A WORD FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

What’s new in the French Department at Columbia? Taking over as Acting Chair for a semester gives one an opportunity to reassess what we are doing and where we are going.

First, the continuing strength of the undergraduate program is striking. Our enrollments in language courses are as high as ever at all levels, and the program’s effectiveness has increased since Pascale Hubert-Leibler joined as Director of the Language Program in 2001. New material is available on-line, both pedagogical and cultural, making the experience of learning language, civilization, and literature more appealing and challenging. This certainly explains why we have an increasing number of French Majors at Columbia, including a significant portion of students who only started French when they entered the College – a trend which has been ongoing for several years and demonstrates that French and Francophone studies remain greatly attractive for the undergraduates of the 21st century. Madeleine Dobie, our Director of Undergraduate Studies, is doing a beautiful job of perfecting and promoting the two Majors offered by the Department (French, and French & Francophone Studies). We also have been successful in including the undergraduates in the life of the Department and the Maison Française more than we used to. The French Cultural Society and L’Atelier – a theater group – have brought exciting innovations that contribute to the involvement of our students.

The graduate program continues to prosper as well. The last two entering classes of 2003 and 2004 are academically impressive and in many ways complementary. We admit fewer students than ten or fifteen years ago. As a result, their progress proves to be remarkably more efficient. Students are better advised and better supervised. Since 1993, close to seventy Ph.D.s have been granted in the Department: more than six a year. In a job market that has not always been generous, we can be proud of the positions many of our alumni and alumnae now hold. Thanks should go to Henri Mitterand and Dominique Jullien for their dedication as successive Directors of Graduate Studies.

On the faculty side, the department is at a turning point. University Professor Michael Riffaterre taught his last class in the French Department at the end of 2002. After fifty years at Columbia, he has now retired. Professor Henri Mitterand’s last seminar took place during the spring of 2004, after fifteen years at Columbia. These two eminently distinguished colleagues will be dearly missed. Their intellectual stature honored Columbia. Their contributions to the Department, the students and their colleagues have been immeasurable. We gave emotional receptions in honor of Henri and Michael during the spring and fall of 2004, bringing together colleagues, students, and alumni and alumnae.

Professors Riffaterre and Mitterand are irreplaceable and their departures leave a lacuna in the curriculum of the Department, but we remain committed to offering a
comprehensive program. Because all periods and genres of French and Franco-phone literatures are equally fundamental, our ambition is to provide a thorough training to young scholars and teachers. We are therefore conducting a search for a distinguished modernist, an expert in the 19th and/or 20th centuries.

Our recent tradition has been to invite a Visiting Professor each fall for a seven-week accelerated seminar: Patrick Dandrey, from the Sorbonne, and Patrizia Lombardo, from the University of Geneva, came in 2003 to invite a Visiting Professor each fall for a seven-week accelerated seminar:

—Antoine Compagnon

**Alumni/Alumnae News**


Elisabeth Ladenson’s book *Proust’s Lesbianism* (1999) has been translated into French and will be published in November 2004 (EPEL), with a preface by Antoine Compagnon. A colloquium will take place around this book on November 6 at the Maison de l’Europe in Paris. She has articles coming out in *L’Esprit créateur* and the forthcoming volume *Lire, écrire la honte* (ed. Bruno Chaouat, Presses universitaires de Lyon). She also wrote the “Marcel Proust” entry and co-authored the “Critique littéraire” entry in the Larousse *Dictionnaire des cultures gay et lesbiennes*. She gave a number of talks in the last year, including a paper at a conference on gay marriage on June 1 at the École Normale supérieure in Paris. She is currently hard at work on the final chapters of her book *Dirt for Art’s Sake: Literature, Sex and Obscenity, 1857-1966*, which will be published by Cornell University Press when she manages to finish it.

Dudley Marchi recently accepted the position of Associate Department Head of Foreign Languages and Literatures at North Carolina State University, where he has been Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature since 1995. Over the last two years he taught and developed a new course: *Art and Society in France*, gave a presentation on “Inquiry Guided Learning in the Foreign Language Curriculum,” and published the following articles: “Montaigne’s Influence in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.” *Dictionnaire Montaigne* (Champion); “Montaigne: A Practical Philosophy for the Twenty-First Century,” *Montaigne Studies*; and “Baudelaire’s America: Contrary Affinities,” Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature. He is currently working on a book manuscript: *Contrary Affinities: Baudelaire, Emerson & Transatlantic Perspectives on France and the United States*.

Anna-Louise Milne is currently academic coordinator and lecturer at the British Institute in Paris, soon to be renamed the University of London Institute in Paris to mark the development of new graduate and undergraduate programs. She is at work on a book project entitled *Beyond the Pale. Translation and the Limits of Idiom*, and her edition of the correspondence between Jean Paulhan and the philosopher Yvon Belaval will be published in Gallimard’s “Cahiers de la NRF” series this autumn, as will an article on Paulhan’s recits in the issue of *Yale French Studies* dedicated to Jean Paulhan.

Suzanne Nalbantian’s book, *Memory in Literature: From Rousseau to Neurosciences*, was published by Palgrave/St. Martin’s Press. In this book she presents a new approach to the scientific study of memory through the analysis of major literary works, half of which are French (such as Rousseau, Baudelaire, Lamartine, Proust, Apollinaire, Rimbaud, and Breton). This book forges a new model for interdisciplinary study. She has also lectured in the past academic year at Stanford University, Indiana University, the University of Georgia, and the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island.

Phil Watts is still chair of the Dept. of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. His article “Roland Barthes’ Cold War Cinema” is coming out in *SubStance* in Spring 2005, and an article on the Henri Martin Affair is coming out in *Nottingham French Studies*. 
Graduate Student News

Zeina Hakim published three articles this year: one on the notion of illusion in Diderot’s works (Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century, Oxford, July 2005), one on the relationship between visual arts and 18th-century literature (Paroles Gelées, University of California, Los Angeles, July 2004), and a third on 18th-century paintings (Artscape: A Quarterly Magazine of Essays and Commentary on Contemporary Art and Culture, Spring 2004). She also spoke at the 33rd Annual Conference of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Oxford University in January, as well as at the Annual Meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of San Francisco in February, and at the 7th International Graduate Students Meeting of the Voltaire Foundation at Oxford in April. She started in March 2004 her new position as an “assistante” at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and has been granted a sabbatical semester for the Fall 2004 in order to write her Ph.D. dissertation at Columbia.

Max Kramer spoke about metaphor and queer representation in the poetry of Rimbaud and Federico García Lorca at the “Constructing Images of the Self” conference sponsored by Duke University in February 2004, and at the “States of Perverison” conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in March 2004. In July 2004, he gave a paper at the University of Stirling, Scotland, on the performance of sexual violence in Rimbaud, Lorca, and Stefan George. He wrote a review of Wanda Klee’s book Leibhaftige Dekadenz to be published in the forthcoming issue of the Romanic Review. He will present a paper on the relationship between modern Western gay identity and the conception of sexual activity between men in the Maghreb at the conference “Stratégies discursives queer dans le temps et dans l’espace,” to be held at the University Paris XIII next May.

Barbara Szelenic won a 2004 Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies from the American Council for Polish Culture. She also received GSAS funding to attend the 2003 MLA Convention in San Diego, California where, as a New York State Regional Representative, she participated in the MLA Delegate Assembly. This December, she will be giving a paper, “The Romance of the Rose: Ambiguity and Secret Meaning in Botanical Imagery,” for a special session, “Females in Flower: Marguerites, Roses, and the Flower and Leaf as Courtly Cults,” at the 2004 MLA Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

French Graduate Student Association

Out with the old, in with new...
The French Graduate Student Association successfully completed its first year as the new, improved, and reorganized FGSA. Under the new structure, FGSA activities such as the First-year buddy system, the welcome dinner, the Graduate Student Conference, and various workshops are organized by volunteers on a sign-up basis.

Last year, the FGSA held several workshops aimed at graduate students going on the job market as well as those at the orals and dissertation stage. The biggest success was the graduate student conference, (Dés)encadrer le texte, jointly organized with the French Department of New York University, with well over 100 attendees and participants from all over the United States, Canada and Europe and an inspiring keynote address from Professor Mitterand.

This year promises similar successes, with several workshops already planned and another graduate student conference in the works – Le clair-obscur : jeux de lumière littéraires – slated for February 4, 2005. This year the FGSA has added the French House Book Club to its list of activities. The FGSA is in search of moderators who would be willing to lead discussions of contemporary French works for the Société d’amis de la maison française.

This group meets once a month on Mondays. Those interested should consult this year’s program (www.columbia.edu/cu/french/maison/index.html) and contact the FGSA (fgsa@columbia.edu).

Please feel free to write to this year’s representatives at the above address for other questions, comments, concerns, or if you would like to get more involved in organizing activities for our department.

The Modern Salon

The Modern Salon, launched by Maria Muresan and Priya Wadhera in the Fall of 2003, benefits from a generous gift from the Maurice Parissier Foundation. The goal of the meetings is to provide a forum for those researching literature of the Modern and Contemporary period. It is a unique opportunity for students and professors to exchange ideas about both seminal and recent critical texts of general interest, in an atmosphere that is open and collegial. At our inaugural meeting, we were happy to welcome Antoine Compagnon who shared a forthcoming article of his on Roland Barthes. Our final meeting of the academic year featured a reading and discussion of Gilles Deleuze with Sylvère Lotringer. Intervening guests from beyond the Columbia gates were Gerald Prince (UPenn) and Richard Terdiman (UC-Santa Cruz).

—Maria Muresan

News From The Early Modern Salon

The Salon continued to delve into early modern French literature and the surrounding historical and cultural issues, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Maurice Parissier Foundation. The lively discussions encompassed several fields of scholarship and covered topics ranging from theatre in 17th-century France to gender issues in the 18th-century French novel. Newly headed by Benjamin Young, the Salon slightly modified its format, meeting bi-weekly and hosting a guest at each session. This year’s guests included such young professors as Reiner Leushuis (Florida State) and James Helgeson (Columbia), as well as senior scholars such as Christian Biet (Paris X), Yves Hersant (EHESS), Thomas Kavanagh (Yale), Madeleine Gutwirth (West Chester University) and Marcel Gutwirth (Haverford College).

—Benjamin Young
JOANNA AUGUSTYN, Visiting Assistant Professor in 2004-05, is preparing a manuscript on ruins and architectural interpretation between the 18th and 19th centuries. Last year, she gave two papers: “Inventing the Ruin: Diderot’s review of Hubert Robert in the Salon de 1767,” at the MLA and “A Capricious Itinerary through the Past: Victor Hugo’s Le Rhin,” at the 2003 NCFS conference. In 2004-05, she will give two talks “Cardboard Horror and the Paper Knife: Jules Janin’s L’Âme mort et la Femme guillotinée” at the NCFS conference, and “Diderot, Vernet, Robert: Invitations to the Soul in Eighteenth-Century Landscape Painting” at ASECS. She was recently invited by Alain Montandon for a post-doctoral fellowship (for 2004-05) on monument reception, for the project “Vieillir” at the Centre de Recherches sur les Littératures Modernes et Contemporaines at Clermont-Ferrand. In October, she gave a presentation on ruins for the Advanced Architectural Studio students of Yehuda Safran in the Graduate School of Architectural Planning and Preservation.


MADELEINE DOBIE continued to serve in 2003-4 as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the French and Francophone Studies majors. In November she delivered a paper on “The Antilles and the French Multicultural Scene” at the conference “A Postcolonial Approach to France: Immigration, Citizenship, Empire,” which was held at the Maison Française. In December she spoke to the Columbia University Eighteenth-Century Seminar on “Colonialism and Material Culture in Pre-Revolutionary France.” At the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies held in Boston in March, 2004 she participated in a plenary roundtable honoring the scholarly contribution of Madelyn Gutwirth, and also in a special session honoring the work of the late James Brown.

MADELEINE DOBIE

PAUL CREAMER’s article “Woman-Hating in Marie de France’s Desclavel!” was published in the Romantic Review,

93:3. In June, when in London, he examined a medieval ivory casket housed at the British Museum whose decorative panels depict the 13th-century French tale the Châtelaine de Vergy. Having studied a similar object the year before at Paris’ Louvre, a casket whose panels recount Chrétien de Troyes’ Conte du Graal, he plans to write a comparative study of the gesticular language used in manuscript miniatures and ivory carvings. In July he gave a paper entitled “The Scope and Importance of the Colors Found in the Conte du Graal Miniatures” at the 11th Triennial Congress of the International Courtly Literature Society, held at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.
GRADUATE STUDENTS WIN FELLOWSHIPS

MARIA MURESAN won the Whiting Fellowship, Columbia’s most prestigious dissertation research award in the Humanities. LEIGH ALLEN and CATHY LEUNG have won a Chateaubriand Fellowship for dissertation research in France. The Chateaubriand is awarded by the French Government on the basis of a competition involving students from all French Departments in the United States. LEIGH ALLEN also won a Reid Hall Fellowship.

ERIN CRUREN, ZEINA HAKIM and TRACY ADAM are the winners of the Departmental Dissertation Fellowship. MATTHEW UDKOVICH and ANJALI BALASINGHAM have been selected for the ENS Paris Fellowship. KIRSTEN ELLICSON has been awarded the Grand Marnier Foundation Fellowship for study at the ENS Lyon.

ANNELLE CURULLA is the recipient of a Reid Hall Summer Fellowship. The recipients of the Departmental Summer Fellowship are OLIVIA HARRISON, ALISON JAMES, MARIA MURESAN, CATHY LEUNG, ANDREA THOMAS, NAYANA ABYESINGHE, and NOURA WEDELL.

DISSERTATIONS DEFENDED

YONGYAN HE
Writing the Labyrinth of the Self: Marguerite Duras and Autobiography

DANIEL POPPLEWELL
French AIDS Writing and the Culture of Redemption: A Study of the Literary Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in France

EVE-ALICE ROUSTANG-STOLLER
Love Harangues in Sixteenth-Century French Fiction

PRIYA WADHERA
Copy Play: The Discourse on Painting in Un cabinet d’ama- teur (1979) by Georges Perec

M.A.S DEFENDED

ANNELLE CURULLA
Mariage sacré, mariage civil: évolutions juridiques et sociales, de l’Ancien Régime au XIXe siècle

JASON EARLE
Un Emile du nouveau millénaire? Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Allan Bloom, et la philosophie de l’éducation

ANDREA THOMAS
“Vieil Océan”: Une analyse des éditions des Chants de Maltoror

BINGSHU YANG
Une analyse des figures féminines dans l’oeuvre fantastique de Théophile Gautier

FRENCH DEPARTMENT LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The ranks of Teaching Fellows are somewhat depleted this semester, mostly because the department’s graduate students have gathered a bumper crop of fellowships this year. Fortunately, ENS exchange students Caroline Le Goffic, and Stéphanie Loncle, as well as new adjunct instructors Martine Benjamin, Alex Hickox, Thomas Martin, Marie Perorazi, and Samuel Skippon have come to the rescue, joining old hands Charles Girard, Heidi Holst-Knudsen, Eric Leveau, Angela Schönfelder, and Isabelle Urban. We are also extremely pleased to be able to count on two new lecturers well-known around Philosophy for their talent, expertise, enthusiasm, and creativity, Sarah Sasson and Priya Wadhera.

Pascale Hubert-Leibler is happy to announce that new teaching materials are becoming available this semester, thanks to the effective collaboration between our department and CCNMTL. Firstly, after suffering a series of setbacks, the French Resource Database is finally working to our complete satisfaction and will be launched officially this Fall with a short presentation by CCNMTL. We hope that many instructors will contribute their own materials and favorite links! Secondly, instructors teaching language courses from 1101 to 1202 now have the option to start the semester with a standard Courseworks website loaded with a presentation of the course, the syllabus, texts, vocabulary lists, worksheets, as well as a bibliography of useful links to pedagogical sites (phonetics, conjugations, songs, online exercises, listening exercises, etc.). While Pascale provided the content and CCNMTL the course sites, the project could not have been carried out without Benjamin Young, the department’s new graduate student technologist, who uploaded the documents, created the elegant layout, tested the sites and migrated the contents to instructors’ individual sites – all in time for the beginning of classes. The third project, also with CCNMTL, is the department’s music collection, a password-protected site containing a modest but growing list of French and Francophone songs (audiofiles and lyrics) that we hope can be of use in our various courses; we are inviting all potential users to suggest titles they would like to have added to the collection. Finally, Benjamin Young and Pascale Hubert-Leibler are currently working with Piero di Forzio at the LRC to build and organize a collection of French and francophone films, film excerpts, shorts, video clips, documentaries, etc., mostly recorded from TV5, which could enhance our teaching in language, civilization, and literature classes.

Patrizia Lombardo
Visiting Professor

Patrizia Lombardo is our Visiting Professor for the fall 2004 semester. She has been Professor of French and Comparative Literature at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, since 1995, after having taught at Princeton University and the University of Pittsburgh. Her publications include Edgar Poe et la modernité: Breton, Barthes, Derrida, Blanchot (1985), The Three Paradoxes of Roland Barthes (1989), Cities, Words and Images: From Poe to Scorsese (2003). A specialist of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, she has also written on film and on architecture, and she introduced for instance Massimo Cacciari’s Architecture and Nihilism: On the Philosophy of Modern Architecture (1993). At Columbia this fall, she is teaching a seminar on “Romanticism and the Emotions.”
roundtable to mark the 300th anniversary of Galland’s translation of the *Mille et une nuits*. Also in March, she organized at the Maison Française, with Kaiama Glover of Barnard, an interdisciplinary conference, *French Moves. Performance, language Identity in the Francophone World*. At the conference she gave a paper titled “Performing Islands: Early French Colonialism and the Creole Culture of Show.” She is currently working, with Felicia McCarren and Kaiama Glover, on a volume of essays based on the conference. Her article, “Francophone Studies and the Linguistic Diversity of the Maghreb” was published in 2003 in an issue of *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* entitled “Comparative (Post) Colonialisms”. Her essay, “The Critical Method of Madelyn Gutwirth,” is forthcoming in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*. She is continuing to work on her book on colonialism and culture in pre-revolutionary France. One chapter of this book will appear in *Furnishing the Eighteenth Century*, a collection of essays edited by Dena Goodman and Katherine Norberg and scheduled to appear with Routledge in 2005. A special issue of *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* titled “*Africans in France*/France in Africa,” which she is co-editing with Rebecca Saunders, is scheduled to appear next June. This November and December she is organizing with colleagues at the Brooklyn Public Library, Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and the Haitian Students’ Association, a series of roundtables and *journées d’étude* to mark the bicentennial of Haitian Inde-

PIERRE FORCE continued

serving as chair of the Department. He spoke on Rousseau at the Maison Française in October 2003. In April 2004, he gave a talk entitled “*From Amour-propre to Égoïsme: The French Translations of The Wealth of Nations*”, at the Gimon Conference on French Political Economy (Stanford University). He was the keynote speaker at the 25th Conference of the British Society for Seventeenth-Century French Studies, which took place at the University of Glasgow in September 2004. His talk was entitled “Saying Something New: Economy and Equity in Montaigne and Pascal”. He continued serving on the Governing Board of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities and was elected to the *Société d’histoire littéraire de la France*. He is on leave this semester and will begin his third term as Department chair in the spring.

DANIELLE HASE-DUBOSC

became Adjunct Professor in the Department this year and Executive Director of Reid Hall. She continues as Director of the Columbia University Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall and serves as faculty adviser for the M.A. in French Cultural Studies. She published two articles in 2004: “Comment repenser les féminismes dans un monde transnational?” in *Histoire des femmes en situation coloniale*, edited by Anne Hugon, Karthala Press, and « Intellectuelles, femmes d’esprit et femmes savantes », in *Intellectuelles du genre en histoire des intellectuels*, edited by Nicole Racine et Michel Trebitsch, éditions Complexe. In June, she chaired a session of the French Historical Society and also served as discussant for the session devoted to the study of autobiographical writing in female religious orders in the seventeenth-century. During the year, she continued to serve on the Steering Committee of the “*Dictionnaire des femmes d’Ancienne France*”. She also continued as a member of the “Histoire des femmes” seminar at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and her article “Féminisme, pouvoir et politique” will be published in 2005.

She is invited to give a seminar entitled “Se connaître pour se faire connaître” at the Université des Cinq Continents (Mali) in January 2005. Future plans involve a joint project entitled “Interrogating the Secular/Laïc State” with colleagues from the Ivory Coast and India.

JAMES HELGESON is currently at work on a second book manuscript, examining the ethics of allegory, veiled meaning, and “steganography” in the early modern period as well as the conceptions of “meaning intention” available to sixteenth-century writers; it is tentatively entitled *Le Tableau des Riches Inventions: Allegory, Meaning and the First Person in Early-Modern French Writing*. He gave papers in California and Pennsylvania during the 2003-04 academic year, and will speak in Cambridge, UK this year. Professor Helgeson is also involved in planning future conferences at Stanford and Princeton. He taught a seminar on literary theory and analytic philosophy of language at Columbia in the spring semester of 2004, and is currently supervising a number of graduate students in sixteenth-century and twentieth-century topics. In spring 2005, Professor Helgeson will teach a survey seminar on sixteenth-century French literature; he has also been invited again to teach Music Humanities in Columbia’s core curriculum. A recent article, “Harmony, Anamorphosis and the ‘Conceptual Scheme’” will appear in the *Romanic Review* in 2005. Professor Helgeson was married on 29 May 2004 to his partner Joseph Pearson, in Vancouver, Canada. Joseph is currently a consultant with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, on a short stint in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; he worked previously at the European Commission in Brussels.

In addition to reviewing a number of new textbooks for various publishers, PASCALE HUBERT-LEIBLER has been working on several projects aimed at increasing the availability of new pedagogical material in the French department. She is pleased to...

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In 2003-04 I served for a second year as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the French major and French and Francophone Studies major. I am happy to say that the enthusiasm and support of my colleagues and the graduate teaching assistants has made this task an easy and pleasant one. I would particularly like to thank the Department Chair, Pierre Force, the Director of the French Language Program, Pascale Hubert-Leibler, and Andrea Thomas, a student in our doctoral program and the founder of the French Theater Club, for their strong contribution to our undergraduate program and the extracurricular activities associated with it.

Enrollments in our language, literature and culture courses, as well as in the major and concentration, have risen significantly over the last few years. This May, 21 students from Columbia College, the School of General Studies and the School of Engineering graduated with a major or concentration in French or French and Francophone Studies. Across schools and years at the end of the year there were 67 registered French/French and Francophone Studies majors and concentrators. This figure, which seems likely to rise again at registration in the spring, has increased steadily from 46 in 2001 to 56 in 2002 and 64 in 2003. These increases in enrollment are clearly due to a variety of factors. Among these are excellent teaching of French language courses by lecturers and graduate teaching assistants, paving the way for advanced coursework in the major. The department has also hosted each semester an informal advising open house in which prospective majors and concentrators are invited to meet with the faculty over a snack.

For the second year in 2003-04 we awarded three prizes in recognition of outstanding academic achievement by our undergraduate students. The Prize for Achievement in French language, presented to an outstanding student in an elementary or intermediate language course, was won by General Studies student Nina Marano in recognition of her success in academics and her leadership role in the French theater troupe. The Prize for Excellence in French Studies was won by French and Francophone Studies major Tehmina Haider, and the Senior French Prize was won by Hilary Sanders, in recognition of her academic achievements and her valuable contributions to the life of the Maison Française. Outstanding Senior Awards were also presented to Alexandra Hardiman and Joanna Lederman. At College graduation French majors Joanna Lederman, Hilary Sanders and Susie Wager were awarded departmental honors in recognition of their excellent record in French and their senior essays.

—Madeleine Dobie

THE STAGE

The French Cultural Society has grown up. Beyond the sophisticated name change, the former Culture Club undertook a variety of new ventures last semester, returning this fall with fresh ideas, old favorites and the enthusiasm of a dedicated membership that is over 700 strong. Last spring the FCS worked with the L'Atelier to hold a French poetry-reading event in front of Philosophy Hall and brought the American Editor-in-Chief of Le Figaro to speak to the Columbia community. The over $1000 generated from last spring’s Air France “plane tickets to Paris” raffle has given the FCS room to plan for some large scale events later on in this semester and the next. A large multicultural fête is in the works for late November, with groups like the Italian society looking to co-sponsor. The monthly “dîner” is back by popular demand, each month focusing on a different regional cuisine of France. In September the FCS served up crêpes and cidre at the “repas Breton.” The online help room is also back, offering reliable and rapid tutorials to French students of all levels. The FCS’s newest initiative is a weekly café conversation at neighboring restaurants and bars. A mid-semester surprise event is in the works (hint: it could be anything from apple picking to music appreciation with Noir Désir). Stay tuned to the group’s interactive website, frenchculturalsociety.com, to find out – the FCS looks forward to seeing you there!

—Holly Miller

L'ATELIER TAKES TO THE STAGE

L'Atelier, a French Performance Troupe, began in the fall of 2003, in an effort to provide an outlet for creative expression in the French language among undergraduates of all language levels at Columbia and Barnard. It is entirely student-run and directed, and works closely with the graduate students and the Maison Française to complement the pedagogy and exploration of French language and culture. Last December, under the direction of Andrea Thomas, L'Atelier performed one act from a three-part play by Jean Tardieu, called "Le Guichet." In the spring semester, the troupe presented three lesser-known shorts by Eugène Ionesco for the end-of-the-year department party. L'Atelier is now an official club of the colleges and is currently working on a montage of occupation-era scenes to present in early December, 2004. Thanks to the hard work of the talented Jon Brilliant, Nina Marano, and Severine Martin, L'Atelier continues to thrive.

—Andrea Thomas

Columbia's M.A. in French Cultural Studies continues to draw highly qualified students from top American Universities. This year, 11 students are in residence. We are happy to announce that Professor Henri Mitterrand, Emeritus professor of French and Romance Philology, will teach a seminar on "Paris vécu, Paris conté, Paris rêvé : du roman romantique au roman contemporain," Spring 2005. Some of the other stellar professors who teach in the program include Jeremy Jennings, University of Birmingham, Christophe Prochasson, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Françoise Gaillard, University of Paris VII - Denis Diderot.

The undergraduate programs attracted 68 students in Fall 2004 and will welcome 80 students in Spring 2005 (of which 17 were enrolled in the Fall and are continuing Spring term). An increasing number of students from Columbia College, Barnard College, and General Studies have selected Paris as their

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(Faculty News from page 6)

say that although these projects are still in various stages of development, several of them are already in use— they are described in the section “News from the language program.” She has also made contact with various departments of the French ministry of Foreign Affairs and diverse film and television agencies over the past few months in order to find ways of creating collections of short films for use in the language classroom, and hopes to be able to devote more time to this project in the coming year.


GITA MAY completed a book, Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun and Marie-Antoinette; The Odyssey of an Artist in an Age of Revolution, which is scheduled for publication by Yale University Press in 2005 (with color and black and white illustrations). She contributed an essay, “Rousseau, Judge of Two of His Portraits,” to Rousseau and the Visual Arts, ed. Byron Wells (Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century), and an essay titled “Autobiographical Sketch” to a volume Étre dix-huitiémiste, ed. Carol Blum (Publications du Centre International d’Étude du xviiiie siècle). She reviewed Nicole Masson’s Histoire de la littérature fran- çaise du xviiié siècle (Champion, 2003) for The French Review.

HENRI MITTERRAND completed his last semester of teaching in the French department during the spring of 2004. After fifteen years at Columbia University, his retirement will be effective on January 1, 2005. He has been particularly moved by the reception organized in his honor by colleagues and students at the Maison française on April 15, 2004. He published an anthology of the

(Continued on page 10)
Priya Wadhera has undertaken the stewardship of the Maison and would like to thank Eric W. Ormsby for his extraordinary contribution to the institution, a legacy to which the following list of activities pursued during his last year as Director will attest.

During the academic year, the Maison Française offered an array of programming and events that appealed to every group in our wide constituency: faculty, students and members alike. In addition to the lectures, conferences and performances listed below, the Maison Française, under the leadership of Eric W. Ormsby, expanded its programming by reaching out to various student groups. Through such outreach programs, the Maison served as an event space for the French Cultural Society, the French Graduate Students Association, the Early Modern Salon, the French MBA Club, the newly formed Modern Salon, and the Atelier Theatre Group.

Lectures, Fall 2003 (Primary Sponsor): Patrick Dandrey, Université Paris IV-Sorbonne, Échafaudage du bueste; Elisabeth Ladenson, University of Virginia, Proust, Censorship and Indecency; Stéphane Michaud, Université Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle, Flora Tristan américaine; Pierre Force, Columbia University, Rousseau’s Critique of Commerce; Benjamin Stora, INALCO-Paris, France-Algérie: De la mémoire a l’histoire; Joanna Stalnaker, Columbia University, The New Paris in Guise of the Old: Louis Sebastien Mercier from Old Regime to Revolution; Representatives of the FACC and the French Embassy, Internships and Career Development Opportunities in France.

Spring 2004 (Primary Sponsor): Kaiama L. Glover, Barnard College, Physical Intemperance and Creative Freedom: The Spiralist Contribution; Emmanuel Bury, Université de Versailles, Philologie et littérature: les enjeux poétiques et esthétiques d’une pratique savante aux XVIIe et XVIIe siècles; Richard Terdiman, University of California Santa-Cruz, Political Fictions: Language and Bodies in Enlightenment Reflection; Bernard Levy, Writer, Reporting the Forgotten War.

Lectures, 2003-2004 (Co-Sponsors): Annie Collovald, Université Paris X-Nanterre; Slavoj Zizek, University of Ljubljana; Alexandre Stevens, MD, New Lacanian School; Pierre-Michel Menger, EHESS; Irwin Wall, University of California-Riverside; Marc Lévy, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement; Francois Burgat, CNRS; Elisabeth Guigou, French Minister of Justice; Sylvain Cypel, Editor, Le Monde; Pierre-Gilles Gueguen, World Association of Psychoanalysis; Noëlle Lenoir, French Minister for European Affairs; Jean-Marie Colombiani, Le Monde, President; Walter Welles, The International Herald Tribune, Editor.

Conferences: “A Postcolonial Approach to France: Immigration, Citizenship, Empire” Participants: Sandrine Bertaux; Madeleine Dobie; Frederick Cooper; Alana Lentin; Mary D. Lewis; Gregory Mann; Clifford Rosenberg; Todd Shepard; Ann L. Stoler; Miriam Ticktin. “(Un)framing the Text,” A Joint Graduate Student Conference with NYU Participants: Zeina Hakim; Priya Wadhera; Aaron Jossart; Kristin Cook-Gailloud; Yongyan He; Christoph Gauthier; Erica Weems; Renée-Claude Breitenstein; Stephanie Green; Valérie Pruvost; Matthew Udkovich; Mireille Beausoleil; Olga Amarie; Stéphanie Boullard; David Maklovitch; Nicolas Gauthier; Rosa Saverino; Christopher Treadwell.

“French Moves: Performance, Language and Identity in the Francophone World” Featuring Bwa Kayiman: Portrait of a Slave Revolt in Drum and Dance, La Troupe Makandal. Participants: Awam Amkpa; Dudley Andrew; Srinivas Aravamudan; Gage Averill; Taoufiq Ben Amor; Rédha Bensmaïa; Barbara Browning; John Conteh-Morgan; Dorothy Desir; Madeleine Dobie; Pierre Force; James Helgeson; Kaiama L. Glover; Françoise Lionnet; Christiane Makward; Felicia McCarren; Nick Nesbitt; Micheline Rice-Maximin; Joseph Roach; Allen F. Roberts; Ronnie L. Scharffman; Thomas C. Spear; Lois Wilcken.

“Liberalism’s Return: French Social Thought since 1988” Participants: Michael Behrent; Julian Bourg; Warren Breckman; Michael Christofferson; Jean Cohen; Aurelian Craiutu; Sophie Gherardi; Dick Howard; Andrew Jainchill; Martin Jay; Jeremy Jennings; Sunil Khilnani; Mark Lilla; Samuel Moyn; Marc-Olivier Padis; Thierry Pech; Pierre Rosanvallon; Helena Rosenblatt; Jerald Seigel; Nadia Urbinati; Richard Wolin.

“Enduring Allies or Growing Rivals: Franco-American Relations within the Transatlantic Context” Participants: David Cameron; Charles Cogan; Michel Fouquin; Michel Girard; Mark Kesselman; Richard Kuisel; Charles Kupchan; Thomas Linde mann; Michael Loriaux; Sophie Meunier; Helen

(Continued on page 11)
Écrits de Zola sur le roman:
(Paris: Le Livre de poche, 2004) and he remains general editor of the Œuvres complètes de Zola, in twenty volumes, at Nouveau Monde Editions, Paris (volumes 6 to 10 were published in 2003-04). He is also the director of the series “Passion” at the Éditions Textuel. He has already published or is about to publish several prefaces and chronicles: “Zola et la scène lyrique: L’Ouragan” (Champ littéraire fin de siècle, Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux, 2004); “Retour aux origines: les notes préparatoires des Rougon-Macquart” (Zola à l’œuvre, Presses universitaires de Strasbourg, 2004); “Libérer Zola” (Lire/Dé-lire Zola, Nouveau Monde Éditions, 2004), “Itinéraires romanistes balzaciens: Les Chouans » (Actes du colloque Balzac, Tours, 2003, forthcoming); “Mises en abyme zoliennes” (La critique du roman, 2004); “L’effet d’espace dans le roman” (Mélanges Francis Vanoje, forthcoming); “Les pantoufles de la bonne: sur la dérision flaubertienne” (Mélanges Michel Crouzet, forthcoming); “Berlioz le franc-juge” (Mélanges Béatrice Didier, forthcoming). He gave several lectures in Mulhouse (May 2003), Reims (October 2003), Auxerre (November 2003), Valence (November 2004), in the Balzac colloquium at the University of Tours (June 2003), in the Colloquium of the graduate students of Columbia (on the subject of the “mise en abyme”, February 2004), at the Paris-American Club of New York (on the Dreyfus Affair, March 2004), at Yale University (Colloquium on the French opera, April 2004), at the Universities of Budapest and Debrecen (“The perception of style,” October 2004), Cairo (“Espaces de l’histoire et espaces du roman”, December 2004). Last but not least: Henri Mitterand was made Knight of the order of the “Entonneurs rabelaisiens”, in Chiton, September 2004.... For someone from Burgundy, this is truly a sign of a great openness of mind!

Sarah Juliette Sasson chaired a panel on “Jules Verne and Utopia” at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Conference in Tucson, Arizona (October 23-28, 2003). She organized and chaired a panel on the Jewish condition in Nineteenth-Century France at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington (April 15-17, 2004). Her talk, on Paul Bourget’s Cosmopolis, was entitled “The Alchemist’s Antithesis: Jewish Figures in the Modern World.” She published an article on Balzac, “Du Manteau de la Barbe” in Unperi, at the beginning of October, and this semester she and her husband Eric Leveau have been discovering the exhausting joys of parenting. Last November she gave a lecture on Louis Sébastien Mercier and the French Revolution at Columbia University’s Maison Française, and in March she spoke on Montaigne for the Literature Humanities Monday lecture series. In April she gave a paper on Mercier at the annual American Association of Eighteenth-Century Studies meeting in Boston. She has recently published two book reviews in the Romanic Review, and her article on Mercier, entitled “The New Paris in Guise of the Old: Louis Sébastien Mercier from Old Regime to Revolution,” will be appearing in Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture, Volume 35.

Priya Wadhera spent the past year finishing her dissertation with a departmental fellowship. She will defend her work, entitled “Copy play: The discourse on painting in Un Cabinet d’amateur (1979) by Georges Perec,” at the end of this semester. In the fall of 2003, she gave a paper at a conference on Artifice : Texte et Image, at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her translation of the paper, “Un métal pireque: une œuvre à mi-chemin entre la littérature et les arts plastiques,” was selected for publication by Les Presses de l’Université de Québec à Montréal. In the spring of 2004, she presented “A Prescient Reflection: Protagonist as Narrator in the œuvre of Georges Perec” and served as the organizer of a panel called “The mise en scène of art and artist in Twentieth-Century France” for Diversity and Difference in France and the Francophone World, the 20th-21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium at the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee. This semester, she has joined the faculty as a Lecturer and has also undertaken the Directorship of Columbia’s Maison Française.
FRENCH AND ROMANCE PHILOLOGY FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004

(Maison Française from page 9) Milner; Andrew Moravcsik; Philippe Roger.

CINEMA
After deciding last year to begin an in-house cinema event, the Maison Française continued to host its own Cinéma Thursdays in Buell Hall. Offerings this year included Huit femmes, Le Genou de Claire, Le Charme discret de la bourgeoisie, Z, Sous le sable, Drôle de drame and Viemen Dimanche.

BOOK CLUB
Andreï Makine, Le Testament français; Dai Sije, Balzac et la Petite Tailleuse Chinoise; Yasmina Reza, Hamletkla-vier; Marguerite Duras, Modéra-t Cantabile; Camille Laurens, Dans ces bras-là; Amélie Nothomb, Stupeur et tremblements; René Depes-tre, Hadriana dans tous mes reves; Vercors, Le Silence de la mer; Amin Maalouf, Le Rocher de Tanois; Jean-Christophe Rufin, Asmara et les causes perdues.

CONCERTS
FESTIVAL OF SPECTRAL MUSIC, PARTS I AND II: The Argento Chamber Ensemble, under the Direction of Michel Galante, featuring the music of Tristan Murail, Michael Levinas, and Gerald Grisey and live interactive video by Jean-Luc Herve.

BWA KAYMAN, a performance by La Troupe Makandal, cosponsored with the Haitian Student Association, for the French Moves conference.

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French and Romance Philology First-Year Graduate Students

Top: Leili Chakour, Toby Wikström, Michelle Vilain, Eve Morisi, Severine Martin, Cara Deieso, Julia Tiernan. Seated: Ariana Reines, Sarah Keller, Sarah-Louise Raillard, Matthew Bridge

... AND THEIR “BUDDIES”

Kevin Erwin, Andrea Thomas, Malika Keister

Alison James, Olivia Harrison

Moi-Hwei Saw, David Macklovitch
For information on the Department or the graduate program, please write to or call the Department of French and Romance Philology, 515 Philosophy Hall, Mail Code 4902, 1150 Amsterdam Avenue, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, tel. (212) 854-2500; or contact the Admissions Office of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 107 Low Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, tel. (212) 854-4737. You may also visit the Department’s website: www.columbia.edu/cu/french