This is a time of change for the Department. Following the retirements of Henri Mit-terand and Michael Rif-faterre, and in view of Gita May’s upcoming retirement, the Vice President for Arts and Sciences has authorized three searches with rank and specialization open. A search committee has been formed and applications are coming in. These searches are generating a lot of excitement at Columbia and beyond. The resulting appointments will play a crucial role in defining the Department’s intellectual identity in the years to come. Because the Department is currently short-staffed, we have made a number of short-term appointments. We are very pleased that one of our recent graduates, Joanna Augustyn, is staying on for another year as Visiting Assistant Professor. We were also delighted to be able to recruit two Lecturers for this year: Heidi Holst-Knudsen (also a Columbia PhD) and Cécile Balavoine (who has a PhD from NYU). Our Visiting Professor in the fall 2005 semester was Gilles Philippe, Professor of French Literature and Stylistics at Université Stendhal in Grenoble, and a rising star in the field of French. His Stylistics course, which combined an introduction to the techniques of explication de texte with a broader cultural approach to literary style, was a great success. Jean Terrier, a political scientist currently in residence at the Society of Fellows, is teaching a course for French majors on nation and citizenship in France. Caro-line Weber, who has just joined the Barnard faculty as an Associate Professor, is teaching a graduate course on Rousseau. In spring 2006, we will have two visiting professors, both from Rutgers: Mary Shaw will teach a graduate course on twenti-eth-century French theater, and Richard Serrano’s graduate course will be entitled “Islamic Narrative and Francophones."

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As Director of the Maison Française, Priya Wadhera has lived up to the high standards that were set by her predecessor, Eric Ormsby, and she has added her own touch to the Maison programming. As Priya’s right hand in running the Maison, Samuel Skippon has been a very effective Program Coordinator. Both Priya and Samuel teach in the Department (Priya as Lecturer and Samuel as Associate). They are both extremely successful and popular instructors, and their daily contacts with students give them a keen sense of the needs and expectations of the Maison’s core constituency.

The Advisory Board, under the leadership of Serge Belanger, continues to be a strong supporter of the Department and the Maison. Thanks to the Board’s contacts with private foundations, two graduate student fellowships were made possible this year: the American Society of the French Legion of Honor Fellowship, and the Grand Marnier Foundation Fellowship (see p. 1). Financial contributions by Board members are the main source of funding for the activities of the Maison Française, and the Board provides strategic advice on how to serve the various constituencies of the Maison.

As Department Chair, it gives me great pleasure to see that our recent graduates have done very well on the job market, securing positions at the University of Chicago, the University of Geneva, Virginia Commonwealth University, Hunter College, Colby College, Virginia Tech, and Nassar College. It is also very comforting to know that, during this time of transition, we have the full support of the Arts and Sciences leadership. The humanities departments at Columbia have traditionally been very strong. I am confident that the French Department will continue to play an eminent role in upholding the strength of the humanities at Columbia.

— Pierre Force
Department Chair

**JOB MARKET NEWS**

*Our recent graduates have secured the following positions:*

- **Katherine Almquist (PhD, 2000), Assistant Professor, Frostburg State University**
- **Jérôme Cornette (PhD, 2002), Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **Erin Curren (PhD, 2005), Visiting Assistant Professor, Colby College**
- **Zeina Hakim (PhD, 2005), Assistant, University of Geneva**
- **Alison James (PhD, 2005), Assistant Professor, University of Chicago**
- **Thomas Parker (PhD, 2005), Visiting Assistant Professor, Vassar College**
- **Michael Taormina (PhD, 2002), Assistant Professor, Hunter College**
- **Raina Uhden (PhD, 2005), Visiting Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech**

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**GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS**

**Zeina Hakim** defended her dissertation on April 15, 2005 under the direction of Pierre Force, Gita May and Antoine Compagnon and is currently an *assistante* at the University of Geneva. She published two book reviews in the *Romanic Review* (vol. 98, n. 4, November 2004). One of her articles, entitled "Autobiographie et contrat de vérité chez Robert Challe," is forthcoming in a collective volume (*Le Savoir autobiographique. Narration, subjectivité, mémoire*), edited by P. Lavieri, New York, Peter Lang, European Connections Series, March 2006). A recent article, "Préfaces, éditeurs et instances énonciatives dans *La Vie de Marianne* et dans *Manon Lescault*", has also been accepted for publication in a collective volume from the Presses Universitaires de Rennes (*Pré*(-)textes. Les Préfaces d’éditeurs scientifiques de 1650 à 1800*, edited by M. Henrichot and I. Galleron, Lorient, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, July 2006). In November, she delivered a talk on literary transgressions in 18th-century novels at Yale University. In February, she gave a paper on Isabelle de Chaîrière and Madame Roland at the Gender Studies Annual Conference of the University of Geneva. She participated in October in the International Seminar on the Eighteenth Century organized by the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies that will be held in Genova, Italy. She will also give a presentation on the sublime in Vernet’s landscape paintings at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies held in Montreal in April 2006.


**Cathy Leung** spent the year 2004 in Paris on a Chateaubriand Fellowship. She published an article in *Women in French* Vol.12 "Masque et mascarade dans *Leone Leoni* de George Sand"; she won the WIF Graduate Student Essay Contest with this paper. She gave a paper this fall at the PAMLA Conference in Malibu, California, entitled "Musique et musiciens dans *la Filleule* de George Sand". She recently has been appointed Editor of the George Sand Association Newsletter and has been working on this year’s issue.
In 2004-5 I served for a third year as Director of Undergraduate Studies for our majors in French and French and Francophone Studies. I’d like to thank my faculty colleagues and our extraordinary team of graduate teaching assistants for all of their help in making my job an easy and pleasant one, and for their contributions to maintaining the high standards of instruction in French language and culture at Columbia. I particularly thank the department chair, Pierre Leibler, the director of the French language Program. In 2005-6 I am on leave as a fellow at the National Humanities Center and my colleague Joanna Stalnaker is generously taking over as Director of Undergraduate Studies while I am on leave.

Enrollments in our undergraduate courses and in the two majors have continued to be high in 2004-5. We currently have fifty majors and concentrators (16 concentrators, 34 majors), and this number will rise substantially after registration in the spring. We continue to host open houses each semester to discuss course and career options with prospective majors, and to welcome new members of our program. These informal chats over a snack offer both faculty and students a great opportunity to meet face to face outside the classroom. New advanced-level undergraduate courses offered in 2004-5 included: Advanced Translation Workshop; French Cultural Workshop; Structuralism and Post-Structuralism; Baudelaire and Mallarmé; the French Philosophical Tradition; and Architecture and Dream from Diderot to Baudelaire. Our undergraduate theater troupe, the Atelier, continues to be extremely active. In February it presented a World War Two Anthology with scenes from Hiroshima, mon amour, Le Soulier de satin, and L’Etranger au théâtre, as well as an end-of-semester cabaret. On November 20 at 2pm they hosted another Cabaret, this time in Miller Theater. In the spring they will produce and perform Sartre’s Huis clos.

In May 2005 we awarded our annual prizes in recognition of student achievement and leadership at the end of year party at the Maison française. The prize for Achievement in French Language, which is presented to an outstanding student in an elementary or intermediate language course, was presented to Natalie Allen, who was also named as a Mellon undergraduate fellow. Anjali Leal was named as a runner-up. The prize for Excellence in French Studies, awarded to a participant in an entry-level literature or culture course was won by School of General Studies student Gil Marano, a seasoned theatrical and musical performer as well as a shining scholar of French, favored us with a song, the Josephine Baker classic, “J’ai deux amours.” I would like to congratulate all of the 2004-5 award winners!

—Laurel Eisenach

—Madeleine Dobie

Undergraduate Studies Director
**French Faculty News**

**JOANNA AUGUSTYN**, in her second year as a Visiting Assistant Professor, is pursuing her cross-disciplinary approach to the majors and concentrators seminar with “Art and Literature from Diderot to Lautréamont.” She has been invited by Alain Montandon to be a Visiting Professor at the Centre de Recherches sur les Littératures Modernes et Contemporaines (CRLMC) at the Université Blaise-Pascal Clermont II in Clermont-Ferrand, France. She will thus join the center’s research team on aging and the wane of literary forms and genres for six weeks starting in May 2006. Two of her articles will be published by the CRLMC: “Les Lettres de septembre dans le Rhin de Victor Hugo,” in the proceedings of the colloquium on “Autumn” organized by Alain Montandon for which she gave a talk in October 2005, and “L’Épopée décapitée: Jules Janin critique des Romantiques,” in the collective volume Déclin et confins de l’épopée au XIXe siècle : sur le “vieillir” d’une forme poétique (editor Saulo Neiva). She has written book reviews on nineteenth-century art, literature, and culture for the *Romanic Review* and *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*. Invited once again this year by Yehuda Safran, she gave a talk on ruins and collections between the Enlightenment and Romanticism in his fall 2005 graduate architectural studio “Mnemosyne: The Ruin of our Time” in GSAPP. She gave a paper on cross-century aesthetics titled “La Fin d’un monde: Jules Janin on Denis Diderot” at this year’s NCFS colloquium in Texas and has organized and is chairing a panel which confronts Enlightenment theories of the sublime with texts, painting, and music for the ASECS conference in Montréal in March 2006.

**VINCENT AURORA** published an article in the *Romanic Review* (2005) entitled, “La Méthode des Passages parallèles et ses implications théoriques”, an examination of the three theoretic positions on hermeneutic validity (authorial intention; reader reception; textual monumentality) with the thesis held that nearly universal interpretative practice supports not the traditional view of authorial intention as hermeneutic guarantor, but rather the monumentality of the text itself. He also published an article in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, “French Literature of 2004”. He continued on the *Romanic Review* Editorial Board and as Departmental Representative to the Summer Session, where enrollments in the French program have reached record highs. He was the speaker at the School of Continuing Education’s Cultural Orientation for undergraduate students leaving for Reid Hall, and is for the first time teaching his newly developed practicum on French Culture, *L’Atelier Culturel*. He is currently working on Barthes’ *Mythologies*, continuing his research into the “pornocracy” of 10th-century Rome, writing the article “French Literature of 2005” for the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and preparing a review of Pascal Brissette’s “La Malédiction littéraire” for the *Romanic Review*.


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**French Department Language Program**

As the graduate students in the French program continue to collect numerous scholarships and awards allowing them to devote themselves to their research, we have been able to hire two new lecturers on one-year positions for 2005-2006, Cécile Balavoine and Heidi Holst-Knudsen. Nadia Amara, Martine Benjamin, Alex Hickox, Thomas Martin, and Isabelle Urban have returned as adjunct instructors, and have been joined by ENS exchange students Diane Berthezène and Marie Pélichet. Last semester, we initiated a series of workshops, funded by the Graduate School and led by Fabrouk Thoyer, to teach instructors simple video-production techniques so that they would be able to make films with their students. Sessions were devoted to an overview of possible pedagogical projects (filming presentations, interviews, making short films, dubbing, etc.), a simplified presentation of the steps involved in filmmaking, an overview of French cinema, and several hands-on sessions on camera work and editing. Although it was difficult to schedule the workshops at times convenient for all interested participants, the results of the initiative were quite promising, and we hope to be able to offer the series again next spring. The pedagogical resources available in the department continue to grow. Our collection of TV5 recordings (available in my office) now comprises dozens of short films and music video clips, as well as many documentaries and feature films. I would also like to remind all instructors that they can participate in the development of the French Resource Database and the music collection by sending their submissions (exercises, work-sheets, documents, etc.) and suggestions.

—Pascale Hubert-Leibler

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The undergraduate programs attracted 64 students in Fall 2005 and will welcome approximately 80 students in Spring 2006 (of whom at least 15 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 study abroad site. Students benefit from a wide choice of curricular options and an increasing number have opted to take French university courses in literature and history. Qualified students in the sciences have been able to conduct an internship at the Pasteur Institute. Please consult our new site: www.columbiaprograms.reidhall.net for more information.

Columbia’s M.A. in French Cultural Studies continues to draw highly qualified students from top American Universities. This year, 10 students are in residence. We are happy to announce that Professor Henri Mitterand, Emeritus Professor of French and Romance Philology, will teach a seminar on “Fiction et Histoire, la société du roman” in Spring 2006. Other professors teaching in the program include Jeremy Jennings, University of Birmingham, Christophe Prochasson, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, and Françoise Gaillard, University of Paris VII - Denis Diderot.

— Danielle Haase-Dubosc
Associate Provost and Director

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the Contemporary Civilization teaching staff in January. He spoke on Voltaire and Antiquity at the University of Chicago in April, and on Montesquieu and the countervailing passions doctrine at the Sorbonne in May. In June, he gave a talk on Tocqueville at the French-American Foundation conference “Democracy in the 21st Century”. During his stay in Paris in May, he also co-chaired (with Jean-Charles Darmon of the Université de Versailles) a two-day conference entitled “Le Classicisme des modernes: représentations de l’âge classique au 20e siècle.” His article “Innovation as Spiritual Exercise: Montaigne and Pascal” appeared in the Journal of the History of Ideas, 66:1 (2005). He was elected to the governing board of the Association internationale des études françaises.

DANIELLE HASE-DUBOSC is Executive Director of Reid Hall and Director of the Columbia University Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall. She also serves as faculty advisor for the M.A. in French Cultural Studies. In 2005, she published an article, “Féminisme, politique et pouvoir” in Clio, Histoire, Femmes et Sociétés. During the year, she continued to serve on the Steering Committee of the Dictionnaire des femmes d’Ancienne France and as a member of the “Histoire des femmes” seminar at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. In April, she went to Berzeit University (West Bank) and to the Islamic University (Gaza) where she was invited to lecture on gender equality. She will be giving a seminar entitled “Se connaître pour se faire connaître” at the Université des Cinq Continents (Mali) in November, a project co-sponsored by the Université des Cinq Continents (Mali) in November, a project co-sponsored by the Univer-

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VISITING PROFESSOR GILLES PHILIPPE

In 2004, he published Flaubert savait-il écrire ? Une querelle grammaticale (Grenoble, El-lug) and coedited the Dictionnaire Sartre (with François Noudelmann, Paris, Champion). His main research areas are the linguistics of literary writing and the enunciative and pragmatic aspects of fictional prose. He is also interested in textual genetics and was a co-editor of Bataille and Sartre for the “Bibliothèque de la Période” (Gallimard). He is currently coediting with Julien Piat a grammatical history of modern French literature to be publish-ed by Éditions Fayard (Paris).


During his visiting professorship at Columbia in September 2005, he took part in the Sartre conference at New York University (Sept. 30 – Oct. 1), and gave a lecture at the Maison française on Sept. 21 (“La littérature, la langue et la norme”). His Grenoble advisor, Julien Piat, gave a talk at the Modern Salon on October 5 (“Écrire et lire l’illisible — le cas Beckett”), and they gave a joint lecture at New York University on October 11 (“Pour une autre histoire de la littérature française : la langue littéraire de Gustave Flaubert à Claude Simon”).

In September, Gilles Philippe wrote an article on the relations between the notions of style and langue littéraire, in which he comments on Michael Rifaterre’s works from 1985 to the early nineties. This article, to be published by the Revue de pragmatique in January 2006, was largely inspired by the very special atmosphere of Professor Rifaterre’s office, which was assigned to Gilles Philippe during his stay at Columbia University.
sité de Paris VIII and the Université de Bamako. Future plans (still) involve a joint project entitled “Interrogating the Secular/Laic State” with colleagues from the Ivory Coast and India.

JAMES HELGESON was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor in 2005. His second book, entitled Mendax Speculum: Reading the First Person in Early-Modern France and the Low Countries, is nearing completion. Professor Helgeson has recently given papers in Princeton and Montréal, and this year will speak in San Francisco and Oxford, as well as participating in an interdisciplinary project on ‘Renaissances’ at Stanford. In spring 2005, Professor Helgeson taught a survey seminar on sixteenth-century French literature, in 2006 he will teach a course on Renaissance poetry at Columbia. He has also organized, with Susan Boynton in the Department of Music, a year-long course on ‘Music and Poetry of Desire’—an interdisciplinary survey of medieval and early modern lyric. Professor Helgeson is currently supervising a number of graduate students in sixteenth-century and twentieth-century topics.

A recent article, “Harmony, Anamorphosis and the ‘Conceptual Scheme’” appeared in the Romanic Review in 2005, and several more articles on sixteenth-century topics are forthcoming.

PASCAL HUBERT-LEIBLER gave a presentation entitled “Comprendre le rire de l’autre et faire rire en classe de français langue étrangère” last January at the annual colloquium for high school teachers of French organized by the Maison Française at Columbia and the AATF. She continues to develop various projects initiated in previous years and now available to instructors: the French Resource Database, the music collection, the TV5 recordings collection. She has also been working with Benjamin Young on providing basic Courseworks sites for courses other than 1101-1202 and hopes that they will become available for the spring semester.

DOMINIQUE JULIEN is currently on leave from Columbia University, and teaching French and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara.


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tured. As part of her book project, she gave several lectures on the figure of the prince in disguise as poetic symbol and political motif (UCLA’s French and Italian Lecture Series, May, 2005; NCFS, University of Texas at Austin, October 2005; “Récits d’Orient en Occident: Présence littéraire du monde arabe en Europe”, forthcoming, Paris-Sorbonne, March 2006); as well as on the reception of the French translations of the Nights (Translation Studies Lecture Series, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2004; ACLA, Princeton University, forthcoming, March 2006). She contributed two articles to the forthcoming encyclopedia, Histoire de l’Islam et des musulmans en France (Jean Mouttapa, ed., Paris: Albin Michel, 2006), “Les Mille et Une Nuits chez Proust” and “Haroun Al-Raschid au XIXe siècle: figure poétique et symbole politique”. She was invited by Professor A. Meddeb to give a radio interview for the program “Cultures d’Islam” on the French station France Culture. The interview, “Proust et les Mille et Une Nuits”, based on her book Proust et ses modèles, aired on 7 November 2004, and can be accessed online at http://www.radiofrance.fr/Ch aines/franceculture2/emissio ns/culture_islam/avenir.php. While in California, she continued advising her Columbia doctoral students. All five of them have now defended their dissertations and graduated, one of them with “Distinction”, and she is happy to report that they were all offered academic positions, at the University of Chicago, Colby College, Columbia University, Peking University and Virginia Tech. She continues her work as General Editor of the Romantic Review. Under her direction the journal has now reached a well established pattern balancing special thematic issues (forthcoming are special issues on George Sand, Italian literature, fairy tales, the NRF, Flora Tristan and Jorge Luis Borges) with regular unsolicited issues. Volume 96:3-4 (on George Sand) is currently in print.


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**French Graduate Student Association**

The French Graduate Student Association (FGSA) completed another successful year of activities, conferences and workshops, all organized on a volunteer basis. Last year, the Graduate Student Conference brought speakers from institutions all over the United States, Canada, and Europe to discuss *Le clair-obscur: jeux de lumière littéraires*, with a keynote address from Professor Pierre Force. The FGSA also sponsored a number of workshops to help students both on the job-market and at the dissertation or oral examination stage. They continue to support incoming students with a first-year buddy system and welcome dinner.

This year, the Graduate Student Conference, *Marking Loss, Reading and Writing Erasure in French and Francophone Literature*, will take place on February 17 at the Maison Française, featuring Professor Andreas Huyssen as keynote speaker. Several workshops will be offered, including a MLA Mock Interview, a fellowship and grant-writing workshop, and much, much more. For inquiries on other activities sponsored by the FGSA, or if you would like to get involved, please visit the department website or contact any of our representatives at fgsa@columbia.edu.

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**Gita May** published a

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**Henri Mitterand** has been professor emeritus since January 2005. He has kept teaching nonetheless. For instance, in October 2004 he led a doctoral seminar at the University of Budapest; during the Spring semester of 2005 he gave an MA seminar at Reid Hall (Columbia University in Paris). He will do so through the Spring semester of 2006. He has been participating in several colloquia: University of Cairo, October- November 2004; "Littérature et Histoire"; colloquium of the *Littérature review*, May 2005, "Sociocritique et sciences du langage"; University of Québec in Montreal, September 2005 (Zola: "Mémoire et sensations"); University of Montréal, October 2005 ("Les Dictionnaires Larousse"). He delivered lectures in Hungary (Universities of Budapest and Debrecen, October 2004), in Egypt (University Ain-Sham, Cairo, October 2004); in Paris (Zola Center, on *Le Ventre de Paris*, January 2005; *École des Hautes Études*, on "La spatialité Romanesque", February 2005; University of Paris-IV, on "La légitimité de la biographie littéraire", March 2005; in Italy, April 2005, University Federico II, in Naples ("Espace romanesque et société", "Zola face aux poubelais, University of Messine ("Rhétorique et roman") and at the Zola Museum in Medan, (June 2005, "Zola lecteur de Stendhal "). Between October 2004 and September 2005 Henri Mitterand published the volumes 11 to 14 of Zola’s *Oeuvres complètes* (Nouveau Monde Editions); a newly enriched edition, in collaboration with Prof. Jean Dubois, of the *Dictionnaire Etymologique et historique du français*, Larousse; a special issue of the review *Le Débat*, on the teaching of the French literature, co-directed by Pierre Nora, May-August 2005. In addition to these works there were several articles and interviews released in reviews such as: *Le Débat, Les Cahiers naturalistes, Al Abram Hebdor* (Cairo), *Senso, Littérature, Le Devoir* (Montréal), and in the two volumes paying homage to Prof. Philippe Hamon and Prof. Béatrice Didier.

**Sarah Juliette Sasson** participated in the American Association of Teachers of French annual Conference in January 2005 at Columbia’s Maison Française. Her paper’s title was “Teaching Humor in the French Classroom: a Pedagogical Approach.” In May, she served as a Columbia host and guest lecturer for a week-long trip in the Dordogne organized for Columbia and Georgetown alumni. There she gave three talks: “Clothes Make the Man: Social Distinctions in Nineteenth-Century France,” “Literary Legalese in Balzac,” and “Europe’s New Melting Pot: Can the French take the Heat?” In October, she gave a paper at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium in Austin, Texas: “Les Figures littéraires juives en marge de l’histoire.” Her article “The Dying Poet: Scenarios of a Christianized Heine” was reprinted in *Rhine Crossings*, a book edited by Amina Bruggeman and Peter Schuman, (SUNY Press, April 2005). Her edition of Baroness Orczy’s *Scarlet Pimpernel* for Barnes and Noble Classics came out in August. She is currently working on two articles for the University of Clermont-Ferrand project on *Le Vieillir*: one on Modern American Narratives (forthcoming in 2006), and another on the link between nineteenth-century *Memorial* literature and the contemporary genre of memoir. She is continuing to serve as a managing editor of the *Romantic Review*. The journal is now up to date with a special issue on George Sand (May-November 2005) due this fall, and several upcoming special issues, on the Nouvelle Revue Française, on Flora Tristan and on Italian Literature.

**Joanna Stalnaker** spoke on Mercier at the annual conference of the *Association Internationale des Études Françaises* in Paris in July. She also presented her work on descriptive poetry to the Columbia University Seminar on Eighteenth-Century European Culture in September, and to the Early Modern Salon, recently reincarnated as the Columbia University Seminar on Early Modern France, in November. An article entitled “The New Paris in Guise of the Old: Louis Sébastien Mercier from Old Regime to Revolution” was published in the *Annual Newsletter 2005*.

**Mallika Keister Wins Jeanne Varney Pleasants Prize**

Mallika Keister won the Jeanne Varney Pleasants Prize for excellence in French language pedagogy. This award acknowledges her exceptional talent in a graduate student instructor enrolled in the Practicum in French Language Pedagogy. It was established by the Lois Roth Foundation in memory of Jeanne Varney Pleasants who taught phonetics and instructional methods in the Department from the 1930s to the 1950s. Mallika Keister received her BA from Barnard College in 2000, and an MA in Music (2002). She joined the graduate program in 2003. She has just defended an MA thesis on the genre of the cantata in 18th-Century French literature.
will be appearing this spring in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, volume 35, and another article entitled “L’écriture du moi dans *Le Nouveau Paris*” is forthcoming in the *Cahiers de l’Association internationale des études françaises*. This year, in addition to her duties as Director of Undergraduate Studies, she is teaching two new courses, “French Theater in Performance,” for which the final project will be a performance of selected scenes from plays by Marivaux, Beaumarchais and Musset, and the Survey Course in Eighteenth-Century Literature for graduate students.

Priya Wadhra has spent the past year as a Lecturer in the department and Director of the Maison Française. This unique joint post has allowed her to hone her teaching skills and participate in curricular developments as a full member of the faculty. She is also able to maintain a dialogue with students and instructors of all levels with a view to enriching their experience at Columbia through Maison programming. In the Fall of 2004, she defended her dissertation entitled “Copy play: The discourse on art in George Perec’s *Un Cabinet d’amateur* and its intertexts” in the presence of Professors Jullien, Mitterand, Connor and Ferguson, and the retired Columbia art historian Arthur Danto. Her translation of the paper she gave at a conference called *Artifice: Texte et Image*, at the State University of New York at Buffalo, “Un périmètre perecquien : une œuvre à mi-chemin entre la littérature et les arts plastiques,” will shortly be published by *Les Presses de l’Université de Québec à Montréal*. She also looks forward to being the sole featured speaker at the Association Georges Perec seminar in Paris this December where she will present “Pastiches, Contrefaçons, Intertextes: les jeux de copies dans *Un Cabinet d’amateur*. In the Spring, she will give a talk at the Maison Française of New York University called “Copier, c’est créer : le cas du copiste à l’ère moderne.”

Caroline Weber, a specialist in eighteenth-century French literature recently hired by Barnard College, has enjoyed the opportunity to teach a graduate seminar on Rousseau this semester in the department. She is currently finishing up her second book, *Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore to the French Revolution*, which will be published by Henry Holt in 2006. She is also at work on a study of ideology in the *drame bourgeois*.  

### The University Seminar on Early Modern France

Founded in 2005, the University Seminar on Early Modern France, formerly the “Early Modern Salon,” continues to be organized by Benjamin Young and is chaired by Pierre Force. Sponsored by the University Seminars Office, the Seminar on Early Modern France joins a long tradition established by Columbia University to further the growth of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional scholarly investigation.

The Seminar’s membership has expanded to include literature scholars, historians and philosophers from Columbia and other universities. The Seminar continues its current format, which has proven very successful, consisting in circulating a relatively short piece written by the invited speaker among the group members, and its discussion at the meeting. Thus, instead of a formal talk followed by a few questions, there is an in-depth, 90 minute conversation. This year, the Seminar continued to meet approximately bi-weekly and welcomed guests including Jean-Charles Darmon (Université de Versailles), Nicholas Hammond (Cambridge), Michel Jeanneret (Université de Genève), Gita May (Columbia), Pierre Zoberman (Paris XIII) and many others.

— Benjamin Young

### Alumni News

**Jennie Carper Meade’s**

(MA, 1977) publication *The French Collection* has won the American Association of Law Libraries Publications Award for 2004. The publication describes the collection of French historical legal materials (15th through 19th century) at The George Washington University Law Library. Jennie is the Bibliographer/Rare Books Librarian for the Law Library, and also produces *A Legal Miscellanea*, a semi-annual newsletter for the Friends of the Law Library.

**Danielle Marx-Scouras**

(Ph.D. 1981, French and comparative literature), associate professor of French at the Ohio State University published *La France de Zébda 1981-2004, faire de la musique un acte politique* (Paris: Editions Autrement, 2005). She received the 2004 Rodica Botoman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring, awarded annually to one College of Humanities faculty member at Ohio State.

**Master of Arts Essays Defended**

M. Astella Saw

L’Alchimiste du souvenir et la mémoire des mots : L’Ethinopoeie du soi dans *Bifures*

Olivia Harrison

Palimpsestes en devenir : le devenir-milieu et la bilangue dans *Amour bilingue* de Abdelkébir Khatibi

Matthew Bridge

Balzac et la conquête de l’Algérie

Eve Morris

Le Cycle Sabatier: Baudelaire et la Poésie de la femme
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. It is entirely student-run and directed by undergraduates of all language levels at Columbia and Barnard, and works closely with graduate students, the Maison Française, and the French Cultural Society to complement the pedagogy and exploration of French language and culture. It is Columbia’s first and only such group, and as such it offers a fresh approach not simply to engaging the French language, but also to theater. The troupe seeks to do more than rehearse the classics of French theater, but to expose its viewers to more experimental, lesser known works. Last February, the troupe performed a three-part Second World War anthology, called Montage, directed by Andrea Thomas, Severine Martin, and Marie Pecorari. It also hosted a cabaret in Lerner Hall that featured young singers and poets from the Columbia and Barnard community. This year the troupe is planning many events, from a cabaret (“Le Vrai Cabaret”) in Miller Theater (Sunday, November 20th, 2:00pm) to Huis Clos, to be performed in the spring semester. If you are interested in participating in the group or would like more information, please contact Jon Brilliant at jeb2111@columbia.edu or Nina Marano at ntm2001@columbia.edu.

— Andrea Thomas

Priya Wadhera spent her first year as Director of the Maison Française building on existing programming with the able assistance of Samuel Skippon, the organization’s first-ever permanent Program Coordinator. Priya and Samuel benefit from their perspective in the classroom to enrich programming at the Maison.

They were thrilled with the increased attendance at recurring activities, including Café Conversation and Cinéma Thursdays. The Book Club also benefited from the presence of several well-known authors.

The Maison has continued to reach out to student groups, providing event space for the French Cultural Society, the French Graduate Students Association, the Early Modern Salon, the Modern Salon, the French MBA Club, the Atelier Theatre Group, and the Haitian Students Association.

As far as visiting speakers were concerned, the Maison chose to move a number of talks from the early evening to the lunch hour, allowing for a dialogue with speakers more intimate than a typical lecture. These are listed below as Round Tables.

LECTURES, 2004-2005:

Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson, Columbia University, The Triumph of French Cuisine; Marie-Hélène Broussès, Université de Paris VIII, What Makes Woman Suffer Today? A Lacanian Perspective; Patricia Lombardo, Université de Gêneve, Memory and Imagination: Martin Scorsese and the Nouvelle Vague; Jean-Cyril Spinetta, CEO and Chairman of Air France-KLM, Consolidation in the European Airline Industry: The Single Market a Decade Later; Dorothy Desir, Curator, Bource: A Photographic Journey with jojo voigt; Robert Patton, University of Virginia, The Fall of Aristide and post-Lavalas Politics in Haiti; Judith Miller, New York University, Searching for New Forms for New Conflicts: Tony Kushner and Ariane Mnouchkine; Sarah Kay, University of Cambridge, Poetry as Authority: Lyric Insertion in the Occitan Tradition.

ROUND TABLES, 2004-2005:

Hussein Kassim, University of London, European Integration since the 1990s: The Decline of Supranationalism; Eric Vigne, Publisher, Editions Gallimard, L’Essai, Un Genre Français; Jean-Pierre Azema, Sciences-Po, Dans quelle mesure une histoire du temps présent est-elle opéraire en France?; Jacqueline Lichtenstein, Université de Paris IV, L’Artiste, le critique et l’amauteur: la naissance d’un nouveau discours sur l’art au XVIIIe siècle.


BOOK CLUB: The Book Club hosted two authors for the presentation and discussion of their books during the 04-05 season: Catherine Cusset with La Haine de la famille and Assia Djebar, who was recently elected to the Académie Française, with L’Amour, la fantasia. Other books read during the year included: Lac by Jean Echenoz, Dora Bruder by Patrick Modiano, Un Homme qui dort by Georges Perec, Les Mémories d’Hadrien by Marguerite Yourcenar, L’Amant by Marguerite duras and Moravagine by Blaise Cendrars. Instructors from the department generously contributed their time for these monthly readings and discussions at the Club. The program for the 05-06 season appears on the Book Club’s website at http://www.maisonnefrancaise.org (Book Club on the menu).
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