In accordance with the rebuilding plan that was endorsed by the Vice President for Arts and Sciences in 2005, the Department continues to recruit new faculty. An ambitious search was conducted in the fall of 2006: three positions were advertised with rank and specialization open. In addition to the Chair of the French Department, the search committee included Profs. Akeel Bilgrami (Philosophy), Anne Higonnet (Art History), Matthew Jones (History), and Dorothea von Mücke (German). The search generated a lot of attention and interest in the field: over four hundred applications were received, twelve interviews were conducted at the MLA, nine interviews took place on the Columbia campus, four offers were extended, and three were accepted. Philip Watts, Associate Professor and Chair of the French Department at the University of Pittsburgh, will join the Department as a tenured Associate Professor in September 2007 (pending confirmation by the University ad hoc committee). Emmanuelle Saada, maître de conférences in History and Sociology at the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, has joined the Department as an untenured Associate Professor. Vincent Debaene, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Université de Paris-Sorbonne, is now an Assistant Professor in the Department. This year, two positions have been advertised: a senior position in Medieval Literature, and a Lectureship in Language. In addition, the Department is pursuing targets of opportunity in the Modern and Francophone fields. The appointments are consistent with the intellectual orientation defined in the rebuilding plan: the field of French is part of the larger field of cultural and intellectual history, which includes research in history, art history, anthropology, philosophy, etc. The specific difference that distinguishes the scholarship produced in a language and literature department like French is the practice of philology: the art of making sense of texts rigorously.

In addition to these professorial rank appointments, Samuel Skippon was appointed as Associate in Language, a position that combines language teaching responsibilities with the...
coordination of programming at the Maison Française.

Professor Dominique Jullien, who had joined the Department in 1987 as an Assistant Professor and was tenured in 1996, has accepted a position at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Jullien played an important role in the life of the Department, particularly as a graduate and undergraduate student advisor, and in re-energizing the *Romantic Review*. Professor Paul Creamer, who had been an Assistant Professor since 1999 has also left the faculty. Professor Gita May is now Professor Emerita after more than fifty years of teaching at Columbia. Over her long and distinguished career, Gita May published extensively on the French Enlightenment, eighteenth-century aesthetics, Diderot and Rousseau, literature and the arts, the novel and autobiography, the revolutionary and post-revolutionary era, and women in literature, history, and the arts. She made several important appointments, including the appointment of Antoine Compagnon, during her time as Department Chair. She served as President of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and served on the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association. Professor May’s teaching and mentoring has touched the lives of many generations of students: she was honored by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies as one of the Society’s “Great Teachers” and named “Outstanding Mentor” by Women in French Studies.

Because the Department is currently short-staffed, we have made a number of short-term appointments: Eva Martin (PhD, Princeton, 2006) and Rachel Mesch (PhD, Penn, 2000) are both Visiting Assistant Professors this year. Heidi Holst-Knudsen (PhD, Columbia, 2001) and Cécile Balavoine (PhD, NYU, 2004) were re-appointed as Visiting Lecturers. In addition, Geoffrey MacAdam (PhD, Columbia, 2006) has been appointed as a Lecturer in Language for this year and Lecturer in the Core Curriculum for 2007-2009. Our Visiting Professor this fall was Ann Jefferson of Oxford University, a renowned specialist of modern French literature, who has written on a wide range of authors from Stendhal to Sarraute. She is teaching a graduate seminar on the idea of genius in French literature from the 18th to the 20th Century. The graduate survey of Medieval French Literature is taught this semester by Professor Ana Pairet-Viñas of Rutgers University.

Michael Riffaterre, University Professor Emeritus, died at his home in Manhattan on May 27, 2006. He was 81 and had spent his entire professional career at Columbia University. Provost Alan Brinkley issued the following statement: “Michael Riffaterre was one of Columbia’s greatest and most devoted scholars and teachers. During his more than fifty years at the University, he was an inspiring mentor to countless undergraduates and graduate students. He was also a major international figure in literary studies, a leader in the growth of structural criticism, and a powerful advocate for understanding literature through its impact on its readers.” Born in Bourganeuf, in the Limousin region of France on November 20, 1924, Riffaterre won a prize in French literature in the Concours général (Paris, 1941). He studied at the University of Lyon in 1941 and later at the Sorbonne (MA in Classics, 1947). He received his PhD in French from Columbia in 1955 after defending a dissertation entitled *Le Style des Pléiades de Gobineau*, published by Columbia University Press in 1957. He started teaching at Columbia as an instructor in 1953, became an assistant professor of French in 1955, full professor in 1964, Blanche W. Knopf professor in 1975, university professor (the highest faculty rank at Columbia) in 1982, and university professor emeritus in 2004. Riffaterre literally devoted his life to the study of literature. His work on the aesthetic perception of the text was exemplified in his *Essais de stylistique structurale* (Flammarion, 1971). He argued for the replacement of linguistics with semiotics, in *Semiotics of Poetry* (Indiana University Press, 1978) and *La Production du texte* (Seuil, 1979). His study of the limits of interpretation led him to define difficulty in reading as a key to understanding (for instance, the automatic writing of the Surrealists), and, in his *Fictional Truth* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990), to develop the notion of a grammar of literature. In addition to these books, Riffaterre is the author of more than 130 articles. He was twice a Guggenheim fellow, was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a senior fellow of the University of Oxford. He was chairman of the Columbia French Department from 1974-1983, director of the School of Criticism and Theory from 1987-1997, general editor of *The Romantic Review* from 1971-2000, and held visiting positions at Johns Hopkins, the Collège de France, Yale, Harvard, CUNY and Penn. He was an officer in the French order of the Palmes académiques, and held honorary doctorates from the Université Blaise-Pascal and from the Sorbonne. A collection of essays about his work, including contributions by Antoine Compagnon, Julia Kristeva, Michel Beaugour, Françoise Melzer, Elisabeth Ladenson, Mary Shaw and many others was published in *The Romantic Review* 93:1-2 (2002).

As I am approaching the end of my third term as Department Chair, I can see that I have had to deal with two very different kinds of challenges over the years: at the beginning, upholding the strength of a strong and stable Department; more recently, leading an almost complete changeover in the makeup of the faculty, with hiring decisions that will help shape the field of French for many years to come. The Columbia French Department has been and will continue to be an exciting place to live the life of the mind, for students and faculty alike.

—Pierre Force
Department Chair
NOTES FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Last year, I took over as Director of Undergraduate Studies during Madeleine Dobie’s leave as fellow at the National Humanities Center. I would like to thank her for her help in making the transition relatively smooth and easy, and for giving me much-needed guidance as I learned the ropes.

It was a busy year: twenty-two students graduated with a major or concentration in French or French and Francophone Studies. Thanks to Madeleine Dobie’s efforts in the past years, a record number of students opted to write senior essays and to compete for departmental honors. The excellence of their essays made it particularly challenging to determine who should be nominated for this prestigious honor, which is limited to ten percent of our majors. I would like to congratulate all the students who wrote senior essays, and in particular the recipients of departmental honors: Jennifer Broxmeyer and Kinara Flagg of Columbia College, and Courtney Wissot of the School of General Studies. I would also like to express my appreciation to the faculty members who graciously accepted to direct senior essays and provided superb guidance to our majors: Vincent Aurora, Paul Creamer, James Helgeson, Elisabeth Ladenson, Jean Terrier and Priya Wadhera. Our colleagues at Reid Hall, Anca Bratu-Minott and François Thuillier, also gave generously of their time and expertise to students writing senior essays in Paris, and I would like to thank them as well.

The excellence of our students can also be seen in the many honors that were bestowed upon them beyond the department. Eight of our majors and concentrators were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, two were runners-up for class valedictorian, and many graduated with Latin honors. Congratulations to them, and to all of our graduates.

The year was also rich in cultural activities. The French Cultural Society continued to be an active presence on campus for students interested in French and Francophone cultures, and the French theater troupe founded by Andrea Thomas, the Atelier, gave an extremely sophisticated and ambitious performance of Beaumarchais’ Mariage de Figaro at Lerner’s Black Box Theater in April. My own students performed scenes from Marivaux, Beaumarchais and Musset at the Maison Française in December, and some of them went beyond the call of duty to present scenes from Beaumarchais’ Barberie de Séville to the American Association for Teachers of French in January.

On the academic front, the department expanded its repertoire of undergraduate courses, offering several new courses that quickly proved quite popular: the Cultural Workshop, taught by Vincent Aurora, the Advanced Translation Workshop, taught by James Helgeson, Love, Sex and Gender in Modern French Culture, taught by Elisabeth Ladenson, and French Theater in Performance, taught by myself. The diversification of our course offerings continues apace this fall, with Madeleine Dobie’s Cultural Diversity in Contemporary France, Eva Martin’s The Sublime in France from the Renaissance to Romanticism, and my own Sexual Enlightenment. With the welcome addition of a historian, Emmanuelle Saada, to our faculty, we are also planning a new course in French civilization, tentatively entitled Readings in French History. With such a wide and appealing range of courses, we will certainly continue to attract the very best students to our program in years to come.

—Joanna Stalnaker
Acting Director
Undergraduate Studies
2005-2006

L'Atelier

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. Last fall, L’Atelier hosted Le Vrai Cabaret that featured young singers and poets from the Columbia and Barnard community. Last spring, the troupe performed Le Mariage de Figaro in its original French text with selected Italian arias and authentic costuming. Last year the members of L’Atelier also participated in the Barnard College Festival of Lights and the Barnard College Spirit Day. This year the troupe is planning several events, including a French open mic night and a performance of short French plays from the Dadaist era. If you are interested in participating in the group or would like more information, please contact the troupe president, Jeannette Spaulding, at jis2150@columbia.edu or the troupe secretary, Anais Perez, at ap2366@barnard.edu.

—Jeannette Spaulding
Student, Columbia College

GRADUATE STUDENTS WIN FELLOWSHIPS

Toby Wikström won the George Lurcy Fellowship for dissertation research in France. Andrea Thomas was awarded a Lane Cooper Dissertation Fellowship. The ENS Paris Fellowship was awarded to David Macklovitch. Zuo Wei Chang is studying in Lyon this year thanks to the ENS Lyon Fellowship. Kristen Ellisson was the winner of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor Fellowship. Annelie Curulla is the recipient of the Grand Marnier Foundation Fellowship.

The recipients of the Departmental Summer Fellowships were Toby Wikström, Olivia Harrison, Jason Earle, Kevin Erwin, Bingshu Yang, Ana Oancea, and Séverine Martin (who also won a Reid Hall Summer Fellowship).


**French Faculty News**

_**Vincent Aurora**_ was once again in charge of the French Department's Summer Session, which for the second year in a row topped its own record for the number of students taking courses, thanks to the outstanding work of the Summer Session instructors. He also wrote his tenth consecutive article on French literature of the year for the Encyclopedia Britannica, while maintaining his duties on the Editorial Board of the Romance Review. He was given the chance to overhaul the highest level undergraduate grammar class, Advanced Grammar and Composition II, one of the principal recruiting grounds for French majors, entirely digitizing the course in the process. He again tied his French Cultural Workshop to Columbia’s Reid Hall Program in Paris, conducting the cultural section of the orientation for students leaving for France, while also continuing his work on the tenth century Roman “Pornocracy.”

_**Antoine Compagnon**_ taught at Columbia in the fall of 2005, and in the spring of 2006 at the Sorbonne. He was appointed at the Collège de France, where he will start in the fall of 2006. His chair is titled: “Modern and Contemporary French Literature: History, Criticism, Theory.” He was invited at the European School for Comparative Studies of the Università di Bologna, the Academia Europaea in Potsdam, the Maison Descartes in Amsterdam, the University of Sussex, Princeton University, the St. Clement of Ohrid University of Sofia, Tel Aviv University. Some of his publications were: “Du bruit dans Landerneau: rumeurs de la Recherche du temps perdu », in Les Lieux du réalisme. Pour Philippe Hamon, ed. V. Jouve and A. Pagès, Paris, 2005 ; “A World Without Authors”, Re-imagining Language and Literature for the 21st Century, ed. S. Duangsamosorn, Amsterdam-New York, 2005; “Culture or the koine of Europe”, The New Frontiers of Europe, ed. Daniel S. Hamilton, Lisbon, 2005 ; “Adieu à la littérature, ou au revoir ?”, Critique, 701, 2006. He became a member of the Academia Europaea.

_**Peter Connor**_ is currently on leave and in Paris, where he is researching a book on French translations of British and American Fiction. He has presented part of this work at a colloquium at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, where he gave a paper entitled “E.M. Forster, Charles Mauron et la Route des Indes.” He is also currently teaching a course on “Translation” at Reid Hall. In the spring semester he will teach a course on “Texte et Image” at the Paris Center for Critical Studies.

_**Vincent Debaene**_ has joined the Department as an assistant professor this fall. He received his academic training in France, where he was a fellow of the École normale supérieure. He took the Agrégation de lettres modernes in 1996 and received his doctorate from the University of Paris-Sorbonne in 2004. Lecturer at Yale University in 1996-1997, he taught for two years in high school in Antananarivo (Madagascar), and for four years at the University of Paris-Sorbonne. His principal teaching and research interests include French anthropology, 20th century French literature,

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**French Cultural Society**

Last April, the very first Eurotrash party of its kind was thrown on the Columbia campus thanks to the French Cultural Society (FCS) and its collaboration with the Maison Française. The FCS has finally come out of the shadows after being formed years ago, remaining inactive for some time and finally being given a second chance, thanks to president Holly Miller. The club is fundamentally a student group that promotes French culture and language at Columbia University. The club’s mission is to provide an informal yet supportive environment for those students who value French culture and would like to interact with other students who do as well. Working closely with the Maison Française, the club has hosted dinners with varied themes during which French is spoken, cocktail nights (French only) discussions at Max Café who generously provide the group with a 10% discount, crépes on the ramps, study breaks and finally, end of semester parties. This year, the group will contribute a significant portion of its profits to the Darfur cause. Thanks to the committed, motivated new e-board members, comprising vice-president Alison Hillier, treasurer Edward Chaffetz, publicity representative Juliette Premmerure, secretary Alice Yang, webmaster Jed Micka and cook Matt Daniels, this year the FCS hopes to promote North African culture through its events, too. The goal of current president, Emily Belli, is that the club should represent all Francophone cultures, whether French, Belgian, Canadian, Swiss, African or North African, through its activities, by working closely with other multicultural clubs under the supervision of Kecia Brown (an Office of Multicultural Affairs advisor.) The screening of popular francophone movies is also one of the club’s goals for this year to help young Americans with an interest in France gain insight into the French pop culture. Indeed, most of the screenings currently organized on campus show movies which were handpicked by the French and American intelligentsia, and may not automatically be representative of the ordinary, young French person’s interests. With such activities, a general body of over 250 people and many other things on their list, the French Cultural Society at Columbia deserves the current success it is enjoying and even more. Please visit our website: www.frenchculturalsociety.com

—Emily Belli, Student School of General Studies

(Continued on page 5)
literary theory, intellectual history, and the points of contact between scientific discourses and literature. His dissertation on the relationship between literature and anthropology in 20th-Century France, “Les deux livres de l'ethnographe”, will be published by Gallimard in 2007 or 2008 in the “Bibliothèque des sciences humaines” series. This summer, he has published a long article in L’Homme about the “reinvention of fieldwork” by French anthropology between the two World Wars. Another article on Marcel Griaule’s fieldwork is forthcoming in Gradhiva. In 2007, Professor Debaene will teach a course in French anthropology and literature and keep on working on the edition of the works of Claude Lévi-Strauss in the Bibliothèque de la Pléiade. He will give a lecture at la Maison française in spring 2007.

MADELEINE DOIBE is back at Columbia after a year at the National Humanities Center. She has resumed her role as Director of Undergraduate Studies, but has handed over the direction of the Center for French and Francophone Studies to Emmanuelle Saada. In fall, 2006 she is teaching two new courses, one on literature—primarily but not exclusively francophone—from Lebanon and Syria, the other on cultural diversity in contemporary France. She is working on the final stages of a book manuscript titled Trading Places: Colonialism, Slavery and Old Regime French Culture. One chapter of this manuscript will appear shortly in the volume Furnishing the Eighteenth Century, edited by Dena Goodman and Kate Norberg (Taylor and Francis, 2006). Another essay will appear in the volume The Arabian Nights in Historical Context: from Galland to Burton, edited by Felicity Nussbaum, France in Africa/Africans in France, a special issue of Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, co-edited with Rebecca Saunders, appeared in June 2006. An essay titled “Invisible Exodus: the Cultural Effacement of Antillean Migration” will appear in the journal Diaspora in 2007. In April, 2006 Madeleine Dobie spoke on her current research to the Triangle French Studies group in North Carolina.

PIERRE FORCE continued serving as Department Chair in 2005-2006, and chaired the search committee that recommended the appointment of Vincent Debaene, Emmanuelle Saada and Philip Watts to the faculty. He was the recipient of the Columbia Distinguished Faculty Award, a prize made possible by the generosity of Columbia University Trustee Gerry Lenfest. The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought published a discussion of his book, Self-Interest before Adam Smith, with a response entitled “Two Concepts of Providence and Two Concepts of Sympathy: A Reply to Gilbert Faccarello and Jimena Hurtado”, European Journal of the History of Economic Thought 12:4 (2005). His ar-

REID HALL NEWS

The undergraduate program at Reid Hall continues to draw a healthy number of students Fall, Spring, and Summer terms, with a total of 180 students in 2006. Fall and Spring students now benefit from an intensive 2-week French language practicum and on-going language training in both individual and group meetings. Tutorials throughout the semester provide an adapted pedagogical support for those who are enrolled in the French university system. The week-long homestay-study trips in Lyon, Besançon, Auxerre, and Aix en Provence allow students to experience family living outside of Paris and gain insight into distinctive regional traditions.

The Masters in French Cultural Studies had 10 enrolled students 2005-2006 and currently has 13 students in residence. Professors who have taught or are currently teaching in the program include Christophe Prochasson (French History), François Cusset (French Theory), Daniel Maximin (writer), Henri Mitterand, Françoise Gaillard (philosophy), Sandrine Dauphin (gender studies). Students complete an M.A. essay under the tutelage of a French scholar. Topics include: The extent of the French Implication in the Rwandan Genocide, Post-Colonial Space and Realms of Resistance in the Metropole, La renaissance du mécénat en France, Michel Houellebecq : Roman d’anticipation sociale et éprouvement de la modernité. The curriculum of the MA will- we hope- be expanded so that students can examine French cultural studies in the context of Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Reid Hall also hosted a number of readings, concerts, lectures and colloquia organized by different members in collaboration with French institutions of higher learning. Some examples are: the monthly readings staged by Textes et Voix, in which the works of contemporary writers are read by well-known actors in the presence of the author. Didier Sandre, for example, read poems from Mahmoud Darwich’s Ne l’excuse pas (éditions Actes Sud). Alain Libolt read excerpts from Michel Zink’s Abécédaire du Moyen Age. The Columbia programs lecture series invited such guest speakers as Michel Pastoureau (art historian), Roni Brauman (former president of Médecins sans Frontières) Edwy Plenel (former editor-in-chief of Le Monde), Jean-Loup Bourget (ENS). Among the numerous colloquia that took place at Reid Hall, two are worthy of note: L’Affaire Dreyfus : La naissance du XXe siècle, three-day international colloquium organized by the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, the Centre de recherches historiques (AMHOC group), the École Nationale de Chartres, the École Normale Supérieure, Columbia University Programs in Paris and the Musée d’art et d’histoire de judaïsme. Présences Africaines: Contesting Images and Creating Identities, two-day workshop organized by The University of Florida Paris Research Center & the Center for African Studies, in conjunction with the Festival Francophone en France, and the Columbia University programs in Paris.

—Brunhilde Biebuyck, Director of Studies
—Danielle Haase-Dubosc, Faculty Columbia Programs Adviser for the M.A program.
works of many women who present the lives and scholarly (see web site) it graphical Repertory of tools such as the Bibliothèque in many fields. In 2006, Danielle Haase-Dubosc continued to serve on the Comité de Pilotage of the Dictionnaire des Femmes d’Ancienne France. This Dictionnaire can be consulted on the web: www.siefar.org/. Created in 2000, it enhances the visibility of French Ancien Régime women, and promote scholarship in many fields. Alongside other research tools such as the Bibliographical Repertory of Scholars (see web site) it presents the lives and works of many women who tend to be absent from existing dictionaries and is an important source of information for scholars and graduate students. She gave a paper entitled “Pour une nouvelle lecture des Femmes Savantes” at the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme at Aix-en Provence, which she plans to turn into an article. She also contributed a conference at the Women’s University in Brussels in a workshop entitled Diversité des Féminismes where she addressed the question of Indian feminisms in a global context. Her article “De la Postcolonie et des femmes : Apports théoriques du post-colonialisme anglophone aux études feminists,” appeared in the October issue of Nouvelles Questions Féministes, #25/3, 2006. She will be giving a paper at the University of Lausanne on that topic. She also served as discussant at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) during their conference entitled “Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World” and at the colloquium “Sociétés, États, ‘terreur’ et ‘terrorisme’. Une perspective historique et philosophique.”

James Helgeson gave papers at the Université de Montréal, Johns Hopkins, and Oxford during the 2005-2006 year. He is busy with the final revisions on his second book manuscript, Mendax Speculum: Reading the First-Person Stance in Early Modern France and the Low Countries. His essay “Early Modernity Without the Self: Notes on Anachronism and the First Person” will be featured in the relaunch volume of the journal Seventeenth-Century French Studies from Oxford University Press. He has recently offered a graduate course on sixteenth-century poetry, and will teach an overview of sixteenth century literature in the spring of 2007. Professor Helgeson has also designed an advanced course in translation for undergraduate French students, and continues to cooperate with the Music department on interdisciplinary projects as well: he will teach Music Humanities again in the spring semester of 2007.

Pascale Hubert-Leibler gave a presentation entitled “Théâtraliser le cours de langue” last January at the annual colloquium for high school teachers of French organized by the Maison Française at Columbia and

The University Seminar on Early Modern France

The University Seminar on Early Modern France, formerly known as the “Salon,” completed another successful year of lively interdisciplinary and inter-institutional discussion. Pierre Force remained the Seminar Chair and Benjamin Young continued as the organizer. In its capacity as a University Seminar, the group continued to expand its membership among literature scholars, philosophers and historians from Columbia, other New York institutions, and the scholarly community at large. The Seminar’s uniqueness is not only the result of its interdisciplinary approach to Early Modern scholarship but also of its format. Rather than hosting a formal presentation followed by a brief question and answer period, the Seminar relies on the advance circulation of an article written by a guest to foster a 90 minute in-depth conversation between the guest and Seminar members.

This year, the Seminar welcomed many scholars, including Paul Cohen (University of Toronto), Mark Cohen (Sarah Lawrence College), Kathy Eden (Columbia), Tatiana Smolyarova (Columbia), and Barbara Vinken (University of Munich). More information on the Seminar and its upcoming schedule can be found on its web site at www.columbia.edu/cu/french/salon/.

—Benjamin Young

Visiting Professor Ann Jefferson

Ann Jefferson is a Fellow of New College and a University Lecturer at Oxford. Her research interests lie in the field of C19th and C20th fiction, autobiography, criticism and theory. Her latest book, Biography and the Question of Literature in France, is due to be published by Oxford University Press early in 2007. She has supervised doctoral theses on Michel de la Postcolonie et des femmes : Apports théoriques du post-colonialisme anglophone aux études feminists,” appeared in the October issue of Nouvelles Questions Féministes, #25/3, 2006. She will be giving a paper at the University of Lausanne on that topic. She also served as discussant at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) during their conference entitled “Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World” and at the colloquium “Sociétés, États, ‘terreur’ et ‘terrorisme’. Une perspective historique et philosophique.”

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the AATF. In the spring she offered a series of video-production workshops (based on those she had given in the French department the preceding year), funded by GSAS and co-taught with film graduate student Farouk Thoyer. Participants came mostly from the French, Italian, and Spanish departments, and the workshops helped spark interest in the pedagogical possibilities offered by videotaping in the classroom. In May 2006, she and other language lecturers at Columbia, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale received a grant from the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning that will allow them to build a website of resources for the training of language instructors. This project will be developed over several years. She also continues to work on various projects initiated in previous years and now available to French instructors: the French Resource Database, the music collection, and the TV5 recordings collection. As in previous years, she has been able to rely on Benjamin Young's invaluable technical expertise as well as the strong support of the Language Resource Center and the staff of the French department. The music collection will soon be available in a new format at a new address, which will be sent to all members of the department as soon as the LRC has completed the update. The TV5 recordings collection, which is available to all in room 520, now numbers well over a hundred items.

**Elisabeth Ladenson** is currently Director of Graduate Studies and General Editor of the *Romantic Review*. Her new book, *Dirtd for Art’s Sake: Books on Trial from Madame to Lolita*, has been published by Cornell University Press in December 2006. "Emma Bovary Goes to Hollywood," a shortened version of the Flaubert chapter, appears in the October issue of *Yale Review*. In May 2006 her dissertation on “*Le politiquement correct’ dans les études françaises aux États-Unis*” came out in *Ca-
French Graduate Student Association

The French Graduate Student Association (FGSA) completed another successful year of graduate student-organized events and activities. First among these was the FGSA’s 15th Annual Graduate Student Conference, “La Piraterie de la littérature : l’art,” in Jean Baudrillard, Le bourbe, 2006; “A Life in Complot de l’art, Paris, Sens Theory,” in Brooklyn Rail, 2005; “The New S e p t e m b e r 2 0 0 6 ; Alliance,” “Framing death” “Clearance Signs.” in The and “I Talked about God Josephine Meckseper Cata Arthur Sternberg Press, 2006; “La Piraterie de la littérature : l’art,” in Jean Baudrillard, Le bourbe, 2006; “A Life in Complot de l’art, Paris, Sens Theory,” in Brooklyn Rail, 2005; “The New S e p t e m b e r 2 0 0 6 ; Alliance,” “Framing death” “Clearance Signs.” in The and “I Talked about God Josephine Meckseper Cata- with Antonin Artaud” in El- gite et l’indigène,” in De la question sociale à la question raciale ? (La Découverte, October 2006). A third piece, “La loi, le droit et l’indigène” will be published in the law journal Droits in December 2006. In November 2005, she presented a paper, “La citoyenneté républicaine au miroir de la décolonisation,” at a conference held at the Bibliothèque Publique d’Information of the Centre Georges Pompidou Histoire coloniale, hérítages et trans-missions. She also participated in the recently revived public debate in France on colonial memory—a subject on which she was featured in Le Monde in January 2006. Professor Saada will spend the 2006 spring semester in Paris, completing research on a group project on “the social uses of administrative law.” This work has been funded by the “GIP droit et justice.” Her contribution will look specifically at the administrative and legal practices surrounding the expulsion of illegal immigrants from France.

Juliette Sasson was invited to Old Dominion University and gave a talk entitled “The Splendors and Miser-

(Continued on page 9)
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2006

JOB MARKET NEWS

Our recent graduates have secured the following positions:

JOANNA AUGUSTYN  
(PhD, 2003), Visiting Assistant Professor, Haverford College

GEOFFREY MACADAM  
(PhD, 2006), Lecturer, Columbia University

MARIA MURESAN  
(PhD, 2006), Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia

THOMAS PARKER  
(PhD, 2005), Visiting Assistant Professor, Vassar College

RAINA UHDEHN  
(PhD, 2005), Lecturer, Amherst College

MAISON FRANÇAISE/CENTER FOR FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES 2005-2006

Priya Wadhera pursued a broad range of events at the Maison Française during her second year as Director. The Maison Française's Program Coordinator, Samuel Skippon, was hired by the French Department as an Associate in French, thereby consolidating the link between the Department and the Maison as both Priya and Samuel teach in addition to running the Maison Française.

Designed by Benjamin Young, the new website of the Maison Française enabled news of recurring activities such as Café Conversation, Cinéma Thursdays and the Book Club to reach a larger audience via the University Calendar on Columbia’s website. This also served to spread the word about numerous special events including conferences and lectures.

A number of conferences were hosted at the Maison. Some of these were spearheaded by the Center for French and Francophone Studies, under the able leadership of Madeleine Dobie.

As far as lectures are concerned, the Maison Française continues to host speakers of international renown in one of two different formats, either for evening talks or luncheon seminars.

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As in the past, the Maison Française has continued to work with a variety of groups. Foremost among these are French Department Faculty, students, and staff and their guests, including the French Graduate Student Association, the Early Modern and the Modern Salons as well as the Language Instructors. Undergraduate Groups also benefit from the space such as the French Cultural Society and the French Culinary Society. Other entities on campus with an interest in French, such as the Center for Comparative Literature and Society, the French MBA club, the Argento Chamber Ensemble, the Atelier Theater Troupe, and the Haitian Students Association often host gatherings at the Maison.

Department of French & Romance Philology

Center for French and Francophone Studies

Maison Française Advisory Board

MR. SERGE BELLANGER, Chairman; DR. PAUL ANDERER, Columbia University; MR. DAVID L. ASKREN, IXIS Capital Markets; MRS. HENRIETTE BEILIS; HON. FRANÇOIS DELATTRE, Consul General of France; DR. NICHOLAS B. DIRKS, Columbia University; MR. JEAN-FRANÇOIS DUBOS, Vivendi Universal; DR. IRENE FINEL-HONIGMAN, Columbia University; PROF. PIERRE FORCE, Columbia University; MR. JOHN GOELET; MR. JEAN-JACQUES DE SAINT-ANDRIEU, Air France; MR. PHILIPPE MATHE, Société Générale; DR. PAUL LECLERC, New York Public Library; MR. MICHEL MAGNY, BNP Paribas; MR. MARIE-JOSEPH MALÉ, Air France; MR. JEAN-MARC MORIANI, Calyon; DR. JEANINE PARISIER PLOTTEL, Maurice Parisier Foundation, Inc.; MR. GÉRARD PERRROT, Diagnostica Stago Inc.; PROF. EMMANUELLE SAADA, Columbia University; MR. GUY WILDENSTEIN, American Society of the French Legion of Honor.
CONFERENCES
Laïcité/Secularism: 1905/2005
This interdisciplinary colloquium, conducted in English and French, explored French secularism at its 100th birthday. Speakers examined the political and cultural climate in which the law separating church and state in France was passed, as well as the content and implications of the law of 1905. Participants addressed the contemporary context, considering the recent reaffirmation of secularism in the face of the perceived threat posed by Islam, and the cultural and literary reverberations of current debates about the place of Islam in France.

The Law of 1905, Church, State and Society

Jacqueline Lalouette (Université de Paris, XIII), “Genèse et devenir de la loi de séparation des Églises et de l’État”

Jean Pedersen (University of Rochester), “Separation of Church and State at the Belgian Court of Justice”

Gregory Mann (Yale University), “Frantz Fanon: Retrieving a Lost Voice”

Patrice Leconte, “Le Pouvoir des fables laïques: séparation, identité et imbrication”

Vital Rambaud (Sorbonne), “Les écrivains français et la loi de Séparation: le cas de Maurice Barrès”

Religions and the Republic

Jacques-Olivier Boudon (Sorbonne), “L’épiscopat français face à la séparation”

Patrick Cabanel (Université de Toulouse-le Mirail), “Les Églises, l’État et la laïcité en France au début du XXe siècle”

Gregory Mann (Columbia), “A secular pilgrimage? The West African hajj and the colonial state”

Gil Anidjar (Columbia), “De la part des peuples sémitiques dans l’histoire de la laïcité”

Tzvetan Todorov, “The Threats to Autonomy: Individual and Community”

The Law of 2004, Laïcité and French Identities

Catherine de Wendt (Institut d’études politiques de Paris), “Quelle place pour l’Islam dans la loi de 1905?”

Alec Hargreaves (Florida State University), “Domesticating Islam: Muslims and Laïcité in France”

Mireille Rosello (Northwestern University), “Le Pouvoir des fables laïques: séparation et imbrication”

Secularism, Gender and Democracy Session sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University

Farid Laroussi (Yale University), “Identités françaises”

Sylviane Agacinski “L’existence est-elle sexuée? Heidegger, Lévinas, Sartre”

Guy Sorman “Islam in France: Where are we now?”


Cinema Thursdays


Cartouche, Philippe de Broca, 1962.

Les Égarés (Strayed), André Téchiné, 2003

Rue cases nègres (Sugar Cane Alley), Euzhan Palcy, 1983


Une femme de ménage (The Housekeeper), Claude Berri, 2002

La Grande Vadrouille (Don’t Look Now - We’re Being Shot At), Gérard Oury, 1966

Vénus beauté (institut), (Venus Beauty Institute), Tonie Marshall, 1999, France

La Ville est tranquille (The Town is Quiet), Robert Guédiguian 2000, France

Jésus de Montréal (Jesus of Montreal), Denia Arcand, 1989, Canada

Le Retour de Martin Guerre (The Return of Martin Guerre) Daniel Vigne, 1982, France

Touki Bouki, Djibri Diol Mambéty,1973, Senegal

Fanny, Marc Allégret 1932, France

Week-end, Jean-Luc Godard, 1967, France

Playtime, Jacques Tati, 1967, France

La Battaglia di Algeri (The Battle of Algiers), Gillo Pontecorvo, 1965, Italy

Pépé le Moko, Julien Duvivier, 1937, France

Que la bête meure (This Man Must Die), Claude Chabrol, 1969, France

Après Vous (After you), Pierre Salvadori 2003, France

Book Club

L’Emploi du temps, Michel Butor

Tigre en papier, Olivier Rolin

Nedjma, Kateb Yacine

Les Adieux à la reine, Chantal Thomas

Le Crime d’Oiga Arbelina, Andrei Makine

Mythologies, Roland Barthes

L’Etranger, Albert Camus

Très sage Héloïse, Jeanne Bourin

LECTURES AND ROUNDTABLES

Gilles Philippe “La Langue, la Littérature et la Norme : Retour Sur le Moment Grammatical de la Littérature Française”


Martin Winckler “Tout ce que je sais du soin, je l’ai appris dans ‘ER’ (et dans ’Marcus Welby, M.D., ’St Elsewhere’, Scrubs’, ‘Grey’s Anatomy’ and House, M.D.).”

Régine Robin “Peut-on faire échec à l’illusion biograpique?”

Abdelwahab Meddeb “L’Islam et la guerre des références”

Marco Dotti “L’autre Nuit: The other night pictures, visions, and voices in August Strindberg, Henri Michaux, and Antonin Artaud”


Frantz Fanon: Retrieving a Lost Voice” A Conversation between Celia Britton and Richard Philcox on the latest translation of “Les Damnés de la Terre” (The Wretched of the Earth)

Vassillis Alexakis (author), “Mother Tongue, Other Tongue”
French Department Language Program

We are very fortunate to have been able to keep Cécile Balavoine and Heidi Holst-Knudsen as full-time language lecturers for 2006-2007. Nadia Amara, Martine Benjamin, Thomas Martin, and Isabelle Urban returned in the spring of 2006 as adjunct instructors. In the fall, new adjunct instructors Diane Berthezène, Christopher Wood and Denise Carroll joined our faculty, as well as ENS exchange students Mathilde Labbé and Anne Le Goff. As the pedagogical resources available in the department continue to grow, Pascale would like to invite all instructors to participate in the development of the French Resource Database and the music and DVD collections by sending her submissions (exercises, worksheets, documents, etc.) and suggestions.

Dissertations Defended

Lisa Fleissner Thom
Proust’s Layers of Art: The Framed Description in the Structure of A la recherche du temps perdu.

Geoffrey Stone Mac Adam
Pursuit of Presence: Speed and the Transformation of French Culture in the early Nineteenth Century

Maria Rusanda Muresan
Time and Private Languages: Jacques Roubaud and His Interlocutors

Jeanne Varney Pleasant Prize

Matthew Bridge won the Jeanne Varney Pleasant Prize for excellence in French language pedagogy. This award acknowledges 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 Pleasant who taught phonetics and instructional methods in the Department from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Matthew Bridge received his BA from Boston University in 2002. He joined the graduate program in 2004, receiving his MA in French and Romance Philology in 2006.
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