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**Lake Forest Elementary Charter School Librarian receives prestigious
French literary award “Prix Louis Pergaud” in Besancon, France**
Francoise Rodary-McHugh wins award for her 1st novel

Francoise Rodary-McHugh, Librarian at Lake Forest Elementary Charter School, has been awarded the 2008 “Prix Louis Pergaud” French literary award, for her 1st novel. The novel, entitled *Le sang des femmes* (literally translated as The Blood of Women), written in French, tells the story of a 19th century midwife in rural France, and her experiences surrounding the mystery of a murdered newborn.

Rodary-McHugh, a native of Besancon, France, accepted the award in her hometown on September 13, 2008. The prestigious Prix Pergaud was created in 1953 by the “Association des Franc-comtois de Paris,” whose jury selects the winner each year. The award is usually given in Paris, but Rodary-McHugh’s visit, as well as the literary festival “Les Mots Doubs” in Besancon, inspired the location. “Les Mots Doubs” featured hundreds of authors attending three days of workshops, readings and book signings with 38,000 people in attendance. Francoise’s next work is a collection of short stories with the title *On m’a vole mon fils* (They Stole My Son) which will be published by Max Milo Editions early next year.

If you would like to interview Ms. Rodary-McHugh, please call (504) 826-7152.

PHOTO ATTACHED:

From l-r: Monsieur Fousseret, Mayor for the city of Besancon; Monsieur le President du Conseil General (Region), Jean-Michel Guyot; Editor; Francois Rodary-McHugh; Nacera, (artist who made the bust)

