

For Immediate Release

Ethnology Professor to Speak on Intercultural Dialogue in Canada

Dominique Sarny will give a free lecture on April 24, 2013

The Center for Louisiana Studies and the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are pleased to host Dominique Sarny, professor and ethnologist at the University of Regina, Canada, for "Dialogue interculturel et développement communautaire : l'expérience des Francophones et des Métis de l'ouest canadien" ("Intercultural Dialogue and Community development: The Experience of Francophones and the Métis of Western Canada). In 2005, Professor Sarny and others began hosting round tables between the Fransaskois and the Métis of Saskatchewan. It is an undertaking of reconciliation and emancipation unique to Canada on behalf of two founding nations that can serve as a model to other communities in the Americas that wish to be brought closer together.

The Francophones and the Métis of Western Canada share a common historical, cultural and linguistic heritage as founding peoples. Since 1885, these two nations have had no direct contact, and their increasing marginalization as minority groups contributes to the loss of their respective identities and to assimilation. Framed in a rigorous methodology, the participants at the round table learn to become aware and profit together from a necessary convergence of identity and community development perspectives, as well as an active citizenship.

This round table model is suggested for consideration by researchers and community participants in Louisiana, in a rich context of intermarriage of cultures (Cajun, Creole and Native American) who share a language and traditional cultural practices (music, songs, stories, etc.). This will allow for the sharing of results stemming from this experience, and to discuss a possible adaptation to this model to Louisiana's reality in the context of an inclusive and united Francophonie, and the necessity to invent new forms of cooperation.

This lecture will be held in the Griffin Hall Auditorium on the UL Lafayette campus, 141 Rex Street, room 147, Lafayette, LA at 3:30pm on Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

The Acadiana community is invited to attend this free lecture *en français* co-hosted by the Center for Louisiana Studies and the UL Lafayette Department of Modern Languages and sponsored by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and Le centre de la Francophonie des Amériques. For more information about this event, please contact the Center for Louisiana Studies Programming Division at 337.482.1320.

