



LES GENS DE BERKELEY

The French Eyes of Berkeley Alumni

#4

Winter 2012

Original photograph by Bertrand Jeanpierre





Edito



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As another cloud passes...

The leaves have turned brown, the days are shorter and as such *Les Gens de Berkeley* has pulled on a warmer jumper and moved closer to the fire before taking to our collective keyboards.

With the political season in America over and New York recovering from the effects of hurricane Sandy, our *Bear Light* pages take the opportunity to speak with Julien Rathle, a French architect and Berkeley alumnus specializing in economically and environmentally efficient buildings. With energy policy a political playground and the seemingly undeniable effects of climate change now hitting home, can individual visions of the future provide us with a solution?

Vox Berkeley explores the experiences and perceptions of two French students, one in his third year at UCB and another just starting, and sees how the

public image of California and the collegiate reputation of UCB has informed their opinions and hopes for the future.

Previous *Les Gens de Berkeley* guest David Downie makes a welcome return, sharing his charming insights into quintessentially Parisian eating establishments as well as recommendations for almost any occasion.

Les Gens also meets with UCB professor of comparative literature Timothy Hampton in our new feature *Meet The Faculty*. Timothy explains his ongoing fascination with jazz, France and the dialogue between disciplines.

Before we leave for another edition, the *Events* pages has a round up of the Blue and Gold happenings of note.

Les Gens wishes you all a warm and happy winter.

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By Al McEwan

Editor / Designer

Bearlight



GDB : Why did you choose to study at UC Berkeley?

After a successful experience in France, I decided to master advanced green building technologies and environmental design strategies. As a DPLG architect, I have a 10-year experience in architecture projects ranging from residential renovation to urban design. In 2004, I was awarded the "Prix des Nouveaux Albums de la Jeune Architecture" by the French Minister of Culture, I had the privilege to have my graduation project (an individual house) exhibited at *Pavillon de l'Arsenal* in Paris, *Cité de l'Architecture* and *Arcs en Rêve*.

Later on, I felt the need to expand my horizon. I was convinced by Professor of

Interview with Julien Rathle...Bright Lights, Artificial Skies

Julien Rathle is a graduate of the Centre for Environmental Design at UC Berkeley, Grands Prix de l'Innovation de la Ville de Paris nominee and specialist in environmental design and building energy efficiency at Air Design Lab. *Les Gens de Berkeley* talked to him about the Department of Architecture, the dialogue between the French Beaux-Arts and Californian architecture and his newly constructed artificial sky.

Architecture and lighting expert Susan Ubbelohde at a Passive and Low Energy Conference in Geneva to do it at Berkeley's Centre for Environmental Design. In 2008, I was admitted at UC Berkeley with access to the building sciences lab that was part of the Department of Architecture.

related" and that any modern building expert should think at once as an architect, an engineer, a facilities manager, and an owner. I was amazed by the quality of the facilities and the researchers I met there.

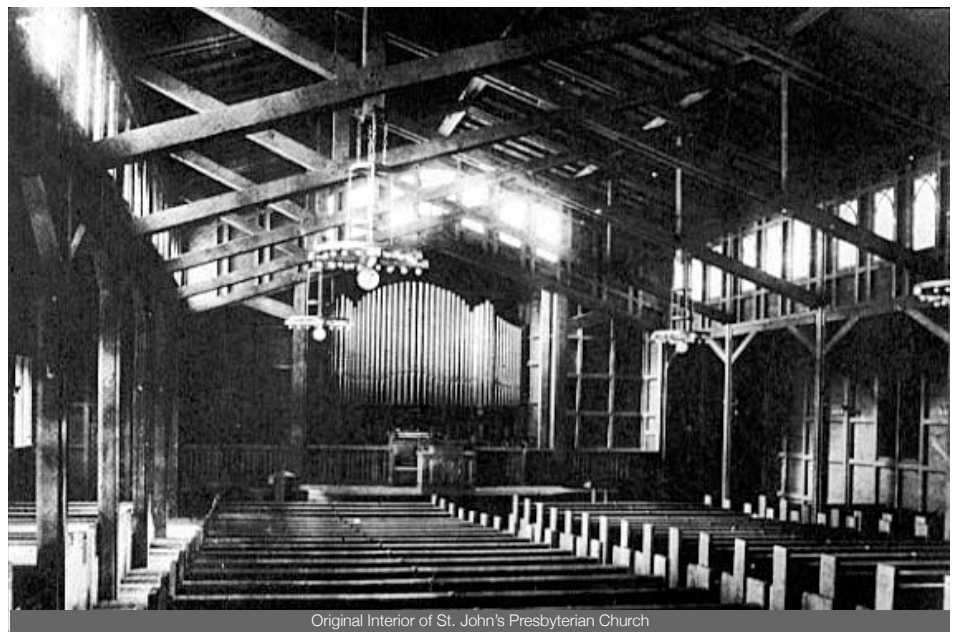
GDB : How much influence has French architecture had on Californian Architecture?

“Any modern building expert should think at once as an architect, an engineer, a facilities manager, and an owner.”

UC Berkeley Department of Architecture has been influenced directly by *Ecole des Beaux-Arts*. It started at the end of the 19th century with American architect Bernard Maybeck. He studied at *Ecole des Beaux Arts* in Paris and became a professor of engineering drawing at University of California, Berkeley in 1892. Known for having constructed the San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts, he pioneered a new type of construction on the University campus and on the Berkeley hills, introducing unconventional outside leaving. Bernard Maybeck soon became the inspiration for many American architects.

GDB : What makes studying at the UCB School of Architecture unique?

Studying in the *Atelier Marot* at *Ecole Nationale d'Architecture de Paris La Seine*, I was taught the *Ecole des Beaux Arts* principles. At the Centre for Environmental Design, you are taught that "energy-use patterns and environmental quality are



Original Interior of St. John's Presbyterian Church



Doe Library Interior

American engineer and architect Julia Morgan was one of them. With Maybeck's blessing, she applied to *École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts*, where she became the first woman to graduate with a degree in architecture. A UC Berkeley graduate in civil engineering, she was involved in building St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, which has a pattern similar to *St-Germain-des-Prés* church in Paris.

GDB : Could you pick one of your favorite buildings at UC Berkeley?

It is the beautiful Doe library, that looks so much like the *Palais des Etudes* at *Ecole des Beaux-Art*. It was designed by French architect Emile Besnard who won the Hearst competition for UC Berkeley master plan with his project called Roma, the supervising architect being John Galen Howard. I wrote my thesis in this beautiful library, enjoying the day lighting through the Californian North-oriented windows, which is so familiar to my eyes educated in *Palais des Etudes* in Paris.



Beneath the artificial Sky

GDB : After studying at UC Berkeley, you created AirDesignLab. How did it come about?

At Berkeley, I studied natural cooling technics in the advanced class of Dr Gail Brager in the Center for Environmental Design Research. When I came back to France, I was committed to applying what I learnt. In 2009, I developed the AirDesignLab project by doing tests in the first wind tunnel built by Gustave Eiffel while creating a company. In 2010, we made our first natural ventilation analysis for a 30.000 sq meter office block project.

AirDesignLab is aimed at providing consulting to companies seeking comfortable, healthy and productive conditions for the occupants in economical and energy-efficient buildings. We provide

“I developed the AirDesignLab project by doing tests in the first wind tunnel built by Gustave Eiffel”

a variety of services, ranging from environmental diagnosis to consulting to experimentation in our lab or in the Eiffel wind tunnel.

GDB : Your company constructed an artificial sky. This is uncanny...could you explain what it is?

In 2011, after working for Zara, we constructed an artificial sky, first developed at University of California and the University

of Seattle. It consists of simulating natural light on a physical model in order to measure and maximize the quantum of light in a building before construction or renovation, thus allowing for energy-efficient and day light strategies.

Our artificial sky was open to the public in 2012. This is the second one in France after the one constructed by French public building research facility CSTB.

GDB : Speaking of green energy in France, what are the challenges and opportunities ahead?

Buildings are responsible for 40% of dioxide of carbon emissions and there is a need to reduce their energy consumption by half before 2020. In commercial buildings and offices, 45% of today's consumption is due to HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning) and 45% is due to artificial lighting.

As the science and art of lighting is gaining momentum, we are currently looking for pilot spaces and companies (e.g., classes, gymnasiums, offices and industries) to work with us on advanced day lighting solutions.

By Claire Chabat
 Editor-in-Chief
 Article based on a live interview in Paris
www.airdesignlab.com
[Grands Prix de l'Innovation de la Ville de Paris](#)



Hello Pierre, would you like to tell us about yourself?

I'm about to start my third year of the PhD in economics that typically lasts five years! So I'm still in Berkeley for a while. I come from Gif-sur-Yvette, a small town thirty minutes from Paris, and have done my bachelor and masters at the London School of Economics.

The first two years of the PhD program in the US still focus on classwork and passing the "field" exams. For these exams you have to know very well the academic literature on the topics you are interested in. My fields are in public finance, which focuses on the role of the government in the economy and in development economic, which studies the economic problems faced by poor households and emerging economies.

My research is at the intersection of the two fields and is concerned on how to reform tax system in order to widen the tax base and limit tax avoidance and evasion in developing countries.

At the same time I teach undergraduate courses, which is a lot of fun except for grading! Last year I taught microeconomics and a course on African economic development.

From France to Cal: Two French Students Studying At UC Berkeley

This year we are going to follow current students at Berkeley. They will tell us how they see their year and what they study there. I am sure it will bring back lots of great memories! Among the 35,000 students in Berkeley this year, Flore is going to discover the University as a Master's student at Boalt (Law School). Pierre is beginning his third year as a PhD student in Economics there !

After two years at UCB, how do you feel about California?

California is a great place! If only it could be a little closer to Europe. Due to the many universities and technology companies, San Francisco is a very young and dynamic city with a very open mindset.

There are also a lot of nice weekend trips if you drive a couple of hours such as Yosemite or Lake Tahoe where you can ski in the winter. And if like me you like outdoor sports then there are no better places: the weather is always nice but never too hot and you can find any type of activities from hiking to sailing and even Rugby!

“Due to the many universities and technology companies, San Francisco is a very young and dynamic city with a very open mindset.”

This year has been quite eventful with the increase in fees and the actions against positive discrimination. What has that been like for you?

I haven't been very involved myself, but you can't fail to notice the many political events around campus. I support the 99% movement, which protests against the rise in inequality in the US and the huge salaries and bonuses of Wall Street.

The increase in fees is linked to this as well, as it is not understandable how a state as rich as California can reduce its investment in education at every level (from primary schools to universities) and end up

spending more on prisons than on education!

Especially when you consider the important role that universities such as Berkeley and Stanford have played in the development of the Silicon Valley. So I think its great that



students take the time to express their opinion on these issues that concern them directly.

Any advice you would like to share with Flore, who will be studying at UCB this fall?

Do as many things as you can! Time is the constraint, not the number of interesting activities to do. Ah and as well don't wear red on campus, especially in the first few days...

If you could offer your pre-Berkeley self a few tips on things to do or experience, what would they be?

Why not let us know at

corin.chabat@berkeley-france.com



Hello Flore, would you like to tell us about yourself?

I'm going to Berkeley as an LLM student (Master in Laws) specialising in Business Law. I have studied tax law so far and wanted to extend my qualifications and knowledge by doing this year abroad.

This program starts very early (August 13th), that's why we are required to be in Berkeley at the very beginning of August. We will have some meetings and presentations about the Campus and facilities.

Why have you chosen Cal?

I have chosen Cal for many reasons and first of all because it is ranked among the best universities in the World. The LLM class is small and it permits international students to mix with US students, which is not the case in other universities.

“I have chosen Cal for many reasons and first of all because it is ranked among the best universities in the World”

Moreover, Boalt teachers are very famous and very free thinking, it is thus possible to express yourself and have deep discussions with the professors and scholars. Being able to experience the Socratic method of teaching is a chance and in Cal it is much more at the heart of the way of learning law.

On top of that, Berkeley was known for being an amazing campus, many sports facilities, libraries, students from all around the world.

Above all in California, it is where the civil rights movement started, where people are free to act as they want and fight for their rights. It is quite a unique place in the US and something that for me must be seen.

Congratulations on your admission at Cal. What was the application process like?

It was very difficult, long and stressful to prepare all the applications. From the beginning I really wanted to go to Berkeley for all the reasons mentioned above.

However, time flies and a Facebook group has been created in order to share problems among future Boalt Students which is very useful when everybody has the same issues. On top of that it is great to start meeting online before going there and don't feel lost and homesick the first weeks.

How do you see the coming year? Have you scheduled some trips or activities?

I feel very excited to meet people from more than 61 countries, to share such an



As a result it took me several months to prepare all the files, the personal statements, the recommendation letters, the resume, the transcripts, the TOEFL test and to translate everything in English. Once you have applied it is very hard to wait for the answer. When I received the admission Email all the pain was behind and I felt an intense relief.

But the race is not over, all the immigration stuff takes a long time, it is painful to ask a loan, to get the visa on time, to find a place to live from abroad and organize a whole year in just some weeks. I was an intern at the same time and managing time to do many things at the same time was hard.

I won a scholarship from White and Case and it made things a little bit easier though. My feelings were mixed between happiness and anxiety during this period.

experience and live an awesome year in California!

I have planned to take the New York Bar exam at the end of the year, and I will stay in Berkeley until the end of July. I would like to be able to visit California, mostly the parks, Napa valley and maybe going to Hawaii.

We have all planned to go to the Job fairs in January in NY and after in LA in order to meet law firms and maybe get interviews for a job or an internship at the end of the LLM.

By Bertrand Jeanpierre
UC Berkeley alumnus' 2011

Le Restaurant du Palais Royal
110 Galerie de Valois 75001 Paris



Perfect for late summer, early fall: Le Restaurant du Palais Royal. It is under the windows of where Colette lived. You can dine outside. Updated traditional cuisine of high quality. Expensive but not hideously so. Not to be confused with the luxurious Grand Vefour nearby.

Spring Paris
6 Rue Bailleul 75001 Paris



For fine American-French food in Paris, made by a very talented young American: Spring, near Les Halles and the Louvre. A Frenchman who learned to cook in America and also makes remarkable dishes with strong traditions behind them but updated intelligently: Frenchie.

Eating out in Paris...David Downie shares his favourite eateries

Gastronaut David Downie's previous entry in *Les Gens* left us hungry for more. Luckily, David kindly shared his idiosyncratic list of eateries, where its not only the food that speaks for France, but the venues and locations themselves.

Astier
44 Rue JeanPierre Timbaud 75011
Paris



Super-traditional and in the 11th arrondissement in the up-and-coming Parmentier neighborhood: Astier. This place has been around forever, is not expensive, and serves very good straightforward French cooking of the kind most people crave.

La Fontaine de Mars
129 Rue Saint-Dominique 75007 Paris

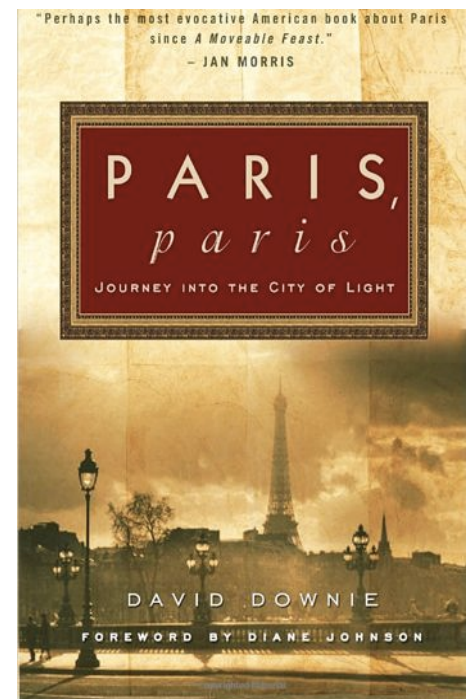


La Fontaine de Mars, in the 7th, near the Eiffel Tower: if it's good enough for Barack and Michelle it's good enough for me! Again, very traditional, but nice setting.

Willie's Wine Bar
13 Rue des Petits Champs 75001 Paris



My favorite upscale wine-bar/restaurant is still Willie's Wine Bar near the Palais Royal.



By David Downie.
Food, wine and travel writer

You may order *Paris, Paris, Journey into the City of Light* from Amazon [Here](#)

Meet the Faculty

GDB : What makes teaching at UC Berkeley unique?

There is a great deal of support for intellectual innovation and a real culture of interdisciplinary inquiry. Many faculty are cross-appointed between departments. Faculty and graduate students work in a collaborative way. As a result there's a sense of intellectual dialogue and a kind of excitement about research and teaching that I've never seen anywhere else.

I have been teaching at UCB since 1990. My Ph.D. is in Comparative Literature. I work mostly on the Renaissance, and move across the various Romance Languages--French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese--as well as English. Berkeley offers an almost unique atmosphere for doing cutting-edge research.

For example, the new "Designated Emphasis" is a kind of minor for Graduate Students, in which they receive specialized training in the skills needed to do work on earlier historical periods (working with manuscripts, for example, and reading Latin). It draws on the strength of our faculty across many departments.

<http://french.berkeley.edu/>

Interview with ... Timothy Hampton, Professor of Comparative Literature

Timothy Hampton became chair of the Berkeley French Department in 2012. While in Paris for a conference on "Comparative Disability Studies", Tim met with *Les Gens de Berkeley* to discuss teaching at UC Berkeley, the treasures of the Renaissance period and the jazz connections between France and California.

GDB : You currently direct Berkeley's new Designated Emphasis in Renaissance. What does the Renaissance teach us today?

I seem to be attracted to projects that involve exchanges between cultures, languages, and forms of knowledge. And the Renaissance is a historical moment when knowledge from every corner of the human mind came together in new ways.

So to study the Renaissance you have to study many disciplines, several languages, and even several periods--since you can't understand the period without knowing something about Classical Antiquity.

The "Diplomacy and Culture" group is connected to a long-standing interest of mine in the history of diplomacy. I wrote a book on this a few years ago on this topic, called "Fictions of Embassy," and continue to be fascinated by the intersections between cultural life and the political world of diplomacy. Diplomacy is about dialogue, and that interests me.

GDB : As the new Chair, please tell us a bit about the French Department.

In spite of all the budgetary problems facing UC Berkeley the Department is currently in great shape, academically and intellectually. For a number of years our faculty numbers were down quite a bit, but now the department has been rebuilt.

Our undergraduate major is very strong, featuring many students who do double majors with one of the so-called "hard sciences," or fields like Philosophy and Political Science. We offer a wide variety of courses, in literature as well as in cultural history, linguistics, gender studies, and film.

We have alumni in all walks of life, from medicine and law, to the former governor of the state of Michigan, Jennifer Granholm, who is a Berkeley French alumna. And a surprising number of our undergraduate majors go on to do graduate work in the Humanities, so obviously they're drawing inspiration from the Department.

GDB : You also teach a course on jazz and culture at UC Berkeley. How does it relate to the dialogue between disciplines?

I teach a course on jazz and culture in modern France at UCB. So, again, we have a moment of dialogue--in this case a dialogue between French culture and a particular form of American popular culture with its roots in the African American experience.



GDB : Could you describe the course you teach on jazz in modern France?

We study various writings about jazz by such authors as Boris Vian, Jean-Paul Sartre, Philippe Soupault, Jean Cocteau and Julio Cortazar (who was an Argentinian, but lived in Paris and played jazz himself).

We focus on such topics as the influence of jazz improvisation on the Surrealists, or the relationship between Existentialism and jazz. We listen to Django Reinhardt, Josephine Baker, and many of the important American jazz musicians who lived in Paris. And we study Louis Malle's great film, "Ascenseur pour l'Echafaud," which features a remarkable score by Miles Davis that was improvised in the studio.

In fact, the jazz connections between the West Coast and Paris are quite rich. Berkeley has a rich jazz history. Dave Brubeck studied in Oakland, and Joshua Redman grew up in Berkeley.

Currently, the distinguished jazz composer Myra Melford teaches in the Berkeley Music Department. Many musicians associated with the "cool" or "West Coast" jazz sound--people like Chet Baker, for example--did some of their most important work in Paris.

And, of course, French writers have a long history of being fascinated with jazz--and with California.

GDB : How did you discover French literature?

I came to France for a year in the 1970s, when I was in college. I had been fascinated by the Renaissance ever since I read Rabelais in an English translation my freshman year.

I was completely astonished by Rabelais's writing. His work truly is, as he says, "*un livre incomparable*" (in French) -- one of a kind in all literature.

This led me to an encounter with other Renaissance authors--Montaigne, Cervantes, Shakespeare--as well as to a deep engagement with the history of French culture.



Voltaire's bust on display at the French Department Library of French Thought

GDB : You came to Paris to give a lecture on the history of monstrosity. How did it come about?

I tend to be interested in the limits of knowledge, in the place where the normal turns into the abnormal. This challenges us to think about who we are.

That is how I came to be fascinated with history of monsters. I taught a course in the French Department a few years ago called "The Culture of the Unusual," which was about how thinkers in early modern France tried to come to terms with things that couldn't be explained--monsters, miracles, demonic possessions, etc.

By studying the moments when a culture cannot explain something, we learn a lot about what makes that culture function.

GDB : What are your projects in terms of fostering cross-cultural exchanges?

We're hoping to work more dynamically than we have in the past with the large French-speaking community in the Bay area.

And I would love to find ways to make available more international experience for our students--not only through traditional

"study abroad" but also through internships, work experiences, etc.

This is something that the Berkeley Campus is interested in, and I would certainly like to see the French Department in the vanguard of these developments.

On Campus, we're pursuing several initiatives with such organizations as the Pacific Film Archive and the recently-established Centre of New Media, which is headed by my colleague in the Rhetoric Department, David Bates, who is an historian of France.

And part of my visit to Paris this summer involves talking with several colleagues at French universities about ways in which we can foster more exchanges of both faculty and students.

By Claire Chabat

Editor -in-Chief

Based on a live interview in Paris

Bear in Mind



"Dear Berkeley Club of France members,

I am pleased to announce you the launch of a partnership with Allianz, which will help us raise money to fund a scholarship to finance the studies of students admitted at UC Berkeley. Thanks to your support, you will contribute to maintain access to Berkeley, without costing you a dime!

How does it work?

All of us, even the youngest in our twenties, we all have to think about savings and pensions to plan for our future and retirement; because let's face it, we should not count much on governmental retirement plans...Life insurances and other financial products provided by insurance companies are one of the solutions offered to us to achieve our savings and pensions goals.

Nicolas Tollelet presents... a Partnership with Allianz

Founding president of the Berkeley Club of France Nicolas Tollelet is happy to present his new initiative, in partnership with Allianz, to set up a scholarship for students admitted at UC

Thanks to our partnership, if you become a client of Allianz and make an investment in one or several of their financial products, Allianz will give money based on the amount of your investment to the Berkeley Club of France.

If we cannot raise enough money to set up a full scholarship by ourselves, that money will be donated to UC Berkeley who will use it as they deem fit. To avoid any misunderstanding, Allianz will give that money by wire transfer on a bank account owned by the Berkeley Club of France and controlled by the University of California Berkeley. That money will be exclusively used to fund a scholarship for students admitted at U.C. Berkeley.

To participate, contact Ms Martine Arcay, Inspecteur Patrimonial (financial adviser) at Allianz (see her details below) and make an appointment with her stating that you are UC Berkeley alumnus(a). Then, just attend the meeting with Ms Arcay and decide if you want to become a client at Allianz, like what you would do with any other insurance company. If you decide to purchase one or several of their financial products, just repeat that you want to participate in the Berkeley program, and Ms Arcay will take care of the rest.

Our partnership with Allianz is the first rock allowing Cal alumni to consume smart in France. Our partnership with Allianz is also one of the very first (if not the first) partnerships of this kind outside the United States. We hope you will make it a success so we can reproduce it in other countries and in other industries.

Universities are going global; if we want our university to succeed this challenge despite disinvestments by the State of California and maintain access for underprivileged students, our support is crucial. This partnership gives you the opportunity to contribute and make a difference, without spending a dime!"

About Allianz

Allianz, founded in 1891, is one of the largest financial services providers in the world, headquartered in Munich, Germany. Its core business and focus is insurance. With 92.5 billion of revenue during 2008, Allianz is the second largest international insurance and financial services organization in the world.

About Berkeley Club of France

Berkeley Club of France is a declared French not-for-profit association governed by the Law of July 1st, 1901 with SIREN number 512 237 843. Founded in 2008, it aims at connecting alumni, students, faculty and parents of the University of California Berkeley with each others and helping raise UC Berkeley's profile in France.

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Nicolas Tollelet

President of the Berkeley Club of France

EVENTS



What makes Great Leaders Across America, Europe, Asia, Africa ?
What makes a great university football team ?

You know not ?...Well, the Berkeley people in Paris and France – otherwise not known as the “Francs-Berkeley”- may have an answer. For instance, on September 17th, they gathered with Stanford Club of European Leaders, HEC International and Wharton Alumni to partake in the Intercultural Panel with John Sadowsky & Eduardo Braun on The True Source of Leadership. And on Saturday October 27, they flocked to the Great Canadian Pub in Paris to support the Bears for the World Famous Big Game between Stanford and UC Berkeley

So if you are into learning while swapping business cards and sipping wine, you are warmly invited to join our future events.



Previous Events

US Embassy Annual Cocktail Party
6/13/2012

US Ambassador Charles Rivkin was in attendance at the luscious annual cocktail co-organized with the American University Clubs.

The True Source of Leadership: A Cross-Cultural Vision

09/17/2012

Intercultural Panellist John Sadowsky & Eduardo Braun asked fellow alumni questions such as: Does storytelling brings power? How can tips for successful leadership be used in personal life?

UCB vs Stanford “The BIG Game!”
10/27/2011

The Great Canadian Pub next to Saint Michel was the place to watch the Game on DVD and support the Bears with fellow UC Berkeley and Stanford Alumni.

AUC Thanksgiving dinner
11/20/2012

Fellow alumni shared an exquisite meal at the Bizzart Club, a place combining a New York ambiance with the spirit of Thanksgiving.

The Bear Truth

About Students

Caption This...

Winter brings *Les Gens* two new comics. But sadly, resident designer Al isn't making as much progress with his French studies.

Well its been a while since I brushed off the polyglot part of my brain but I'm viewing that as a relaxing holiday, albeit one that saw me nearly starving to death due to my inability to order a meal in a restaurant or explain to a taxi driver that I really wanted to get to the airport. Anyway, on with the analysis.

This edition I'm opting for the first cartoon, mostly because it has a higher ratio of words I've actually heard or at least had underlined in red pen on my French homework. In the opening scene our hero is obviously reading a book and from the presence of the words "embargué", "fille" and "bibliothèque", I'm assuming he wants to start something with the girl from the library. However, in the second panel he seems to be battling with himself about whether to reveal his criminal past ("toutes mes convictions" / all his convictions) to the young lady in question.

Perhaps rather sinisterly, he ends by saying "peut-être jamais" which I think means she'd never know as wisely he didn't get any visible prison tattoos during his time in jail. Moving onto the , final frame John, decides that he should not pursue just one line ("une ligne") in his romantic life but seems to revert to his nefarious ways by considering a "coup de grâce". So the lesson of this comic is that lovely lady librarians shouldn't pursue romantic leads with just any stranger who walks in and asks to borrow an Emily Brontë. Also, that an inventory of the library will reveal he probably stole that book he's reading too.

THE ART OF SEDUCTION



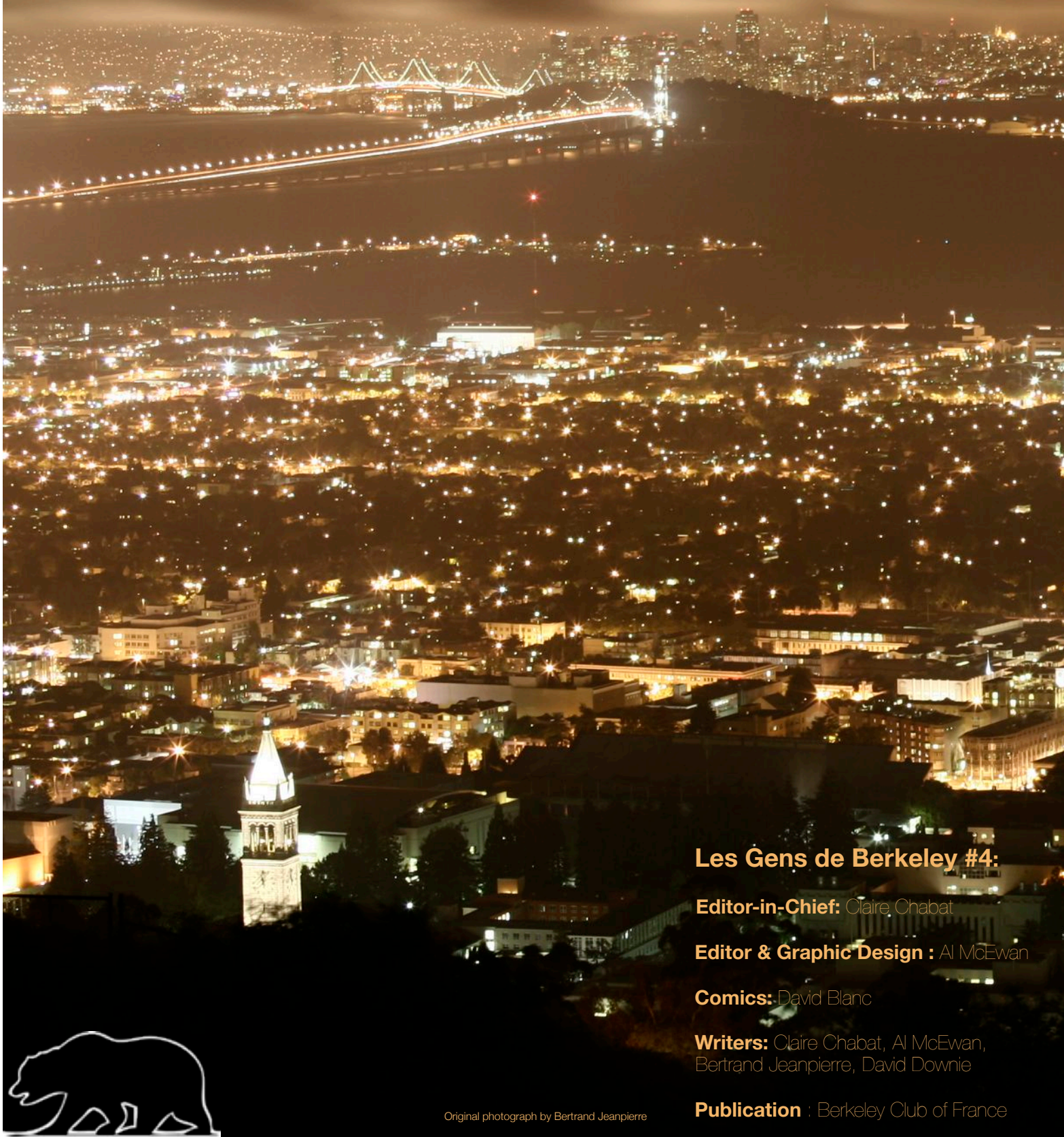
DORIAN BAY AREA



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Thank you Beary much



Les Gens de Berkeley #4:

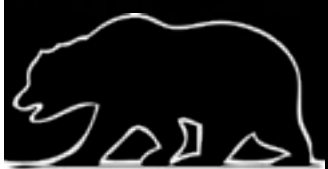
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