

IAU SPRING TROUBADOUR #4

« La laïcité signifie que dans la société nous sommes définis par notre citoyenneté, et en aucun cas par notre religion. »
"Secularism means that in society we are defined by our citizenship and in no way by our religion."
Abd Al Malik



Chers Etudiants,

Comme beaucoup parmi vous savez déjà, cette semaine nous fêtons le jour de Saint Valentin. Mais est-ce que vous savez quel saint nous fêtons aujourd'hui le 13 février ? Ou quel saint est reconnu le 15 février ? Despite the fact that France's laïcité (secularism) is such a "sacred" national principle, you've surely noticed that most of the year's holidays are Catholic holidays. If you look further, you'll find that every day has a saint associated with it, not just Saint Valentine's Day. Why would a country that so ardently defends its secularism continue to give national recognition to religious holidays? It is also worth noting who these saints are. Should we presume that Saint Valentine was some romantic who wrote love poems and gave candy and flowers to his beloved or is there some other reason Valentine has been canonized? As your semester progresses, you'll have opportunities to take note of some of the origins of traditions that began in Europe, and to perhaps come to terms with some of their inherent contradictions. We'll count on you to take the time to call them into question and perhaps when you depart have a better notion of the complexities of France.

Passez une excellente semaine,
Leigh Smith
Dean

Please note :

Offices have been moved. You can find the Dean's office on the 2nd floor of Manning Hall. Student Services office is still on the Ground floor.

Lecture :

Tuesday, 15 February, 6 :30pm, CEF Main Hall

Traduire La Voix : Textes et Personnages (in French), Professor Audrey Coussy, IAU College

Soirée :

Wednesday, 16 February, 7 :30pm-9 :30pm

Gypsy Jazz and Pizza

A chance to hear some local music and meet French peers.



Wellness Schedule:

Tuesday, February 14 : 8-12 am 5-7 pm

Thursday, February 16 : 9-10 am 2:00-5:00 pm

« A slice of Aix » Group discussion about your cultural experience 3 :30 - 5 :00 pm (sign up in advance)

Meetings are available by drop-in and by appointment :

iauwellness@iaufrance.org

anabelle.martin.aix@free.fr

06 75 00 55 83

Weekend Travel Plans

Students leaving Aix over the weekends should post their travel plans at www.iaustudents.com, click on "Travel Form"

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STAY CONNECTED:



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