

AFLCR's first-ever Open House was a delightful occasion. Publicity worked, producing face time with prospective student visitors – many of whom registered for the summer term on the spot. Our new conference room/library was shown off beautifully. And many, many members of Monique Martin's family filled our rooms and our hearts with a lively yet tender spirit in anticipation of the classroom dedication service.

Signs in the new space acknowledged the generosity of those who purchased chairs for the conference table as well as donors—at least those whose names are known—who contributed books to the library as well as all who have assisted with the cataloguing. The AFLCR is very grateful to the chair donors: Eric and Anne Bataille, Joe and Louissette Belanger, Wes and Patty Donehower, Marc Juneau and Caroline Unger, and Micheline Tremblay; and to these book donors and volunteer bibliothécaires: Marie-Claude Beaudette, Kristin Caterer, Andrea Chong, Janice Dawley, Beatrice Girard, Birdie MacLennan, Betty Navin, Catherine Seidenberg, Barbara Sindriglas, Micheline Tremblay, Caroline Unger, and Dana vanderHeyden.

So many are to be credited with contributing to the success of the day: Micheline Tremblay, School Directrice, cleaned and arranged the entire space, which has never, ever looked better, then graciously chaired the Classes table which she had organized. Lucy Couture's range-y, contemporary approach to promotions was clearly effective, and she provided background music from her franco radio show. Marie-Claude Beaudette created truly lovely floral arrangements. Steve Norman built and installed the dedication plaque and handled many last-minutes details. Dana Baron was the ideal ambassador behind the Classes table and stayed busy through to the very end of cleanup. And Lise Veronneau performed her elegant magic with the refreshments while subtly managing the crowd.

And finally, it seems everyone was warmed and lifted by the ceremony honoring Mme Martin, from Father Daniel Lokanga's remembrance and prayer, to Françoise Chevalier's warm personal and professional tribute, to the beautiful bilingual song performed by Monique's sisters and nieces.

Linda Pervier,

May 31, 2011