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Celebrated French, Montana authors convene in Missoula

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CELEBRATED FRENCH, MONTANA AUTHORS CONVENE IN MISSOULA --

The University of Montana will welcome 25 writers and editors representing the best of France and Montana to discuss a range of literary genres and read from their works during a conference Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 3-5, in Missoula.

All events for the three-day "Writing Away From Home" conference will convene in Room 307 of the Missoula Children’s Theatre, 200 N. Adams, except for the Friday evening reading in the Dell Brown Room of UM’s Turner Hall and the Saturday afternoon reception at the Boone and Crockett Club, Old Milwaukee Station, 250 Station Drive. Panels will meet from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Writers will read from their works from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. All events are free and open to the public.

The conference continues in the tradition of France’s famous Saint-Malo Writers’ Conference, which has showcased Montana writers for the past six years. “Writing Away From Home” is designed as an international exchange of ideas about writing and publishing in today’s market.

Here is the conference schedule. For statements about the participating writers, see the sidebar story.

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Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon -- “Writing Away From Home.” Panelists will be Michel Le Bris, Roland Brival, David Duncan, Martha Elizabeth and Fred Haefele. Robert S. Reid will moderate.

Thursday, 2-4 p.m. -- “Mysteries and Thrillers.” Panelists will be Patrick Raynal, Maurice B. Dantec, James Crumley, Reid, Jenny Siler and Neil McMahon with Jon Jackson as moderator.

Thursday, 7-9 p.m. -- Readings from their works by Crumley, Raynal and Yann Queffelec with introductions by UM English department Chair Lois Welch and Chris Anderson, associate professor of foreign languages and literature at UM.

Friday, 10 a.m.-noon -- “Travel Writing.” Panelists will be Jacques Meunier, Jean-Paul Kauffmann, Bryan DiSalvatore, Peter Stark, Kevin Canty and Caroline Patterson. William Bevis will moderate.

Friday, 2-4 p.m. -- “Margins and Metaphors.” Participants will be Francis Geffard, Queffelec, Sheryl Noethe, Debra Earling and James Welch. Deirdre McNamer will moderate.

Friday, 7-9 p.m. -- Readings from their works by Welch, Meunier and Le Bris with introductions by Bevis and French languages and literatures Associate Professor Michel Valentin.

Saturday, 1-4 p.m. -- Readings from their works by Dantec, Brival and Kauffmann with introductions by Adjunct Associate Professor Kate Gadbow, director of UM’s creative writing program.

Saturday, 5-10 p.m. -- Reception at the Boone and Crockett Club. Old Milwaukee
In conjunction with the conference, 24 French lycee students will visit and attend Missoula high schools during the week. An exchange group of students from Missoula’s Hellgate and Sentinel high schools will go to France for 10 days in late April to stay with host families in Saint-Malo and attend classes at the Lycee Jacques Cartier.

Conference co-sponsors besides UM are the Montana Committee for the Humanities, Missoula Writing Collaborative, Alliance Francaise and Fact and Fiction Bookstore, in cooperation with the French Cultural Services in the United States and Cultural Attache Emmanuel Delloye at the French Consulate.

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