

# **Technology Fellowship Project Final Report (summer 2005)**

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## **Title: Documentary on the Life of Joan of Arc: DVD in French for use in French Classes**

The 50-minute DVD on the life of Jeanne d'Arc was filmed in 2004 and edited in the summer of 2005. Editing and storage equipment were purchased thanks to the Technology Fellowship Grant offered by ACS. In August 2005 an email was sent out to every faculty member who teaches French in ACS schools, offering to send a copy of the DVD and study materials. There were 14 requests for these materials. They were sent out in early September. In addition, copies of the DVD and study materials were sent to ACS for their archives.

### **Study Materials**

The Study Materials (in French) included with the DVD contain:

- Outline of scenes on the DVD
- Quotations from famous people about Jeanne d'Arc
- An example of a syllabus for an intermediate French course focused on Jeanne d'Arc
- Discussion Questions to use after viewing the DVD
- The text of the Mayor of Orléans on the occasion of the 575th anniversary of the liberation of Orléans. (The DVD also includes the full video recording of the speech as an extra at the end of the DVD.)

### **Suggestions for use of these materials**

The **DVD** can be used with or without the study materials. It includes recordings of actual statements of Jeanne d'Arc related to the sites shown on the DVD. A good portion of the DVD is devoted to the Son et Lumières fête johannique in Orléans. This DVD can be shown during class (it is 50 minutes long) or it can be assigned as homework. It can also be used for a student who is doing an independent project on Joan of Arc. Since the DVD is divided into scenes, instructors may select one or two scenes from the whole to add visual interest to their classes when speaking about Jeanne d'Arc.

The **Study Materials** include suggestions for various class activities. For instance, a famous quotation could be assigned to each student to present oral comments or to write an essay in French. Various ideas from the syllabus can be tailored to different levels of French courses. The discussion questions are simple enough for intermediate classes, but contain enough issues that would remain interesting to more advanced classes. The

Mayor's speech is beautiful and his French is eloquent. I use it for pronunciation practice and exercises with my students.

### **Technical Information**

I am not a tech-savvy person. I am a humanities person. If I can do this, anyone can. The new cameras are easy to use. I used a Sony Digital Handycam. I took about ten hours of footage and edited down to 50 minutes. The hardest and most time-consuming part was the editing. (Although filming the Son et Lumière in pouring rain comes in as a close second.) I had never done any editing before, and using Final Cut Pro was difficult. I kept going to help menus, because the manuals were a foot thick and confusing. I worked non-stop on the editing for about six weeks in the summer and used some simpler editing tools like iMovie as well. However to make the final DVD I had to learn how to set up DVD menus, and that was a major challenge. Our IT person at Centre, Keeta Martin, came to my rescue several times. I wasn't used to even playing DVD's much less making menus for them. The other technical hurdle was getting enough storage for video which takes up major GB's. Thanks to the grant I was able to purchase a LaCie 500 GB storage device to deal with this problem. In the DVD I also used still photos and learned how to do the Ken Burns effect. That part was relatively easy.

### **Assessment**

The students in my classes have given me very positive evaluations on the DVD. They especially liked:

- the scenes from Domrémy
- the sound and light show in Orléans
- the voice overs with French text
- the fact that the French was simple enough for them to understand

The reactions of others who have received the DVD have been very positive. Although I have received no feedback from colleagues at ACS schools, I have received many positive comments from people I sent the DVD to. I sent the DVD to about twenty people who are especially interested in Joan of Arc. Among them is Dr. Ellen Campbell, professor emerita at Marymount College. She has taught courses on Joan of Arc as well and was delighted to receive the DVD and commented on how informative it was.

10/24/05