

Nouvelles de Saint-Lô



In November, members of **St-Lô 44 / Roanoke** (Georges Salliot, Claude Pillet, Françoise Pierre, Charline Mouchel, Florence Gazengel and Jeanine Vérove in photo at left) gathered apples from their sister city tree at a communal association orchard. Besides turning the apples into cider, they enjoyed apple pastries, learned how to graft a tree and watched cooking demonstrations. Our Roanoke delegation will have the pleasure of tasting the cider in June!

Anciens stagiaires (Former interns)



Clémence Dubos announces the birth of her daughter, **Pimprenelle**, on Jan. 11, 2009. Upon arrival, the baby girl was 19 inches and weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces.

Clémence did two 10-week summer internships in Roanoke, staying with Larry and Regina Rackow and family both times. When the Rackows

were last in St. Lô, they stayed with Clémence's parents. She had degrees in food science from France and England. But after having difficulty getting a good job in that field in France, she went back to school to become a teacher. Clémence, her partner, Mickaël, and baby Pimprenelle are all doing well.



Joyeux Noël: On Dec. 14, the residents of Saint-Lô celebrated the coming of Christmas with the Parade du Père Noël. Included was a musical group disguised as snowmen (**bonhommes de neige**) who distributed candy to "enfants sages." Père Noël arrived at Place Général de Gaulle and warm wine was offered by City Hall!

Quoi de neuf à Hollins University



Professor **Annette Sampon-Nicholas** has been named Knight of the Order of Academic Palms (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques) by France's Ministry of National Education for her exceptional record of teaching, publication, and promotion of

French culture through a multitude of activities. The award was originally established in 1808 by Napoleon Bonaparte to honor eminent members of the University of Paris. Nominees are presented to the prime minister of France, who, if she or he is in agreement, issues an official proclamation designating the recipients.

Sampon-Nicholas (Diplome Supérieur de Français, Université de Lille; B.S., M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison) is Elisabeth Lineberger Ramberg Professor of French. She has been at Hollins since 1985. Her areas of specialization are 20th-century French and Francophone literature and contemporary poetry.

Savez-vous que ...

■ A Franco-American Memorial Hospital was built in Saint-Lô after World War II. As partial reparations for the destruction of the city, America established the largest hospital in Europe at that time. The hospital was decorated with a big mosaic by Fernand Léger (1881-1955), celebrating the Allies' friendship.

■ France's traditional cafes and bars have been hit by changing attitudes, habits (such as a smoking ban) and now a poor economic climate. In 1960, France had 200,000 cafes, said Bernard Quartier, president of the National Federation of Cafes, Brasseries and Discotheques. Now it has fewer than 41,500, with an average of two closing every day.

— *The New York Times*