrence Journal World](#).





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