Dear F&M Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

We look forward to welcoming you on this unique trip to France to explore the role of the United States and Franklin & Marshall College students and alumni in the last century’s two world wars. We are especially excited to pay tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of F&M soldiers. As professors of United States history, European history, and French language and literature, we want to share with you our insights into these historic events and the interwar culture of American expatriates in Paris.

The connections between F&M and the French battlefields of the two world wars are documented in historical records, and they hold special significance for the three of us. The idea for this trip came about over the course of the 2018-2019 academic year. Amélie Corsiez, a French researcher, learned of Professor Stevenson’s work on F&M students and alums who fought in France during World War I. This discovery resulted in an exchange of emails between the two which soon expanded to include Professors Landfried and Mitchell who were spending the year on sabbatical in Paris. By April, they had arranged to spend a day in Château-Thierry with Monsieur and Madame Guttinger, the curators of the American Reformed Church, which features on its altar a vase and cross dedicated to the F&M soldiers who died on nearby battlefields. The warm welcome they received as the Guttingers ushered them from the church to area battle sites, cemeteries, and monuments quickly persuaded them to find a way to share these treasures with the greater F&M family.

We have designed an itinerary (see attached brochure) that takes us on an exploration of the wonders of France alongside the history of American combat in the twentieth-century world wars. After the United States entered World War I for its final eighteen months of combat, American troops, including F&M students and graduates, fought with Allied soldiers on the Western Front. Benefiting from Louise Stevenson’s research and teaching expertise, we visit several of these battle sites and memorials to the members of the American Expeditionary Forces, including the American Cemeteries at Oise-Aisne and Aisne-Marne. We also tour Château-Thierry and Belleau Wood, where monuments commemorate American soldiers who died defending Paris against the German army’s advance.

The second leg of the trip centers on Paris. Carrie Landfried was an American expat in Paris herself long before she became interested in the lives of the famous writers and artists who comprised the so-called “Lost Generation.” She first developed a course on depictions of Paris
in American expat writing for a study abroad program in the early 2000s, which she later adapted to F&M’s Connections curriculum for first-year students. Every time she returns to Paris, she revisits the neighborhoods dear to Josephine Baker, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and myriad other artists who were inspired to create and perform in the City of Light. She is eager to do so once again in the company of F&M friends and family.

Departing from Paris, we journey to the Normandy beaches, where United States troops fought their way into France in 1944. Paratrooper Dick Winters (F&M Class of ’41) played a crucial role that gained international notice when Steven Spielberg’s mini-series *Band of Brothers* featured the Company under Winters’ command. On the anniversary of D-Day, we will visit Major Winters’ memorial and the beach of Arromanches. As Director of the F&M in Paris program in 2014, Maria Mitchell accompanied F&M students to the beaches of Normandy. Drawing on her teaching and scholarship on European experiences in the Second World War, she helped contextualize the role of the United States in this signal moment in the war. She looks forward to sharing her insights with the F&M friends and family.

These ten days in France offer you an opportunity to increase your knowledge of French history and culture as well as of American involvement in the world wars. As friends and alumni of Franklin & Marshall College you will discover that the College has had an impact that extends around the globe, in this case to the battlefields of France. You will also delight in some of the best of French tourism, from the Champagne region to the delights of Paris and the tapestry of Bayeux. Last and certainly not least, there are fine French meals and wines to enjoy!

We hope you will join us on this unique F&M program to France!

Carrie Landfried  
Associate Professor of French & Francophone Studies

Maria Mitchell  
Professor of History

Louise L. Stevenson  
Professor of History and American Studies