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A Note from the Editor

By Alaina McCallum

The Association continually works to expand local cultural activities and strengthen involvement with Nantes. This edition of *Nantesense* reflects that work we have accomplished during the first half of 2019.

So far this year, we have fostered our commitment through annual events such as la Chandeleur crêpe dinner, French Fest, SIFF, and the summer picnic.

Our scholarship program is one of the most impactful ways SNSCA supports our mission. In this newsletter, you will read about this year's scholarship recipient Hannah Holmgren and about the new Dr. Thomas Bennett Scholarship.

Thanks to an interview conducted by our intern Danyun Chen, you will learn about a group of French university students who came to Seattle in February.

As we look forward to our 40th Anniversary in 2020, we will be preparing for the arrival of a delegation from Nantes. We are also working to capture the history of the Association. Danyun interviewed longtime members as part of an oral history project, which you will hear more about soon.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continual support of Seattle-Nantes. The Association looks forward to seeing you at upcoming events!



Members of the Board at the June board meeting.

La Chandeleur

On February 17th, Seattle-Nantes members filled the Hangar Café in Georgetown for this year's observance of the French holiday. Sarah Wordsworth, general manager and master crêpe maker, welcomed us warmly for the fourth consecutive year to her restaurant on the northern edge of Boeing Field.

One special guest was Franck Insignares, Nantes-based vice president of la Maison des États-Unis and faculty member at Oniris. Franck had just reached the halfway mark of the program he was leading; we enjoyed learning about what the eighteen Oniris students were doing in Seattle during their two-week educational sojourn. (Read the articles below to learn more).

SNSCA vice president Susan Kegel offered a detailed update on the status of les Floralties project. We now know, of course, that Susan and the design team executed a wonderful entry for this important international show. Well done Floralties team! The last newsletter highlighted our exhibit at the flower festival.

Frank Insignares: Building a Sister-City Exchange

After the crêpe dinner, our intern Danyun Chen interviewed Franck about his thoughts on the partnership between Seattle and Nantes and the exchange program he runs for his Nantais students in Seattle.



As an Associate Professor of Communication and a Global Affairs Field Officer, Franck is responsible for all types of exchange programs at Oniris, the Nantes-Atlantic National College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science, and Engineering. In February, he and eighteen students specializing in *agro-alimentaire* (the food-processing industry), came to Seattle for a two-week program. Franck emphasized that it was not about traveling or tourism but a *voyage d'étude*.

Franck expressed his gratitude toward la Maison des États-Unis and Nantes mayor Johanna Rolland who funded and sponsored this exchange program. Franck believed the goal of this partnership is for the citizens to discover the culture in a way other than tourism through cultural projects, exhibitions, and artist exchanges.

Franck emphasized how both Seattle and Nantes have a commitment to sustainable development and maritime traditions makes them perfect sister cities.

To strengthen the partnership with Nantes, Franck thought it would be nice to have more host family programs for both sides. He also thought greater contact with universities and their students are necessary during exchange programs. During his sojourn, the group of French students received an official tour of the Washington State University campus in Everett; they audited a marketing class and both the French and American students developed a friendship and decided to stay in touch with each other.

Nantes Students Visit Seattle

In February, Franck Insignares and eighteen French university students from Oniris arrived the morning of Seattle's third and biggest snowfall of that week. Their flights were delayed, cancelled, rebooked separately with different routes and arrival time. Scheduled visits were cancelled for the first few days of their stay, which left them scrambling to reschedule.

The students worked on projects related to themes such as sustainable development and social aspects of life in Seattle. According to Franck, the object of these two weeks was to *ouvrir l'esprit* to think globally and to be conscious of society. Despite scheduling challenges due to snow, SNSCA was able to arrange several events for the group.



Left to Right: The French students, Jenn, and Mike.

Students met with Jenn Dowell and Mike Henderson of the Little Red Hen Project. The Project is an urban farming group in Delridge that teaches their community how to grow, cook, and preserve sustainable backyard food to combat the ill effects of food deserts. The group met at Mike's house to eat local foods and talk about how France and the US are dealing with issues of food availability and sustainability. Jenn was the Floralties garden designer, which demonstrates the lasting impact of Seattle-Nantes connections.

Another group of students attended an Art Beyond Sight tour at the Seattle Art Museum. Afterward, they met with the docents to discuss how to effectively create and deliver tours for those with low or no vision. The group was amazed by what they saw on the tour. One student said that before participating in the tour, she had thought it was impossible for those with vision problems to enjoy the visual arts.

Five UW students including SNSCA intern Danyun were invited to join the Oniris students at a meat inspection event at Patagōn Argentine Grill at the Charter Hotel in downtown Seattle. Executive chef Brandon Cathey and executive sous-chef Jeffrey Hunter offered an amazing happy hour cuisine to the group following the meat inspection. The UW students, all of whom had studied in France, enjoyed both practicing their French and helping the Oniris students practice their English.

Despite the snowpocalypse, this was a wonderful experience for all. Franck will be returning again next year with a group from February 8th to 21st. We look forward to working with them again!



Sebastien Pfeiffer, General Manager of the Charter Hotel, welcomes the group of French students.



Alison McGinley, Director of Restaurants of the Charter Hotel, with the three raffle winners from Oniris.



Enjoying French Films

The Seattle International Film Festival took place from May 16th to June 9th. As part of our sponsorship, we received 10 tickets to each showing. The three French films SNSCA helped sponsor were *Farinelli*, *Rémi*, *Nobody's Boy*, and *Sink or Swim*.

French Fest

On Sunday, March 24th, SNSCA joined the rest of Seattle's French community at the Seattle Center for the annual French Fest.



We had three tables set up to display information about Nantes, the sister city, and activities for the children. In exchange for coloring an FC Nantes logo or completing a Nantes-themed word search, children received a stamp in their passport booklet as part of an activity the French-American Chamber of Commerce administers to encourage children to visit all the booths.

Next to our informational tables, we had four tables of French books. This year's book sale was a great success! The children books went very fast. Thank you to all the amazing books people donated. All the proceeds support our scholarships.

The event could not have been possible without the dedicated help of our volunteers: Jean-Loup Baer, Bénédicte Egbert, Geraldine Le Calvez, Jean Leblon, Lois Van Ottingham, Suzanna Plumb, Ellen Taft, Tom Waite, Anika Wottreng.



Hannah Holmgren awarded Scholarship

The Association is proud to award this year's Seattle-Nantes Scholars Scholarship to Hannah Holmgren. She is an incoming senior at Seattle Pacific University majoring in French and Global Development. She has worked for World Relief as a refugee resettlement intern and assistant ESL instructor. This fall, Hannah will study abroad in Pau, France. She is excited for the homestay experience to better immerse herself in the culture. To integrate French in her future pursuits, she plans to apply to a Fulbright position in Senegal or to the Peace Corps in West Africa. Following these experiences, Hannah's goal is to obtain a masters degree in Global Human Development in order to "help shape development policy by focusing on issues prevalent in less developed francophone countries, with a specific interest in Haiti or West Africa."



To learn more about our scholarship program, visit our website at www.seattle-nantes.org/scholarships.

New Scholarship honoring Tom Bennett

We are honored to announce that the Bennett family donated \$20,000 to endow the brand new Dr. Thomas Bennett Scholarship, which will be administered by the SNSCA. Tom deeply valued the experience of travel and academia; the Scholarship will be awarded to qualified candidates who will study French in a Francophone country.

Tom's daughters Kristen Bennett Johanson and Karen Herr ceremonially awarded the big check to the Association at our summer picnic. Jean-Loup Baer said a few words about Tom's many and varied contributions to the Association over the years, including establishing the Frances Bennett Scholarship in honor of his mother. To conclude the ceremony, Karen and Kristen cut the Bastille Day cake.



Susan Kegel, Karen Herr, Kristen Bennett Johanson, and Larry Laffrey.



Karen and Kristen cut the cake.

Summer Picnic

Every year, we hold a summer picnic and barbecue on the Sunday closest to Bastille Day. This year, we were able to celebrate exactly on July 14th. Members gathered on the shore of Lake Washington at Madrona Park to enjoy a delicious potluck and great company.



Left to Right: Michelle Beckman, Karen Herr, Kristen Bennett Johanson, Margaret Johnson, Tom Waite, Pieter and Tish van der Meulen, Diane Baer, Ellen Taft, Susan Hulbert, Tom Redding, Susan Kegel, Jean-Loup Baer, Larry Laffrey.

La Fête Nationale Française in Nantes



On Bastille Day, members of la Maison des États-Unis, our counterparts in Nantes, were invited to *l'hôtel de ville* to celebrate the holiday.

That evening in Nantes fireworks were enjoyed from le Pont Anne de Bretagne.

Left to Right: la Maison des États-Unis president Mariette Cassourret, Consul James du Vernay, Mayor Johanna Rolland, and Maison des États-Unis board member Nicole Longuet.

Monthly Board Meetings

The Board of SNSCA meets monthly to discuss local activities and work on strengthening the relationship between Seattle and Nantes. In general, the Board convenes on the first Wednesday of every month at a local branch of Seattle Public Library. Please see the website to confirm the meeting location. If you are interested in joining the Board, contact us at seattlenantessca@gmail.com and attend a board meeting.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2019

Annual General Meeting

FEBRUARY 2020

La Chandeleur crêpe dinner

MARCH 2020

French Fest at the Seattle Center

Visit seattle-nantes.org for more details!



Membership

Thanks to your annual contributions, we are able to organize cultural events and support exchanges. Members renew their affiliation every January by paying their dues either by sending a check to:

SNSCA
5108 1st Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98107

Or by using the DONATE button on our website.

SNSCA Board Members

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