

Mai 2008



The Alliance Française de Fresno, the Délégation Générale in Washington, DC, and the Fresno County Public Library dare to announce a lecture in English by: **Christopher Thompson: Le Tour de France: Heroes or Dopers?**

Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Woodward Park Library, 944 E. Perrin, near Champlain. There is no charge and the public is invited. A reception will follow.

Christopher Thompson, born in Morocco, raised in Africa, Europe and the United States, educated in French schools in Algeria and Belgium, went on to study at Harvard University (B.A. in French Literature) and Middlebury College (M.A. in French). After a five-year career in secondary education, he enrolled at New York University where he earned an MA in French Studies and a Ph.D. in French Studies and Modern European History. His dissertation on the social, cultural, and political history of cycling under the Third Republic earned him the Outstanding Dissertation Prize in 1997. He is currently Associate Professor of History at Ball State University in Indiana. Dr. Thompson's research on the social and cultural history of French cycling seeks to integrate the history of sport into broader themes of modern French history including the World Wars, class and gender issues, public health debates, and a variety of hopes and fears sparked by modernity. He has received grants from the French government and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been published in leading academic journals in Germany and France, as well as in English-language publications culminating recently in the publication of his first book, *The Tour de France: A Cultural History*, that traces the history of the Tour de France from the first tour in 1903. The race's participants have been celebrated as heroic giants of the road whose exceptional courage and perseverance in the face of great suffering would inspire a nation repeatedly confronted throughout the twentieth century with challenges to its survival. The grueling physical and psychological conditions of the Tour and the racers' status as national heroes also placed them at the center of French debates about work and class. In the polarized politics of pre-World War II France, those debates were shaped by competing images of the racers. Some commentators extolled Tour racers as respectable, self-disciplined *pedal workers* whose uncomplaining acceptance of arduous working conditions, if emulated by industrial workers nationwide, would defuse class conflict. Other observers pitied Tour racers as slave laborers whose ferocious exploitation by the Tour's organizers and commercial sponsors replicated the widespread exploitation of workers in French factories, and whose resistance against inhumane racing conditions might inspire a broader revolt by France's proletariat against industrial capitalism. After World War II, Tour racers continued to feature prominently in French debates about working conditions and workers' rights. The central issue now is the racers' longstanding but increasingly sophisticated practice of illicit performance-enhancing doping. Simply put, can racers who dope be heroic?



Scholarship Committee News

In March the Alliance Française Scholarship Committee met to read and discuss the applications from High School and College French students. It was decided to allot five scholarships, 2 to College students and 3 to the High School students. Here are the lucky winners...all outstanding:

Fresno State: Eliane Ly and Carly Oliver

Their inspirational professor is Dr. Kao-Ly Yang. Each of these students will receive \$750 towards tuition fees for advanced studies in French.

High Schools: Shaylyn Heitzman, Sierra High School in Tollhouse, teacher Patricia Duvet

Paula Sato, Buchanan High School in Clovis, teacher Sally Babcock

Jamie Lam, Sunnyside High School, teacher Blandine Vu.

Each of the High School students will receive \$500 towards their tuition at a College or University in French courses. In addition, both the College and High School winners will receive a framed certificate, to be presented to them at Awards ceremonies at their individual schools. The Alliance Française wishes to congratulate all of the students and teachers for their outstanding success! Please come and meet the students and their families and teachers at the Bastille Day picnic.



Cafés de l'Alliance, Jeudi, mai 8, juin 12 de 16:30h à 18h à la Boulangerie. Votre rendez-vous mensuel avec vos amis francophones. (Occurs 2nd Thursday of every month).

Remerciements!



The Alliance Française de Fresno wishes to express its sincerest "MERCIS" for all that Richard and Ellen Erganian did for our April lecturer, Thirza Vallois. Driving to Carmel to pick her up, lodging her for a week, hosting a wonderful reception in her honor, and driving her back to Berkeley, were very gracious and welcoming indeed.. The Alliance is truly grateful for their support and for the privilege of having a display table at Erganians' Vineyard Farmer's Market at Blackstone and Shaw.

L'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE FRESNO SPONSORS

French for Fun

**Summer Classes for Young People and Adults
San Joaquin Gardens, 5555 N. Barstow, Fresno, CA**

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

SESSION I: FROM JULY 1 TO JULY 10

SESSION II: FROM JULY 15 TO JULY 24

GRADES: K-3 LEVEL: Beginners THEME: <i>Allons à Paris!</i> DAYS: TTh TIME: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM PLACE: SJG FEE: \$65	GRADES: 4-6 LEVEL: Beginners THEME: <i>Allons à Paris!</i> DAYS: TTh TIME: 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM PLACE: SJG FEE: \$65
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GRADES: 7-8 LEVEL: Beginners THEME: <i>Allons à Paris!</i> DAYS: TTh TIME: 1:PM - 2:30 PM PLACE: SJG FEE: \$65	GRADES: 9-12 LEVEL: Beginners THEME: <i>Allons à Paris!</i> DAYS: TTh TIME: 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM PLACE: SJG FEE: \$65
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For more information about the sessions and to inquire about private tutoring for intermediate and advanced levels, contact Micheline Curnyn, 435-5532, mcurnyn@comcast.net

For information about French classes for adults, contact Odette Cohen, 435-3285, mcohen@ucsf.edu

**Mark your calendars for the Alliance France and the Bastille Day Event
Sunday, July 13, Fig Garden Swim and Racket Club**