



**LLC encourages and urges all who are able to contribute to humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti**, one of the western hemisphere's poorest nations which was recently devastated by earthquakes.

LLC's French program has long-term relationships with Haiti and its people (who are French-speaking), primarily through faculty members Eloise Brière and Jean-Francois Brière who teach and write about Haiti, and have taken students to visit Haiti, recruited Haitian students to UAlbany programs, worked with UAlbany's Haitian Student Association and in Eloise Brière's work with Fonkoze, a Haitian foundation that provides microgrants to Haiti's rural poor to help them create businesses and become self-sustaining. Last fall LLC sent 105 books (thanks to LLC secretary Joane MacMillan's initiative--her family is from Haiti) to Haiti's Vilbrun Community Research Center ([www.vcrclibrary.org](http://www.vcrclibrary.org)) which is planning to establish a library in Carrefour, Haiti, just outside Port-au-Prince.

LLC has learned that Fondwa, where Prof Eloise Briere and students stayed in 2003, was at the epicenter of the quake. The university has collapsed, as well as most of the town's structures. The orphanage where UAlbany students volunteered was destroyed, the K-12 school, clinic, radio station, churches, and convent. The two nuns who fed the students died in the earthquake. Fonkoze, a nonprofit giving small business microgrants that Eloise has worked with lost staff and buildings. In the words of Fr Joseph Philippe, who hosted the students' visit, "...the rest of us are alive and are strongly in solidarity with the rest of the country. Together, we can rebuild Fondwa and Haiti." Fr Philippe will be visiting UAlbany Wednesday, 2/3/10 and giving a talk on the current situation in Haiti (Albany Times Union article 1/29/10 [www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=894653&TextPage=1](http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=894653&TextPage=1)). For more information on Haiti and pictures from the 2003 visit, see the UAlbany Library guide at <http://libguides.library.albany.edu/haiti>.

UAlbany's 19 Haitian students are safe, but have experienced severe hardship as a result of the disaster. LLC faculty and UAlbany are working to help these students. UAlbany has established an "**Emergency Student Relief Fund**" to provide support to students adversely affected by any emergency situation and will be used for the first time to aid our Haitian students. Contributions can be made via check payable to The University at Albany Foundation with "Emergency Student Relief Fund" in the notes field and mailed to: The University at Albany Foundation; UAB 226; 1400 Washington Avenue; Albany, New York 12222 (credit card contributions can be made online at [www.albany.edu/onlinegift](http://www.albany.edu/onlinegift)).

**Please consider contributing!** Here are some other possibilities. The **University at Albany's Haiti Relief Fund** ([www.albany.edu/haiti\\_relief\\_fund/](http://www.albany.edu/haiti_relief_fund/)) is providing matching funds for donations received until 6/30/10. In addition, the following agencies suggested by the Haitian Studies Association ([www.haitianstudies.umb.edu/](http://www.haitianstudies.umb.edu/)) are "highly transparent and reputable organizations that are providing relief and sustainable support to organizations, families and individuals in affected communities": **Fonkoze** ([www.fonkoze.org/](http://www.fonkoze.org/)), **Lambi Fund** ([www.lambifund.org/](http://www.lambifund.org/)), **Partners in Health** ([www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti](http://www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti)). And of course **The American Red Cross** ([www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/)) is another good choice. *Please note: this is not an endorsement of any organization or a suggestion that the above are the only reputable agencies responding.* When contributing to any group, remember to specify funds are for Haiti Earthquake Assistance. Thank you!