

Bonne rentrée à toutes et à tous...

. . . in this RAE and TQA year. Research is particularly high on everyone's agenda at present, and AFLS is trying to contribute, with our sister associations, to shaping the future directions of research in French Studies. The submissions that the Association made about the nature of research in Language seemed to be sympathetically received. On the debit side, however, is the very minimal representation of Language Studies specialists on the panels, so that our hard pressed Linguist and Applied Linguist colleagues will have to range over a very wide area. Despite the substantial increase in AFLS membership, Language Studies are still a minority interest in very many departments. It is up to all of us to act as catalysts for change by pressing for appointments to be made in this area, and by strongly defending the research element that is in our work, so that imbalances in staffing and research funding can be reversed. There is, of course, good postgraduate work going on: we have two postgrads now on the committee, who will organise a postgraduate conference next Spring. For the annual conference, after our enjoyable and not uneventful meeting this year in Paris, we look forward to going next year to Glasgow, where we shall hope to bring Applied Linguistic theory and practice together. The following year we shall be in France: whether in Montpellier or Toulouse will be decided shortly, In the meantime, we shall try to get more precise prices for Québec, to see whether it is a runner for 1998. Meanwhile, back to the present, for which — *bon courage!*

Carol Sanders

The AFLS bursary 1995-6 has been awarded to Ms Karen Trusting of the University of Lancaster to work on an MA in Linguistics, leading to doctoral work in French Language. Congratulations, Karen, and best wishes to all those who applied.
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