Franklin College Switzerland

is pleased to announce the

Fall 2011 Lecture Series

The Fall 2011 Lecture Series offers exciting and diverse topics
coupled with esteemed speakers who will inspire new perspectives
and challenge previously held opinions.

Topics include French immigrants and identity,

Each lecture will take place on a Thursday or Friday evening from 6:30 -7:30 pm
in the Franklin College Auditorium.

After each lecture there will be a small reception for participants
where the audience can meet the speaker and discuss the evening’s topic.

Please join us for the series.
The lectures are free of charge and open to the public.

For updates or changes please check our website: www.fc.edu

For more information on the series or to update your mailing information please contact:
Office of Public Relations, Franklin College Switzerland
Via Ponte Tresa 29, 6924 Sorengo

Consuelo Grieco
Tel: 091 986-3609  Fax: 091 986-3640  Email: cgrieco@fc.edu
Immigration, Integration and Identity: France in the Making

AZOUZ BEGAG
Researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, France), novelist, scholar, and politician in the government of French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin from 2005 to 2007 under the Presidency of Jacques Chirac

For the past 40 years, immigrants have redefined French identity, pointed out the limits of the French Republican model and, more recently, expressed a desire to assert their origins in the face of decades of discrimination. As a child of immigrants, Azouz Begag experienced firsthand what it means to grow up in France and what it takes to go from a shantytown in Lyon to the highest political spheres of power when one is of Algerian descent. In his talk, Mr. Begag examines the past and present conditions of the immigrant population, its role in redefining French identity, the French Republican model with its merits and faults, and the challenges France is up against as she faces her colonial past.

Azouz Begag, as a scholar, has focused his research interests on the immigrant and the city, space and exclusion, assimilation and integration. As a novelist, he is among the writers who spearheaded what came to be known as the “littérature beur” with his first novel, Le Gîte du Chaâba. As a politician, he was the Delegate Minister for Equal Opportunities in the government of French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin from 2005 to 2007. Begag recently published two books on his experience as Delegate Minister, and a few months ago he published “… C’est quand il y en a beaucoup…” (“… It is when there are a lot of them…”). This title is a sentence Begag borrowed from then Minister of the Interior Brice Hortefeux who was expressing his concerns regarding the “vivre ensemble” (living together) of the French nation.
Imagining Pompeii

INGRID ROWLAND
Professor at the Rome campus of the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture, Italy

This lecture will focus on the way Pompeii has captured the imagination of artists and travelers since the seventeenth century (that is, a century before excavation began there in 1748). Professor Rowland will especially emphasize the impact of ancient Roman painting on art from eighteenth-century Neoclassicists to Renoir and Andy Warhol, and the fascination that Vesuvius has held for residents and visitors. Beginning in the eighteenth century, the Grand Tour to Pompeii also stimulated a still-thriving local industry in carved shell cameos, an art form which was inspired by ancient gem carving—not only as seen in surviving carved artifacts from Pompeii itself, but also, importantly, in works in the Neapolitan royal collection: gems in this collection included a set of ancient cameos that had once belonged to Lorenzo de' Medici (and still bear his signature).

Ingrid Rowland, in addition to teaching in Rome, writes for the New York Review of Books, the New Republic, The American Scholar and the like. She got her Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College in Greek Literature and Classical Archaeology. She has written several books, including Giordano Bruno, Philosopher/Heretic (2008), The Scarith of Scornello (2004), From Heaven to Arcadia (2005), and she has translated the Ten Books of Architecture of Vitruvius (1999) and the Heroic Frenzies of Giordano Bruno (in press).
Witnessing, False Witnessing and the Metrics of Authenticity

SIDONIE SMITH
Martha Guernsey Colby Collegiate Professor of English and Women's Studies and Chair of
the English Department at the University of Michigan, U.S.A.

Special lecture on the occasion of Intersections of Law and Culture.

The motivation for this lecture is the eruption of hoaxes, alleged and proven, that attends the contemporary traffic in witness narratives. One possible response is to take the role of cultural police, seeking to prove the veracity of some narratives and the fraudulence of others; another is to re-theorize issues central to testimonial narration. The speaker’s goal is not to focus on whether the truth or falsity of witness narratives can be definitively determined. Rather, she will be interested in complicating the notion of the first-person narrator in testimony and the authenticity that has come to be the guarantor of that subject position. To do so, she will explore how the authenticity of a life story unfolds through certain "metrics" and how different constructions of the narrating “I” in witness narratives relate to the effects of authenticity a text projects as well as the relation of readers to the personal stories of witness. After readings of a few exemplary texts, she will conclude with thoughts on an alternative reading practice to the kind of “rescue” reading often associated with testimonial narratives.

Sidonie Smith’s fields of interest include human rights and personal narrative, women’s autobiography, women’s travel narrative and memory, women’s studies in literature more generally, feminist theory, and postcolonial literatures. She is the author of numerous books and articles, including Writing New Identities: Gender, Nation, and Immigration in Contemporary Europe (co-edited with Gisela Brinker-Gabler, University of Minnesota Press, 1997); Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives, co-written with Julia Watson (University of Minnesota, 2001); Moving Lives: Women’s Twentieth-Century Travel Narratives (University of Minnesota, 2001); Interfaces: Women’s Visual and Performance Autobiography, co-edited with Julia Watson (University of Michigan Press, 2002); Human Rights and Narrated Lives: The Ethics of Recognition, co-written with Kay Schaffer (Palgrave, 2004) and Before They Could Vote: American Women’s Autobiographical Writing 1819-1919, co-edited with Julia Watson (University of Wisconsin Press, 2007).
American anthropologist Margaret Mead said it best: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” The history of environmental activism proves Mead right. In the 50 years since the foundation of WWF incredible progress has been made. The mindset of people and governments around the world has changed. Awareness of environmental challenges was never this high. On the other side, environmental problems themselves were never this acute. Sergio Savoia will talk about the threats and the opportunities facing our modern societies and will try to convince you that you, too, should be a part of that (not so) small group of committed citizens.

Sergio Savoia is the Director of the WWF European Alpine Program, an international organization of WWF that coordinates the conservation work of WWF Austria, WWF Switzerland, WWF Italy and WWF France in the Alps. A journalist and author, he worked for the Swiss Radio and Television Company (SRG-SSR) for 17 years. Mr. Savoia, who is the President of the “Verdi del Ticino” (Green Party), is currently working on a new book about environmental challenges and opportunities.