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FSU professor honored by France Alec Hargreaves named Knight in nation's Legion of Honor

By Jennifer Jefferson
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Alec Hargreaves, director of Florida State University's Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, has been named a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor).

The Legion is France's top national order, created by the emperor Napoleon in 1802 to honor outstanding service to the French nation.

The honor was granted to Hargreaves in Paris last week "for strengthening the cultural ties between France and the United States," according to an FSU news release.

"You have helped France better understand the challenges and opportunities of diversity," said French Minister for Equal Opportunities Azouz Begag at the ceremony.

"Through your pioneering research and publications you also have helped Americans better understand France."

Hargreaves, who is British, is the second non-French FSU faculty member to be named a Chevalier. Donald Horward, a professor emeritus in the department of history and former director of FSU's Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution, received the honor in 2002.

"It's a fairly exceptional honor," Hargreaves told the *Tallahassee Democrat*.

This is not Hargreaves' first French honor. In 2003, he was named a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms). This honor, which was also established by Napoleon, recognizes devotion and accomplishment in the areas of teaching, scholarship and research.

Hargreaves researched migration between North Africa and France, which earned him his first professorship in England to combine French and Francophone studies in 1992. He was a chairman of the Department of European Studies at Loughborough University in England before moving to FSU in 2001.

Hargreaves, who has studied international migration in France for about 35 years, was appointed in 2001 to head FSU's newly created Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies.

The fund and institute is named after the late Ada Belle Winthrop-King, a former FSU instructor whose endowment supports the Winthrop-King Institute and gives students scholarships to study abroad in France.

"My job is to bring France to FSU," Hargreaves said. "Organizing conferences and film screenings and to enrich campus life."

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FSU will honor Hargreaves on Nov. 28.

Contact reporter Jennifer Jefferson at (850) 599-2243 or jjefferson@tallahassee.com.



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