

## THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FRENCH PLAY AT WHITTIER COLLEGE

About 190 Francophiles of all ages celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual French Play at Whittier College with "Récital Poétique" performed by Inter-Europe Spectacles as a kickoff event for National French Week 2007.

It was exciting to see that so many came for a poetry reading. The poetry repertoire included seminal poems by Du Bellay, Ronsard, Louise Labé, La Fontaine, Lamartine, Vigny, Musset, Hugo, Baudelaire, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Apollinaire, Tzara, Prévert, Vian, Desnos, Tardieu, and Senghor to name a few. Given how attentive everyone was in the audience, there is no doubt that many teachers prepared their students with pre-attendance activities.

Like previous years for the celebration of National French Week, our audience came from all parts of the larger Los Angeles region. Actor and director Claude Beauclair, who heads Inter-Europe Spectacles, performed brilliantly. His interpretation gave true life to the poetic images and to the words that generations have heard and repeated.

This National French Week event would not have been possible without grants from the AATF and the AATF-Southern California, plus funding from the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures at Whittier College. A small fee of \$4 per person assured that people came after having made their reservations and also covered remaining expenses. These included an honorarium, lodging, food, and photocopies. The event was advertised on the Internet on the Cultural Events page of the Los Angeles French Consulate, the Shannon Center Web site, and my personal Web site. It was also advertised through the Southern California AATF Chapter mailing list. I am thankful to our Theater Manager, for his fine organization and for including every year a French performance on his calendar of events.

Lastly, I am grateful to all the professors, students, and members of the Los Angeles community who return to Whittier College for this annual celebration of National French Week. Our guests' enjoyment and enthusiasm, coupled with all the positive feedback following the show (see below), make me look forward to our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual French Play during French National Week 2008. *Vive la Semaine du Français!*

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