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Lori Wright

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Contact: Lori Wright
603-862-0574
UNH Media Relations

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Women in French, an international organization devoted to the study of French and francophone women, will hold its conference this year at the University of New Hampshire, April 6 to 8, 2006. Participants from the United States, Canada, France, England, Ireland, Spain, Finland, Cyprus, Romania, and New Zealand will discuss the latest research on French and Francophone women’s literature, history, film, and culture.

Given New Hampshire’s location and heritage, one of the highlighted themes of the conference is “Francophone Women of New England and Eastern Canada.” Several panels focus on this topic, and there will be three keynote speeches and performances related to francophone women of New Hampshire, Maine, and Quebec. All keynote events of the conference are open to the public and will take place in Huddleston Hall.

Conference Keynote Schedule

- Thursday April 6, 7:30 p.m.: Claire Quintal, professor emerita of Worcester College and the Institut Franco-Américain, speaking on ”The Franco-American Woman of Yesteryear and Yesterday” (talk in French and English).

- Friday April 7, 1 p.m.: La Donna Musicale, Baroque music group performing works by 17th and 18th century women composers, “Unheard of: from Pious Psalms to Drinking Songs”.

- Friday April 7, 5:30 p.m.: Geraldine Sheridan, professor of French at the University of Limerick, Ireland, "Cherchez la femme": Images of Working Women in 18th century France”

- Saturday April 8, 1 p.m.: Louise Dupré, poet, feminist critic and professor of creative writing at the Université du Québec à Montréal, “Écrire à la croisée de l’intime et du politique” (talk in French).

- Saturday April 8, 8 p.m.: “Franco-American Arts in New England.” Performances and a round-table discussion on francophone arts in New England by Josée Vachon (singer-songwriter), Rhea Côté-Robbins (novelist), and Susan Poulin (playwright).

The Women in French Organization was founded in 1978 to promote research on French and francophone women as well as research in other domains linked to feminist critique. Papers during the conference will focus on francophone culture from the French Caribbean, North and West Africa, and Southeast Asia, and on periods from the medieval era to the 21st century.
The conference is made possible by support of the Quebec Government, French Consulate of Boston, UNH Center for New England Culture, UNH Center for the Humanities, UNH Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts, UNH Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures, and UNH Women’s Studies program.

For more information, please contact Juliette M. Rogers, associate professor of French and Italian, at jmrogers@cisunix.unh.edu.