



So, I'm a French major...

What now?

*Career Options in French*

*Dr. B. Guenther, ROCS (French)*

*Are you a BGSU alum (undergraduate or graduate)? We would love to add you to our LinkedIn Group: Bowling Green State University French Alums. Contact: [bguenth@bgsu.edu](mailto:bguenth@bgsu.edu).*



# *Why learn French?*

*Is it on the decline? ....*

- *In the last 50 years: # of French speakers has tripled to **175 million***
- *World's 9th language for # of speakers but world's **second international language***
- **33** *Francophone countries in the world*
- *Used in **international institutions** [UN, IMF, EU, Int'l Red Cross, Interpol...]*



## French Major = Versatility

- Foreign Correspondent, Foreign Service Peacekeeper, Peace Corps worker, UNESCO official, Teacher, Professor, Translator, Interpreter, Corporate Lawyer...
- *Other options:* Int'l Consultant, Banking Officer or Int'l Account Manager, Travel Writer, Travel Agent, Customs or Immigration Officer, Court Interpreter...



# BGSU French Alumni/Alumnae

## Where are they now?



- *Business Careers:*  
**Program Director;**  
**Graphic Designer;**  
**Customer Service Team Leader;**  
**Financial Agent;**  
**Sales Director;**  
**Administrative Assistant in Marketing;**  
**Coach for Writers and Artists ...**  
**and also Helicopter Pilot;**  
**Attorney; Writer;**  
**and Assistant Editor at McGraw-Hill**

- *Business and French:*  
**Int'l Customer Service Representative;**  
**Global Consignment Manager;**  
**Bilingual Loan Support;**  
**Intl Sales Manager;**  
**Marketing Analyst**

*Jessica Shelley '92 and  
Irwin Commercial  
Finance (Canada)*





# BGSU French Alumni & Education

- *Teaching Positions*
- --over **fifty recent graduates**
- Includes Assistant Chair in Humanities (Owens); Instruction Librarian; Program Coordinator; Study Abroad Advisor; *tripforteachers.org*
- Gina Johnson '98: *International Baccalauréat*; chaperones month-long stay in France; Toni Theisen accompanies summer homestays, also Co-author of *Bon voyage!*



# French and Graduate School

- 7 recent grads Ph.D candidates (Boston U; Johns Hopkins; Madison-Wisconsin; OSU; Penn State...)
- 2 Travel Grants for doctoral students to France & Geneva, Switzerland
- -Mulhouse, France; English teacher in Japan; M.A. in English at BGSU... and Kevin Kane, BGSU Resident Director in Tours, France [M.A., French & German]







## French and life *à l'étranger*

- Martina Hanulova (2008) recently completed her M.A. in Development at the American Univ, D.C. She has been involved in development aide in Ghana, Liberia, and Burkina-Faso.
- Christine Tomasek-Guillemin (1998), Paris  
-- American University, Associate Registrar [started by teaching English to corporate executives at private language institution]
- Allie Carter, Peace Corps in Burkina-Faso, worked as Health & Community Dev. Volunteer: “*French became a basis to learn the other local languages that were spoken throughout my community.*”

# Preparing for *une carrière bilingue*

- Did you know... that Canada/U.S. trade yields **\$498 billion/year--\$1.4 billion/day-- \$1 million/minute**? Ohio is Canada's second most important trade partner after Michigan. [source: C. Drennen, Administrative Director, CAST/BGSU]
- In 2002 Quebec imported \$83.363 billion and exported \$92.125 billion to and from the U.S.





## *What to do with my Major in French: Websites from Other Universities*

- Virginia Tech/"French, the most practical language":  
<http://www.fl.vt.edu/French/whyfrench.html>
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington/"Why study a foreign language?": <http://www.uncw.edu/fl/about-why.html>
- Ball State University/"Career Options with a Language Major":  
<http://www.bsu.edu/languages/article/0,,40798--,00.html>
- Check out the BGSU French and Francophone LibGuide, Jerome Library for links to French culture, language, and literature:  
<http://libguides.bgsu.edu/content.php?pid=28928&sid=211316>



# Useful Websites

- *Here are some websites (cf. handout):*
- <http://www.un.org>
- <http://www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk/>
- <http://www.internationaljobs.org/>
- <http://www.overseasjobs.com/>
- <http://www.state.gov/aboutstatedepartment/>
- <http://www.firmafrance.com> [link to French Consulate]
- [http://www.mri.gouv.qc.ca/usa/en/chicago/qui\\_sommes\\_nous/index.asp](http://www.mri.gouv.qc.ca/usa/en/chicago/qui_sommes_nous/index.asp) [Quebec Delegation, Chicago]

