ALUMNI PROFILE: CHRISTOPHER QUINLAN

Recent PFMP Honorary Fellow reflects on his work and the PFMP

After a decade working in non-profit international development, 2014 PFMP Honorary Fellow Christopher Quinlan (MFS 2003, international development, shown here during a Heifer International trip to Nepal), now works for Brigham Young University. We asked Chris about the connections between international development and education, his own work in both, and his involvement in the PFMP.

HOW DID THE PFMP HELP YOU GET THERE?

My experience in the PFMP was vital in preparing me for the professional work environment. My studies gave me the academic context for the issues I have worked with, and the professional internship gave me the chance to see how these issues played out in the context of both the government and non-profit sectors. So far, my experience in the PFMP has led me to professional opportunities in four non-profits and now a university. My work has taken me to North America, Europe, Central America, Africa, and Asia. The PFMP has opened many doors and provided opportunities for both professional and personal development.

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW FOR A LIVING?

My professional background over the past decade has been in the non-profit sector where I have worked in community and international development. I recently took a position as an International Program Coordinator for Brigham Young University. This gives me the chance to work with students and faculty on study abroad programs, international internships, and academic exchange programs with other universities.

My current work with the university has also allowed me to guest lecture in public administration and French classes, and to mentor students seeking a career in the non-profit sector. I very much enjoy the opportunity to support these individuals and hope to help play a part in improving the effectiveness of non-profits in the future.
PFMP Alumnus Ethan Footlik on language, living abroad, and the PFMP

We interviewed Ethan Footlik (MFS 2009, EU affairs), who works as a professional translator at Sémantis. He lives in Paris.

Another rather unexpected challenge of working abroad in translation—and living abroad in general—is having to work hard to maintain your native tongue.

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW FOR A LIVING?

I am a project manager and translator at Sémantis, a translation agency in Paris that mainly works with French companies and communications agencies. In addition to translating documents myself, I proofread and revise others’ translations and coordinate the translation process with customers and freelance translators. I handle documents ranging from brochures on the history of cognac to press releases about wind farms and magazine articles on EU politics. Last year I also translated a series of memoirs written by civilians in Normandy during World War II.

HOW DID THE PFMP HELP YOU GET THERE?

During my PFMP internship at the Robert Schuman Foundation, I had the opportunity to translate a position paper on the distribution of European Parliament seats. That experience gave me a taste for translation and, on a bit of a whim, I decided to try my hand at doing it professionally. I was able to find a job as a translator in Normandy and have since held two other translation jobs, each with a link to European affairs. I continue to draw on what I learned in the PFMP, both in terms of the French language and knowledge about Europe.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN DOING THE KIND OF WORK YOU DO NOW?

One challenging aspect of my job is working with clients to ensure that each translation accurately reflects the ideas conveyed in French. Our clients carefully consider the wording they use and expect the same level of nuance in their English translations. I often have to justify my linguistic choices and explain the subtleties of the language. Another rather unexpected challenge of working abroad in translation—and living abroad in general—is having to work hard to maintain your native tongue. Years in France can dull your linguistic tools and my coworkers and I sometimes run things by each other for fear of sounding French.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR WORK WILL ACCOMPLISH?

Well, for one I hope that people will have access to information they otherwise wouldn’t! I really enjoy translating articles about EU politics and would like to focus more on Europe-related projects in the future. Europe has long been plagued by an “information deficit” and translation is one means of helping remedy this problem.

ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS CONSIDERING THE PFMP?

Go for it! It’s a very intense, rewarding experience. It may sound obvious, but my advice to incoming students is to do their best to make the most of their time in Madison. There is a lot going on—courses, lectures, events at the French House, and a whole lot of other UW-Madison activities—and the year really flies by. One day you’re just settling in and before you know it, you’re off to do your internship.
When the PFMP External Advisory Board meets in Madison in late April, on the occasion of the program’s fourteenth birthday, alumni will be all over the place. They will join program students, faculty, prospective students and other program friends for the PFMP QUATORZE events, including an annual French-language luncheon, a keynote talk on fifty years of UN peacekeeping in Central Africa, an alumni-studded French House symposium on working between languages in the Francophone world, and a dressy alumni gala.

The less-public event will be our closed External Advisory Board meeting, at which alumni will congregate, as they do annually, to advise the program on developments in the professions and share their own perspectives as former students of the program. “Networking is key,” they tell us, using that Quebec-coined term we use so much around here, le réseautage. Alumni occasionally note that, before they came to the PFMP, they never really knew how “networking” might work in real practice, and some even admit to having been a little suspicious of the term.

But network they do. The PFMP External Advisory Board represents a broad array of industries—from finance to manufacturing to energy—with healthy representation from education, government, and non-profits. I receive regular emails (usually several a week) from program alumni, sending job postings and other opportunities, which other alumni and students take regular advantage of.

They also give back in other ways. They mentor current students, speak with prospective students interested in learning more about their fields, and they even contribute to our PFMP scholarship fund.

They speak to PFMP classes, too. In the past couple of years, returning interns and alumni have spoken to first-year students about their work at the Rotary International Foundation and the United African Organization (Chicago), Azur Développement (Brazzaville), business schools HEC Montréal and IAE-Grenoble, extra-financial reporting ratings agency Vigeo (Paris), and the Centre International de Langue Française d’Anney, among others. Add to these live (and videoconference) appearances the regular blurbs in L’ESSOR, the essay collections Post-Francophile (2010) and Francophonie (2014), and all the one-on-one contact our alumni encourage us to foster, and you have a community working hard to help PFMP students find their way into that elusive next chapter of their work lives.

Back here in the program, whether on the Madison campus or at internships at far-flung Francophone locations across the planet, we keep our ears tuned finely to the advice of our alumni. Their insight allows us to tweak, reinvent, and conceive new ways of teaching our students, of advising them, of challenging and prodding them into touch. PFMPers come to the program with a certain degree of talent—how many people do you know in your day-to-day life who are fluent in French and English? But without the deep alumni engagement our program has developed over the years, I think our students might find the hill not harder to climb, but a little lonelier, too.

International development can be a complicated field, but one of its biggest challenges is developing effective programs that provide sustainable solutions. This is an ongoing challenge as nonprofits seek to effectively measure the results of their work. Establishing measures of success can be, on its own, a great challenge. How do we know our programs are truly successful? What are the unintended consequences of our work? Sometimes we see that programs are not really having the impact we think they are, and then we must revisit our approach. Furthermore, as the needs of developing communities evolve, so must programs. This creates a constant cycle of program measurement, evaluation, and improvement.

Nonprofits doing development work are continually working on balancing programs and funding. On the other side of a delicately-balanced equation with programming is the donor/funder. Nonprofits must be very attuned to the needs and wants of their donors to be successful. Without them, the work cannot be funded. A nonprofit must be able to clearly articulate its mission and the effectiveness of its work to donors. Donors are increasingly interested in not only being a funder, but in truly becoming an informed partner in the work of their chosen nonprofit. This places more demands on nonprofits to find effective ways of reporting their outcomes to the public. A relationship of trust with donors is hard-earned, through a great deal of transparency and effective communication.

I hope to make meaningful contributions to people who are facing the challenges that characterize developing parts of the world, through the abatement of poverty, hunger, and violence.
Nicholas Hitch


Tout au long du livre, Balthazar trace l’histoire des tendances nationalistes canadiennes-françaises depuis « la Conquête » (la perte de la Nouvelle-France à la Grande Bretagne en 1760). Tandis que le nationalisme francophone au Canada d’aujourd’hui est principalement limité au Québec, le début d’une conscience nationale francophone comprenait tous ceux qui parlaient français au Canada. Pendant le 19e siècle et jusqu’aux années 1960, par exemple, « la clef de voûte du nationalisme canadien-français », c’était l’Église catholique ; depuis, les vagues de modernisation et d’étatisme associées avec la Révolution tranquille ont beaucoup changé cette trajectoire nationaliste (142). Dès 1960, l’outil que les Québécois trouvaient nécessaire pour émanciper la population francophone du Canada, c’était l’État. Par conséquent, cette « québécoïsation » du nationalisme canadien-français a formé une sorte d’État national québécois, créant ainsi un nouveau nationalisme pour la population francophone du Québec.

Quant au statut du nationalisme québécois depuis la Révolution tranquille, Balthazar met l’accent sur les divisions au sein de la société québécoise, au sujet de la souveraineté. Il mentionne les « réussites » de cette ferveur nationaliste : la création du Parti québécois, par exemple, et la mise en œuvre de la Charte de la langue française (dite « Loi 101 ») pour protéger la culture unique du Québec. En même temps, il critique les divisions créées par les deux référendums sur la question souverainiste, disant que ces derniers ont fini par polariser la population qu’ils auraient dû rassembler. Un troisième référendum serait alors « susceptible d’enlever tout crédit à une affirmation nationale » (301).

Balthazar avoue l’importance de créer une société plus inclusive tout en reconnaissant la langue française comme facteur le plus important du nationalisme québécois. Il parle de l’importance d’incorporer les immigrants dans la société québécoise pour qu’ils se sentent plus accueillis et favorables à l’idée d’une appartenance nationale—puisqu’un véritable nationalisme « ne peut que viser au rassemblement et à la solidarité de tous ceux qui composent la nation » (315).

Nicholas Hitch
Current Students & Alumni

**John Brunner** (MFS 2012, business) has joined UBIFRANCE North America, the French Trade Office in Chicago, as the Trade Advisor for Agribusiness, Wine, Spirits and Beer. He is in charge of market research, market studies and business development for the Midwest.

After teaching English for three years in France, **Kathleen Campbell** (international education) joined the PFMP and worked in the International Programs office at the Wisconsin School of Business. This summer she will be studying Portuguese in Brazil before heading to Paris in August to do her internship at ESCP Europe.

**Lindsay Colbert** (MFS 2008, international development) is the Associate Director of Reunion Programs and Annual Giving at Northwestern University. Although she wears purple and raises money for NU, a cut-out Bucky Badger sits on her desk, showing her true allegiance.

**Rachael Cooper** (développement international) est actuellement stagiaire à AIDES Rhône-Alpes à Lyon, une association qui travaille avec les populations les plus à risque pour le VIH/SIDA en France et à l’étranger. Elle s’occupe des actions sur terrain, où elle aide à donner des tests de dépistage du VIH gratuits et rapides, et elle travaille aussi sur un projet ciblé aux migrants récents vivant à Lyon.

**Amanda Czapla** (MFS 2008, international education) is Training Coordinator at Language Training Center in Indianapolis.

**Caitlin Dawson** (international education) lives in Montreal, Quebec with her husband, Steven. She works as an activities coordinator in the international student services office at HEC (Hautes Etudes Commerciales) Montréal, advising students and relishing life in the francophone capital of North America.

**Sarah (Eskridge) Demetz** (MFS 2005, international education) is now Assistant Director of the Global Student Certificate Program / Work Abroad and International Business Major Coordinator at Baruch College, City University of New York. She and her husband **Clément** (tuteur, 2003-04) live with their two children in Brooklyn, NY.

**Susan (West) Feess** (MFS 2012, international education) is a Course Scheduling Specialist at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA.

**Leah Fink** (MFS 2010) (MFS 2010, business) was recently promoted to Research Manager at Kantar Health France. Based in Paris, Leah is responsible for managing International market research studies in oncology for the European headquarters of global pharmaceutical companies.

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We interviewed PFMP alumna and 2013 Honorary Fellow Nicole D’Amour (MFS 2004, international development), who works for CNH Industrial Capital and is also involved in international humanitarian work. (Left: Nicole with some new friends in India.) We asked Nicole to talk about her work and what the PFMP has meant to her.

**WHAT DO YOU DO NOW FOR A LIVING?**

Currently I am a Portfolio Manager in Commercial Lending at CNH Industrial Capital, the captive financing division of an agricultural and construction equipment manufacturer. I am in charge of a team that is responsible for managing the risk for all Case IH, Case CE and New Holland dealers present in Canada. This encompasses 140 or so relationships and total outstanding floorplan balances of nearly one billion dollars. We also speak French regularly, with our Quebec dealers. I have been with CNH Industrial Capital for almost 9 years now, and in every position I have held, I have used my French skills.

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Lauren Herzog (MFS 2013, international development), is a Community Resources Specialist at the United African Organization in Chicago. She reports that “at least half” of her work in Chicago is in French.

Nicholas Hitch (business) s’intéresse surtout à la culture francophone en Amérique du Nord et à la diffusion du français dans les sphères internationales. Cet été, il fera son stage PFMP au Centre local de développement de Québec, avec le mandat d’établir un continuum de services en culture dans la région de Québec.

Jamie Holzhuter (MFS 2011, business) is now Marketing Coordinator at the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

Kerith Iverson (MFS 2007, European Union affairs) is a Public Affairs Officer at the Québec Government Office in Chicago. She is responsible for academic relations in the Midwest and environmental issues pertaining to the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence basin.


Following her internship at Pôle Sud in Strasbourg, France, Leah Johnson (business) was hired as a marketing coordinator at the architectural and engineering firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, where she does market research, coordinates marketing collateral, and serves as a point of contact for SOM’s global projects. She lives in Chicago.

Christine Koprowski (MFS 2010, business) is now a Global Sales Operations Professional at ManpowerGroup in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Current Students & Alumni (continued from page 7)

Christine Kuenzle (MFS 2009, business) has left her job at LogDirect in Luxembourg and is now a manager at Direct Focus Online, a boutique marketing agency in Manhattan, where she develops online marketing strategies for clients in the health and beauty world. Christine’s fiancé, Carl de La Chapelle (tuteur, 2007-08) is a corporate lawyer at Arendt and Medernach. The couple live in New York.

Joshua Marris (affaires européennes) a obtenu ses B.A. en français et études internationales à West Virginia University en 2012, parcours comprenant une année à Sciences-Po Grenoble. Après ses études, il a été assistant de langue à Epernay en Champagne. Actuellement traducteur bénévole pour l’ONG Constellation, il continue de s’intéresser au vin et à son exportation.

Kate Mayo (MFS 2007, international development) is a first-year associate in the Environmental Litigation Department of Napoli Bern Ripka Shkolnik, LLP in New York, New York. She represents a mix of clients in state and federal court regarding environmental and toxic tort matters involving brownfields, air and water pollution, the release of hazardous substances, and radiological contamination.

Jordan Milliken (MFS 2008, media/arts/cultural production) is completing a master’s in speech-language pathology this May and will begin work in the Lincoln, Nebraska public schools. She plans to merge French and speech pathology by joining a coalition of the special education and English language learner departments within the district.

Kristen Murphy (MFS 2009) runs the customer service department and is a buyer at Wine Library. She lives in New York City.

Stephanie Olson (international development) obtained her BA in French from Western Washington University in 2007. Since then she has been part of the active travel industry, most recently leading cycling vacations in France. She is hoping to work in sustainable development and natural resource management in developing Francophone nations.

YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS PFMP STUDENTS

The generosity of PFMP alumni and other donors has allowed us to create important scholarships for PFMP students. These gifts directly help our students defray important living expenses, both in Madison and while they do their internships abroad.

DONATE ONLINE. It’s easy—go to https://secure.supportuw.org/MultiPage/processStep1.do, and make sure to type "Professional French Masters Program Support Fund" in the "Designation" box.

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MERCI
ALUMNI PROFILE: MICHELLE HARRISON

We interviewed PFMP alumna Michelle Harrison (MFS 2009, media/arts/cultural production), who works as a member of the Economic Affairs Team at the Délegation du Québec à Chicago (Right, working the Quebec reception at the Canadian Private Label Showcase in Chicago last ). We asked Michelle to talk about her work and what the PFMP has meant to her.

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW FOR A LIVING?

I work as the Research Assistant for the Economic Affairs team at the Quebec Government Office in Chicago. My office as a whole represents Quebec in 12 Midwestern states. Our mission is to promote and defend Quebec's interests in the region, which we do through a variety of activities in the cultural, political and economic spheres. My team's mandate is to help Quebec companies do business in the Midwest, whether they are first-time exporters or are looking to build on already existing trade operations.

HOW DID THE PFMP HELP YOU GET THERE?

Through networking, the PFMP helped me find out the job offer for my first position here at the Quebec Government Office in Chicago, which was Administrative assistant to the director of Investissement Québec in Chicago. Also, it was through PFMP coursework and professional internship that I discovered Quebec and developed a passion for it in the first place. I had already spent two years studying, then teaching English in France, but investing in a degree from the PFMP allowed me to polish my language skills and broaden my knowledge of the French-speaking world beyond France. I think this last aspect has been one of the most enriching parts of my professional development.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN PROMOTING QUEBEC IN THE MIDWEST?

Well, as you may guess, we Americans are not well enough acquainted with our neighbor country to the north, much less its provinces and the fact that one of them is French-speaking. Many people I meet have only a vague idea of where and what Quebec is, and some don't know at all. Therefore, just helping put Quebec on the map is often the biggest challenge.

Besides that, many Americans are also unaware that Canada is the United States' most important trade partner, and that Quebec is a North American hub for the life sciences, IT, and the aerospace industry.

And, as someone who has fallen in love with this province, I would say that Quebec is often overlooked as a travel destination, and a close by one at that. I think that its historical charm, cultural richness and cuisine are unequaled in North America, and so many Americans don't know this!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR WORK WILL ACCOMPLISH?

I hope that I can help my team make a difference in nurturing trade between Quebec and the Midwest, particularly through bridging differences in business culture and French-English language barriers.

ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS CONSIDERING THE PFMP?

Keep an open mind and be willing to try new things. The "right" path is rarely linear. Depending on which concentration you choose, you can graduate with your MFS on a pretty open-ended note. But since there are so many different ways to incorporate French into your professional life and for it to be an asset to your career, should it be any other way?

Beyond the Classroom

Selected recent events on campus

SYMPOSIUM: PFMP Quatorze. French-language symposium round table on "L'entre deux langues / cultures dans le monde du travail," with professional translator Ethan Footlik (Paris) and Quebec Economic Affairs team member Michelle Harrison (Chicago), Nouvelle Cour Executive Director Mamadou Gaye (Paris) and filmmaker and KINO’00 co-founder Jéricho Jeudy (Montreal).

Symposium: New Approaches to Postwar Empires in Africa.


In addition to a full schedule of graduate courses, PFMP students attend activities related to their academic work and interests throughout the semester. UW-Madison offers hundreds of talks and events every semester. Most events are free, and the public is welcome.
Current Students & Alumni

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Emily Ostenson (MFS 2013, international education) is an International Relations Manager at IAE-Grenoble in France, where she manages the Master 2 International Manager and off-shore programs in Brazil, China, Indonesia, Iran, and Russia.

Kelley (Swanlund) Patriat (MFS 2013, éducation internationale), contente d’avoir trouvé son “boulot de rêve suite au PFMP,” travaille toujours à Madison English as a Second Language School (MESLS) en tant que conseillère, responsable administrative et coordinatrice d’activités.

Christopher Quinlan (MFS 2003, international development) is now International Program Coordinator at Brigham Young University, working with study abroad programs and international internships all over the world, including France.

Jennifer Dobberfuhl Quinlan (MFS 2004, international education) works as an Instructional Designer at Brigham Young University, developing over 50 online world language courses for high school and university students around the world. The Quinlans live with their three boys in Utah.

Anika Smith (MFS 2009, business) is the Assistant VP of Marketing at Mayberry Investments Limited, a leading Financial Advisory and Brokerage Firm in Kingston, Jamaica. There she heads the marketing department and is responsible for developing and implementing the firm’s marketing strategies and programs, managing communication and advertising campaigns as well as media and public relations.

Sarah Sommerkamp (international development), who will intern this coming fall at the Réseau africain de forêts modèles in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Since graduation, Kate Williams (MFS 2013, international development) has been teaching French both locally and globally. During the summers, Kate leads high schoolers on language learning, adventure travel, and community service trips to France and Martinique through the Colorado-based company, Global Works. In her home town of Chapel Hill, NC, Kate promotes experiential language learning through a private tutoring business offering hands-on language immersion. In addition, Kate has temporarily taken over for her former French teacher at East Chapel Hill High (who is on maternity leave), teaching French II, French III, and French Conversation and Composition.

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Naomi Ziegler (MFS 2003, education) was awarded an International Education Administrator’s Fulbright Scholarship to travel to South Korea for two weeks in June 2014. She will travel with a group of other international education professionals to learn about the country’s higher education system, both in Seoul and other cities. Naomi has served as Assistant Director of Off-Campus Studies at Carleton College in Northfield, MN since 2006.

D’Amour (continued from page 6)

HOW DID THE PFMP HELP YOU GET THERE?

The PFMP gave me a much better understanding of the French language and culture. By studying francophone countries around the world in the course Culture et sociétés dans le monde francophone, I was able to have a deeper knowledge of the language and history of the province when I began working with our dealers in Quebec. The course helped me relate to them much better in my daily job. In addition, my PFMP research was on micro-credit, which made me more employable in my field. The PFMP has also continued my passion for doing extensive development work in Haiti, India and Ecuador. I love working with my Haitian organization in particular, and the Haitian Creole always adds a little spice to the mix!

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR LINE OF WORK RIGHT NOW?

In the beginning, it was definitely an adjustment understanding the Québécois accent. Otherwise, the biggest challenge I face is filling openings when there is a need for a French speaker in our wholesale department. Individuals who have an interest in both finance and French have been difficult to find.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR WORK WILL ACCOMPLISH?

I currently serve on the Global Operations Team working to standardize our CNH Industrial wholesale policies and procedures, in our other regions around the globe. I hope my work will eventually expand with opportunities leading to a larger global position with my current company.

ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS CONSIDERING THE PFMP?

Do it! The PFMP is the perfect program for anyone wanting to improve their French language skills while at the same time gaining real-life work experience in a field YOU choose. The small class sizes allow more individual attention to focus on your areas of interest and assistance for improvement. Be sure to take advantage of all the PFMP has to offer and have fun. I wanted to do my international development internship in Africa… so I did.

Below: Nicole D’Amour (in blue) at the CNH French Lunch Group meeting. At right is PFMP alum Amanda Massopust (MFS 2006, international education), who also works for CNH.
The University of Wisconsin-Madison Professional French Masters Program is an interdisciplinary master’s degree program for college graduates who want to use their French to build careers outside the academic classroom. The PFMP has concentrations in business, French education, international education, European Union affairs, international development and media/arts/cultural production, all culminating in a personalized professional internship abroad and a professional portfolio. We also offer the Capstone Certificate of Professional French Studies, which includes partial master’s coursework and the full internship in all six concentration areas.