VIRGIL PAUL BENOIT

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ACADEMIC DEGREES

Ph.D. University of Minnesota (1971). Specialty in 17th century French literature.
Thesis: "Form and Meaning in the Plays of Jean Rotrou"
Thesis director: Armand Renaud, Ph.D., Yale University

M.A. University of Arkansas (1967)

B.S. University of North Dakota (1965)

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS AND COURSE LOAD SINCE 1990-PRESENT

1990 – Present Associate Professor of French, Department of Modern and Classical languages, University of North Dakota

1987 – 1990 Assistant Professor of French, Department of Modern and Classical languages, University of North Dakota

1978 – 1987 Visiting Assistant Professor of French, Department of Modern and Classical languages, University of North Dakota

1974 – 1978 Assistant Professor of French-Canadian literature, Division of Canadian Area Studies, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Vermont

1971 – 1974 Assistant Professor of French Literature at Colgate University and originator and director of French Canada Studies, Colgate University

Specialty: French heritage in North America

TRADITIONAL COURSES TAUGHT

French language courses at all levels

Survey of the literature of France
At undergraduate and graduate levels

Civilization and Culture of France

16th and 17th century French literature

Survey of the literature of Quebec
At undergraduate and graduate levels

French Society and Culture of Manitoba
At undergraduate and graduate levels

Introduction to Quebec society

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES, FIELD TRIPS, STUDY TOURS, MANUALS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, AND RESEARCH IN TEACHING

Study tour for three (3) UND students with home stay and apprenticeships at Saint-Laurent, Manitoba, 2007-

Two field trips annually to French Manitoba for students and non-students of the area, 1990-present

Le français en route, a manual to learn French while on the annual field trip to le Festival du voyageur in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2007-

Manual for Students of Second Year Level Language Skills and above: Leçons de français sur le Manitoba francophone et Saint-Boniface, 12 pages, Funded by OID, UND 2005

Director of pilot project in teaching, "Community Resources in the French Classroom," Spring 2005

"Need to know: French for Indian Studies," Course in the Indian Studies Department, UND, Fall 2005

"From Genealogy to Culture," Campbell Library, EGF, MN. Minnkota Genealogical Society, September 17, 2005

Presentation at Stump Lake entitled, "Hidden History: the Bellifontaine-Tronson Case," July 19,2005

"Assessing French-Canadian Culture in the Red River Valley,"
AFRAN annual Chautauqua August 27, 2005

"The Valley and you," U.S. and Canadian Red River Valley Teachers, July 14, 03, Walhalla, North Dakota

"History of the French Presence in the Red River Valley." A one-week series of classes given each year from 1988 to 1990 in the Minnesota Elderhostel program, Crookston, Minnesota

Seminars in Winnipeg for students and teachers of French with readings, correspondence, and immersion weekend, University of North Dakota, 1996-1998

Scholar in residence at Bemidji State University, March 11-15, 1991. Seminar entitled "French in the New World" for Canadian Studies students

Weekend seminar to Laval University students of cultural geography, 1982

Director of summer program in Quebec for teachers and students, University of Vermont, 1976-1978

Workshop on the teaching of French-Canadian literature and culture, ACTFL Denver, 1974

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS, INVITED PRESENTATIONS, CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, FIELD WORK/RESEARCH

"De Minomin à La rivière La Folle à Folle avoine à Riceville à Wild Rice au Dakota du Nord » , chapter in *La Franco-Amérique,* Septentrion, Quebec, 2007 (Fall, 2007)

"Burdens of Civilization", North Dakota Historical Society, Fort Abercombie, June 22, 23, 2007

"Charles Morin: A Cultural Reading", University of Southern Maine, Lewiston Auburn College, April 2, 2007

"Amérique du Nord: Etats-Unis" in *L'année francophone internationnale, page 144 Editions* CIDEF-AFI, Québec, 2007.

"Revisiting the Scene: A Downed Airman in a French Village", Faculty Lecture Series, University of North Dakota, March 7, 2006

Chester Fritz Library IFMidwest initiative to build a special collection of documents, books and family papers to assist research at UND on Quebec heritage in the Midwest, 2006-present

Conducted over fifty (50) oral history interviews with informants on Quebec heritage in North Dakota according to research criteria set out by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) 1985-

« Jeu de cartes franco-américain », *L'Année francophone internationale 2006*, Québec, Centre international de documentation et d'échange de la Francophonie (CIDEF) 2006, no 15, pp. 337-338

"Mémoires et pratiques quotidiennes dans le maintien de l'identité métisse sur la réserve de Belcourt au Dakota du Nord » Colloque Gabriel Dumont : Histoire et identité métisse, Saint-Boniface du 21 au 23 septembre 2006

« Idéologies et résistances dans la vallée de la rivière Rouge » , Résistances et Convergences, Stratégies identitaires des francophones et des Métis de l'Ouest canadien, Institut français, University of Regina du 20-23 Octobre 2005

IFMidwest website, www.ifmidwest.org an on-going research system created to inform about French-Canadian heritage in the Midwest and to promote the gathering of information and collaboration among regional and international researchers, October, 2004-

Initiatives in French/IFMidwest, an interactivie public project on French-Canadian heritage in North Dakota, October, 2004-

"The Relevant and the Exceptional, or the Quest to teach & Learn more effectively," Foreign Language Association of the Red River Valley, April 16, 2005

« Bellifontaine 1944: The Story of a North Dakotan Evader in occupied France," North Dakota Historical Society, Pembina, ND May 30, 2005

"Bottineau and Platters of Towns in Mid-nineteenth Century Minnesota," *Small Town Symposium*, University of Minnesota, Morris, June 7, 2005

"A World of Difference: Teaching with a Community Resource Person," The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching & Learning. Bloomington, MN, November 18-19, 2005

"Etats-Unis-Midwest" in *l'Année francophone internationale*, page 120, Editions CIDEF-AFI, Quebec, 2005 (The only project in the Midwest listed.)

"Traditional Values and Contemporary Perspectives," Key-note speaker at workshop for Central States Teachers of French, Central States Conference, March 6, 2003, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Robert Papen and Virgil Benoit, "Un parler français méconnu: le cas de Red Lake Falls, Minnesota," Colloque sur le français aux Etats-Unis, 22-24 avril 2003 Indiana University, Bloomington

"Témoin de ce qu'ils furent aux entours de Red Lake Falls, colonie d'origine canadienne-française dans le nord-ouest du Minnesota," dans Vision et visages de la Franco-Amérique, Sillery (Québec), Les Editions du Septentrion, 2001, p. 189-207

History-Alive presentations for North Dakota Historical Society at Gingras Historic post, Pembina State Museum, Fort Abercrombie, Bismarck History Center. 1994 -2001, 120 presentations

Les Français d'Amérique/French in America. (A cultural calendar of the French presence in North America) 1985-2000, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Co-producer

"A Workshop on the Teaching of French and Social Studies in Minnesota," at the Minnesota Humanities Education Center, November 2000

Le Plan stratégique qui a transformé La Bretagne…1950-1980. Red River Reports, a Red River Trade Corridor Development Project financed by a USDA/CSRS NRICGP Agreement, 1994

The Plan that Transformed Brittany, France. See above. A social history of agriculture in Brittany from 1950-1980

"Charles Morin, Charpentier itinérant dans l'Ouest canadien," Les Actes du Xe colloque du Centre d'Etudes franco-canadiennes de l'Ouest, vol. 10, pages 113-119, 1991

"Une terre francophone: la vallée de la rivière Rouge (Minnesota, Dakota du Nord)," dans Assises de la Francophonie Américaine, Paris, 1990, p. 54-55

"Best of Minnesota", The Minnesota featured presentation, Central States Conference AATF/The American Association of Teachers of French, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 16, 1990.

"Un ouvrier itinérant canadien...et son ambition personnelle" Conseil International d'Etudes francophones, Martinique, April 26, 1990

"Charles Morin, born Québécois," La Société Canadienne-française du Minnesota, May 7, 1990

"Un ouvrier canadien se découvre," Etudes Canadiennes-françaises, CEFCO University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada October 13, 1990

History-Alive presentations for North Dakota Centennial Chautauqua, "Pierre Bottineau," 1989, six presentations

"Sounds of the Turtle Mountains," a video on the Michif language, co-produced with John Crawford, UND OID funding, 1989

"La Présence franco-américaine dans le Midwest des Etats-Unis," dans Etudes de Linguistique Appliquée, Paris, Didier Erudition, avril-juin 1988, p. 35-41

Property, Language and Culture in the French-Canadian Community of Polk County in the 1880s," Canadian Studies International Conference at Bemidji State University, April 1987

"Contact and Consequence: An Introduction to over 300 Years of French Presence in the Northwest," Chapter, in l'Héritage Tranquille: The Quiet Heritage. Editor, Clarence A. Glasrud, Concordia College, 1987, pp.22-28

"French Presence in the Red River Valley Part I: A History of the Métis to 1870," Chapter in l'Héritage Tranquille: The Quiet Heritage. See above pp. 116-133

"Speaking of Identity: Language and Folk life Among Minnesota's French Canadians," 137th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, 1986

"From Home the Red River Flows North," Franco-American and Quebec Heritage Series, SUNY at Albany, 1985

"Une Histoire des Métis Jusqu'en 1870," 25th Annual Congress of International Geographers, Paris, France, 1984

Kamouraska and the United States: A Study of the Role of History and Geography in the Creation of a French-Canadian Novel," Papers Presented at Meetings of FLARR 1979-1980, E.H. Lesér, ed. University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, 1981, p. 34-47

"La littérature québécoise dans son contexte nord-américain," SUNY at Plattsburgh, 1977

"Quebec Today," 30-minute televised interview on Vermont Report, 1977.

"Myth vs. Reality in the Teaching of French-Canadian Culture," New England Modern Language Association, 1976

"The French-Canadian Presence in the Northwest and the very early Beginnings of Red Lake Falls and Red Lake County," in Anne Healy and Sherry Kankel (ed.), A History of Red Lake County, Dallas, Texas, 1976, p. 5-8

"Gentilly: A French-Canadian Community in the Minnesota Red River Valley," Minnesota History, winter, 1975, p. 278-287

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARLY AWARDS

Grant awarded to research cultural history of Bellifontaine, France 1944. Office of Research & Program Development, an Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences grant. April, 2005-2006

Grant awarded to write a manual on French Manitoba. UND Office of Instructional Development, Completed June 3, 2005

Grant awarded from the Center for Community Engagement, UND, "Assessment of a French-Michif Project in North Dakota, 11/04/07/05

Director of award from University of North Dakota Instructional Development for "Francophone Culture Survey." Spring, 1992

Award from "Writing across the Curriculum" to research new course entitled "Psychology in French," 1992

Award from the Office of Research Development (UND) to give a paper in Martinique, 1990

Minnesota Humanities Commission Grant from 1987-1990 to research and present public humanities programs on French-Canadians of Minnesota and Red Lake Ojibwa

NEH Summer Institute award at the Newberry Library on French and Native American encounters in the New World, Chicago, 1988

Grant awarded by the Minnesota Humanities Commission for a Conference on Cultural Heritage and Community Responsibility, Red Lake Falls, 1986

University of North Dakota Faculty Enrichment grant to research narrative patterns among persons of Quebec and Métis descent in Northwestern Minnesota and Northeastern North Dakota, 1985

University of North Dakota Instructional Improvement grant to initiate the Manitoba-UND Exchange Program, 1985

University of Vermont faculty instructional award to develop teaching aids, Burlington, 1976

A bi-centennial award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for summer research in Quebec, 1976

TALKS, INTERVIEWS, WORKSHOPS, HISTORY-ALIVE, CREATIVE PRESENTATIONS/PERFORMANCES, CONSULTANTSHIPS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"Episodes de la vie d'Antoine Gingras", Museum L-A, Lewiston, Maine, April 2, 2007.

"Quebec Heritage in North Dakota", Association of Retired Teachers, Grand Forks, February 20, 2007

"News from old Saint Joseph", National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Annual Meeting, Grand Forks, April 3, 2007

"Horses and Buffalo on the Plains", Regional Boy Scouts' annual rendez-vous, Thief River Falls, MN April 12, 2007

"Sixty Years of Friendship between a North Dakota Airman Downed in 1944 and the People of Bellifontaine, France", Meeting of Fargo-Moorhead Francophones, Moorhead, MN May 21, 2007

"French-Canadian Homesteading in Northeastern North Dakota", Speaker and Moderator of Panel at Historical Exhibit, Heritage Center, Icelandic Park, Cavelier, ND June 17, 2007

Quebec History and Heritage Exhibit at Icelandic State Park, with Quebec heritage community of Northeastern North Dakota, May, June, July 2007

Convener and co-chair of Canadian Area Studies planning committee to establish a Canadian Studies minor at UND, 2005-present

"La Quête" for CBC television. I portrayed Antoine Gingras in popular French-Canadian television show aired across Canada in March, 2007. CD of show available. [My role was filmed at historic Gingras site in Walhalla and in Pembina in 2006]

Chair of university-wide Canadian Experience Task Force with mandate from the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, 2006-2007

Member from Arts and Sciences on the search committee to hire a Vice-President for Continuing Education, 2006-

Member Senate Continuing Education Committee, 2005-

« Bellifontaine-Tronson: The Story of a North Dakota Evader in Occupied France, » April 20-05, UND

Director UND-Quebec universities reciprocal exchange programs, 1984-present

Founding president of l'Association des Français du Nord, an educational public organization to inform on the French presence in Minnesota and North Dakota, 1983-present

"Québec Today," Intercultural classes at Bemidji State University, January 22, 1992

"When Worlds Meet," Concordia College Communiversity commencement address, February 2, 1992

Opening remarks and master of ceremony for "Connections: Building International Linkages through History and Culture," Red River Trade Corridor Conference, May 7, 1992

Panelist for "Building Cultural Linkages," Red River Trade Corridor Conference, May 8, 1992

Advisory Panel Member to the Minnesota State Arts Board, 1989-1992

"Cultural Change, the Case of the Bottineau Era," Friends of the Library, Crookston, October 27, 1991

Consultant to Otter Tail County Historical Society, November, 1991

"Coming Home: the Role of the County Museum." Polk County Historical Society Annual Meeting, November 6, 1991

"French History in the Red River Valley," St. Boniface French and Immersion Schools, February 15 and 16, 1990

"French Culture in North Dakota," Icelandic State Park, June 1990

"French Presence on the Minnesota Prairies," Buffalo River State Park, August 1990

"Western History and Midwestern French," Annual meeting of the Hibbing Historical Society, May 1987

Sole consultant to Antenne 2, international television network, to produce two features on the French presence in Minnesota and North Dakota, 1987

CBC Interview on the French presence in Minnesota and North Dakota, 1986

Founding and current president of the Association of the French of the North/AFRAN for the sponsorship of educational public programs in the humanities disciplines, 1982-present

Main consultant and planner to Concordia College for first major conference on French presence in the Midwest, Minneapolis, 1986-present

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, HONORABLE MENTIONS AND CITATIONS (2006-07)

Numerous newspaper articles on my work throughout the region like the following. "Local Members of IFMidwest agree to hold conference at TMCC", Turtle Mountain Times, June 18, 2007

Albert Valdman, "Vernacular French Communities in the United States: A General Survey" in *The French Review*, Vol. 80, No. 6, May 2007, p. 1223, 1232

Jean Lamarre, "La présence des Canadiens français dans le Midwest américain, 1860-1930 : une évaluation » in *De Québec à l'Amérique française : Histoire et mémoire,* Presses de l'Université Laval, *2006, p. 297*

Eric Waddell, « De l'Amérique française à la Franco-amérique : La contribution des géographes » in *De Québec à l'Amérique française : Histoire et mémoire,* Presses de l'Université Laval, *2006,* p. 233

Robert A. Papen, « Les parlers français oubliés d'Amérique : le franco-minnesotain et franco-dakotain », in *Les variétés de français en Amérique du Nord, 2006,* Revue canadienne de linguistique appliquée/Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics, Ottawa, pp. 123, 156, 158, 170

Recipient of the *Minnesota French language teacher of the year award* from the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Minnesota Chapter 1999-2000

Recipient of the *Red River Valley Educator Award*, 1994 (Red River Valley Heritage Society, Moorhead, Minnesota)

Recipient of the *Minnesota language teacher of the year award* from the Minnesota Humanities Commission, 1990

Recipient of the *Roland Dille Award* from the Minnesota Humanities Commission for outstanding community service, 1990

Recipient of *Les Palmes académiques*, recognition from the French government for service to French culture, 1989

Recipient of the medal from *le Conseil de la Vie française en Amérique*. One of the 37 persons to receive the award during the 1987 Francophone Summit

Recipient of the medal of the *Ordre des francophones d'Amérique*, Quebec, 1985

Interview requested by Leonard Inskip, Associate Editor for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, November 17, 1985, entitled "Minnesotans Learn about State's Rich, But Quiet French Heritage," distributed at the Annual Meeting of Teachers of Foreign Languages in New York, 1985

Appointed to the Vermont French Cultural Commission, 1976

Fellow for the center for Research on Vermont, 1976 –

Projected activities 2007-

Teaching and research in teaching:

- Continued development of student field trip and study tour activities to internationalize UND student outlook through strategies in line with UNESCO's goals to educate in a multicultural world

Research and creative activity in French-Canadian cultural studies:

- Prepare regional and international presentations and publications on French-Canadian heritage in the Midwest
- Update the IFMidwest website (www.ifmidwest.org) to reflect my latest theories and field work on French-Canadian heritage in the Midwest
- Collaborate to create exhibits to inform on French-Canadian and heritage theory
- Mentor heritage projects in communities across the region
- Oversse the development of the Special Collection in the Chester Fritz Library on French-Canadian heritage in the Midwest

Service:

- Assist the French section to update and bring a contemporary-minded focus to its curriculum
- Develop a Canadian Studies program at UND
- Assist where needed on committees at both the university and department levels
- Collaborate with communities and agencies in sponsoring humanities programs
- Inform through public talks and collaborative initiatives how heritage, humanities activities, and civic action can give us richer lives both individually and at community levels