DIAGNE, LEFÈVRE AND WATTS JOIN THE FACULTY

With three strong senior appointments, the rebuilding of the Department that began in 2005 is almost complete. Philip Watts, who works on post-1945 French literature, joined the faculty in fall 2007. Souleymane Bachir Diagne, an African studies scholar, will become a member of the Department in spring 2008. Sylvie Lefèvre, a medievalist, is scheduled to join the faculty in fall 2008. This is a good time to reflect on the strategy that was behind those hires and to think about the future of the field. There is every reason to be optimistic about the future of the field of French: France as a country may have anxieties about its place in the world, but the scholarly interest in things French and Francophone in this country is very strong, as evidenced by the hundreds of applications (many of them excellent) received by this Department for the jobs it advertised in the past two years. There is also every reason to be optimistic about the future of language and literature departments in general. The move towards contextual and historical approaches does not mean that these departments are losing their methodological specificity or their ability to contribute something unique and invaluable to the humanities as a whole. The common distinguishing feature of these departments is the commitment to philology. Philology in the strict sense relies on specific techniques of exegesis and literary analysis, but it finds its full strength in an attitude that uses every tool available in order to understand the products of the human mind. In that sense, as Renan puts it, “le vrai philologue doit être à la fois linguiste, historien, archéologue, artiste, philosophe.” This is the meaning of the Department’s commitment to philology: the best and most rigorous textual analysis demands an openness to various disciplinary approaches.

Souleymane Bachir Diagne’s work is focused on the history of logic and mathematics, epistemology, the tradition of philosophy in the Islamic world, identity formation, and African literatures and philosophies. He is former fellow of the Ecole normale supérieure where he studied with Althusser and Derrida. He completed his doctorat d’Etat on Boole’s algebra of logic at Université de Paris.

MARC FUMAROLI IS VISITING PROFESSOR

Marc Fumaroli returns to Columbia for the third time in fall 2007 teaching “European Quarrels (1680-1715)”, a study of the quarrels that structured the European intellectual debate before the Enlightenment, in literature, painting, music, and theology. A member of the Académie française, Marc Fumaroli is professor emeritus at the Collège de France and professor emeritus at the Sorbonne. Before the Sorbonne, he taught at the University of Lille and was a fellow of the Fondation Thiers. He is a major historian of early modern European literature and culture, which are the subjects of his landmark studies L’Âge de l’éloquence (1980/1994), Héros et orateurs (1990), L’École du silence (1994), La Diplomatie de l’esprit (1994), Trois institutions littéraires (1998). The leading authority on seventeenth-century rhetoric, Fumaroli is also responsible for the position this discipline currently enjoys in contemporary thought and practice. His most recent work is on the literature and culture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: Quand l’Europe parlait français (2001), Chateaubriand, poésie et terreur (2004). Fumaroli has been a visiting professor at several universities in the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy, and is a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. His previous visiting professorships at Columbia were in fall 1990 and fall 2001. He is also a senior fellow of the Italian Academy this semester.
versité Paris I in 1988, under the direction of Jean-Toussaint Desanti. His main publications include two books on George Boole, a book on the Indian poet-philosopher Muhammad Iqbal, *Islam et société ouverte*. La fidélité et le mouvement dans la pensée de Muhammad Iqbal (Maisonneuve et Larose, 2001) and an examination of Senghor’s philosophy, *Léopold Sédar Senghor. L’Art africain comme philosophie* (Riveneuve, 2007). Before coming to the United States, Diagne was a vice-dean and a professor in the philosophy department at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. He was a professor in the departments of Philosophy and Religion at Northwestern University from 2002 to 2007. At Columbia, he is a Professor of French with a secondary appointment in the Department of Philosophy.

Philip Watts received his BA at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1982 and his PhD from Columbia University in 1991. Before joining the faculty at Columbia he taught at the University of Pittsburgh from 1992 to 2006 and chaired the Department of French and Italian (2002-2006). His research and teaching focus on 20th and 21st-century French literature and film and the relation between politics and aesthetics. His first book *Allegories of the Purge: How Literature Responded to the Postwar Trials of Writers and Intellectuals in France* (Stanford, 1999) was awarded the MLA Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize. Since then he has continued to study how literature and film participate in democratic formations, and has published articles on Jean Genet, Jacques Rancière, Roland Barthes and film, Jacques Rivette and the cold war, and the films of Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet. He is currently completing a book focusing on the persistence of classical forms in postwar French literature and film. He joined the Department as Associate Professor of French and will take over as Department Chair in January 2008.

Sylvie Lefèvre received her doctorate from the Sorbonne in 1992 with a dissertation on Nicole Oresme written under the direction of Daniel Poirion. She completed her habilitation in 2002 under the direction of Jacqueline Cerquiglini with a book on Antoine de la Sale, which was published by Droz in 2006: *Antoine de la Sale. La fabrique de l’oeuvre et de l’écritain*. She is a former fellow of the Ecole normale supérieure (1981-1985). She has published an edition of Marguerite de Navarre’s *Heptameron* and contributed a substantial portion of the Pléiade edition of *Le Roman de Renart*. She trained an entire generation of medievalists as maître de conférences at the Ecole normale supérieure from 1995 to 2004 and became a Professor of medieval literature at Université François-Rabelais ( Tours) in 2004. She is an expert in paleography and codicology and has been in charge of the Romance section at IRHT (Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes—a unit of CNRS) since 1999. She will join the Department as Professor of French in fall 2008.

Priya Wadhera, who managed the Maison Française with remarkable skill for three years, has accepted a tenure-track position at Adelphi University. James Helgeson, who had been on the faculty since 1999 and played a major role as the Department’s secrétaire, has moved to a Senior Lecturer position at the University of Nottingham in the UK. We wish the very best to these two wonderful colleagues. Priya Wadhera’s successor as Director of the Maison Française and Lecturer in French is Nicole Rudolph. Nicole earned her PhD from the Institute of French Studies at New York University in 2005. She also holds an MA in French Language and Literature from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a joint DEA in Social Sciences from the École normale supérieure and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Her research interests include the history of domestic space, women’s history, history of the family, and studies of utopias. She has served as Managing Editor for the peer-reviewed journal *French Politics, Culture & Society*. The French language program was strengthened by the appointment of two more lectur-
ers: Heidi Holst-Knudsen and Sophie Queuniet. Heidi received her PhD in French in 2001 from Columbia. Her area of concentration is 19th-century fiction and her research interests include aspects of Romanticism, autobiography and travel narrative. She’s given presentations on various aspects of language teaching, including the construction of web-based learning environments and the use of electronic discussion boards. Sophie received her PhD from Yale University in 1999 and has worked on 19th and 20th century theories of intelligence and education. She co-authored the French Online project with Chris Jones at Carnegie Mellon University, which received the 2007 Access to Language Education Award for best publicly available on-line instructional materials for language.

Eva Martin (PhD, Princeton, 2006) was reappointed for another year as Assistant Professor of French. Daniel Leonard (PhD, Columbia, 2007) is also teaching as an Assistant Professor for the 2007-2008 academic year. The Language Program has also been able to make several one-year appointments: Katherine Deimling and Christopher Wood as Lecturers, Liza Gabaston, Cathy Leung and Isabelle Urban as Associates.

Last but not least, the Department is fortunate enough to have four very distinguished visiting professors this year. Marc Fumaroli, Professor Emeritus at the Collège de France, is teaching a course entitled European Quarrels (1680-1715). Professor Sarah Kay of Princeton is teaching History and Structure of the French Language. Etienne Balibar, Professor Emeritus at Nanterre, has just finished teaching a course on the Subject and the Universal. Gilles Philippe, Professor at Université de Grenoble and member of the Institut Universitaire de France, will teach the Stylistics course next spring.

Our Advisory Board, led by Serge Bellanger, continues to provide crucial advice and support to the Department and the Maison Française. The Board’s privileged relationship with a number of private foundations has made it possible again to grant dissertation fellowships to outstanding graduate students. The American Society of the French Legion of Honor Fellowship was awarded to Toby Wikström. Olivia Harrison was the recipient of the Grand Marnier Foundation Fellowship.

I will step down as Department Chair at the end of the fall 2007 semester and will hand over the direction of the Department to Philip Watts. Having served for over ten years, I have learned that it is a job with many pressures and few rewards because a chair’s main responsibility is to make sure entirely, to help reshape the department gets its fair share in an endless struggle for scarce resources. There are leas who enjoy working times, however, when the job is together, has been extraordinarily exciting and the past two years have been one of those times. The opportunity to re-

The French Graduate Student Association of Columbia University (FGSA) would like to express its appreciation to Professor Pierre Force for his many years of leadership. We feel fortunate to have benefited from his dedicated and inspiring service as the Department’s Chair.

Turning to FGSA activities, another highly successful year has come to a close. Thank you to those who helped with the events organized last year, as well as to those who have volunteered for 2007-2008!

In April, the FGSA held its 16th Annual Conference, “Car je est un autre”: Articulations of the relationship between identity and otherness, featuring a keynote address by Professor Vincent Debaene. Presentations covered a wide range of historical perspectives, from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. We were privileged to welcome a large number of graduate students from France and the United Kingdom, as well as from institutions across the United States.

The FGSA also sponsored its usual round of workshops to help graduate students at various stages in their careers, held a successful dinner for incoming students, and organized a widely attended end-of-the-year party. The association’s representatives participated in the Department’s executive committee meetings to ensure student concerns were addressed, while the FGSA President regularly attended meetings of the Graduate Student Advisory Council to develop greater interaction between the FGSA and the graduate student body at large. Last fall, Professors Force (Chair) and Ladenson (DGS) were invited to give presentations at the first Membership Meeting, following which a Constitution governing the association’s activities was ratified. New representatives were elected in the spring.

In 2007-2008, the Annual Graduate Student Conference will be held at the Maison Française on February 29, 2008. Several workshops will also be offered, including an MLA mock interview and a dissertation prospectus writing workshop. Membership Meetings have been scheduled for the fall and the spring.

The 2006-2007 FGSA representatives were: Séverine Martin (Financial Director), Michelle Vilain (Vice President) and Benjamin Young (President).

The 2007-2008 FGSA representatives are: Emilie Littlehales (Vice President), Toby Wikström (Financial Director) and Benjamin Young (President).

For all inquiries concerning the FGSA, please email fgsa@columbia.edu or visit our web site at: www.columbia.edu/cu/french/fgsa.

—Benjamin Young
In 2007, Vincent Aurora was again the director of the French department’s Summer Program, whose enrollments, thanks to the instructors’ tireless work, remained strong, second only to the record high of 2006. He wrote his eleventh consecutive article on the year’s French literature for the Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook, while continuing his work for the Romantic Review’s Editorial board, which included contributing an article for the special edition dedicated to Michael Riffaterre to appear this semester. He took the opportunity offered by his coordinatorship of Intermediate French II, a course which as the last required French course for undergraduates is crucial in recruiting French majors, to overhaul the syllabus and digitize the resources for the use of future years. He conducted the Office of Global Programs’ cultural orientation for students leaving for Reid Hall, Columbia’s program in Paris.

Antoine Compagnon was on leave all year in 2006-07. He gave his inaugural lecture at the Collège de France in November 2006, followed by a course on “Proust, mémoire de la littérature.” The title of his work was Flaubert savait-il écrire? Une querelle grammaticale (Paris: Gallimard, 2007) and Réflexions sur la littérature (Paris: Gallimard, “Quarto”, 2007). Other publications include “Le funeste Pascal,” Revue d’histoire littéraire de la France (2007: 2); “Pour la perméabilité des disciplines,” Le Débat (2007: 145); “Proust und die Legende der Zeiten,” Marcel Proust. Die Legende der Zeiten im Kunstwerk der Erinnerung (Insel Verlag, 2007). His Les Antimodernes (Paris: Gallimard, 2005) was awarded the “Prix de la critique” of the Académie française for 2006. He was appointed to the Haut Conseil de l’Éducation (HCE) and Haut Conseil de la Science et de la Technologie (HCST), which advise the French government on education and research. He was made a Chevalier de la Légion d’honneur.

Vincent Debaene has been working on the edition of the works of Claude Lévi-Strauss in the “Bibliothèque de la Pléiade”, for which he is preparing the critical edition of Tristes tropiques and writing the general introduction. The publication is scheduled for May 2008, and it will coincide with the Claude Lévi-Strauss centennial. He will then revise his dissertation, “Les deux livres de l’ethnographe”, on the relationship between literature and anthropology in 20th-Century France, which will be published by Gallimard in the “Bibliothèque des sciences humaines” series. He recently published in the French anthropological review Gradhiva an article on Marcel Griaule’s account of his first fieldwork (“Les chroniques éthiopiennes de Marcel Griaule. L’ethnologie, la littérature et le document en 1934”, n.s., n° 6, nov. 2007). He also co-organized, with Antoine Compagnon, an international conference entitled “Literary Histories of Literatures”, which was held on October 26-27, 2007 at the Maison Française. Professor Debaene taught a graduate seminar on the relationship between anthropology and literature in France, and gave a lecture at the Maison Française on Barthes and Lévi-Strauss. He will give a talk at the Institute of French Studies of New York University in February 2008 and a lecture at the Annual ACLA Conference to be held in April in Long Beach, California.

Vincent Debaene has been working on the edition of the works of Claude Lévi-Strauss in the “Bibliothèque de la Pléiade”, for which he is preparing the critical edition of Tristes tropiques and writing the general introduction. The publication is scheduled for May 2008, and it will coincide with the Claude Lévi-Strauss centennial. He will then revise his dissertation, “Les deux livres de l’ethnographe”, on the relationship between literature and anthropology in 20th-Century France, which will be published by Gallimard in the “Bibliothèque des sciences humaines” series. He recently published in the French anthropological review Gradhiva an article on Marcel Griaule’s account of his first fieldwork (“Les chroniques éthiopiennes de Marcel Griaule. L’ethnologie, la littérature et le document en 1934”, n.s., n° 6, nov. 2007). He also co-organized, with Antoine Compagnon, an international conference entitled “Literary Histories of Literatures”, which was held on October 26-27, 2007 at the Maison Française. Professor Debaene taught a graduate seminar on the relationship between anthropology and literature in France, and gave a lecture at the Maison Française on Barthes and Lévi-Strauss. He will give a talk at the Institute of French Studies of New York University in February 2008 and a lecture at the Annual ACLA Conference to be held in April in Long Beach, California.

Last fall Madeleine Dobie served again as the Director of Undergraduate Studies and taught new courses on Lebanese literature and cultural
diversity in contemporary France. In the spring she was on an FMLA leave dealing with a serious family issue. She would like to thank her French Department colleagues for their understanding and support through what has been an extremely difficult time. This year she will continue to work on her book, Trading Places: Colonialism, Slavery and Pre-revolutionary French Culture. In April she gave a talk based on this work at the annual conference of the Cornell School of Critical Theory on “Savages, Slaves and Frenchmen.”

PIERRE FORCE continued serving as department chair in 2006-2007 and chaired the search committees that recommended the appointments of Souleymane Bachir Diagne and Sylvie Lefèvre. The proceedings of the conference he organized at Reid Hall with Jean-Charles Darmon in 2005 appeared in Revue d’histoire littéraire de la France 107:2 (2007) under the title Le Classicisme des modernes. Représentations de l’âge classique au XXe siècle. He published an article entitled “Écriture fragmentaire et hagiographique: le rôle des textes liminaires dans la réception des Pensées de Pascal” in Littératures 55 (2007). He also published a response entitled “Putting Categorizations in Context” to a review of his recent book, Self-Interest before Adam Smith that appeared in Adam Smith Review 3 (2007). He wrote a preface to Karen Sullivan’s Rousseau’s Aesthetics of Feeling (New York: Mellen Press, 2007). He began serving as chair of the Reid Hall Faculty Steering Committee, and is now serving on the subcommittee to review the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP). As a visiting professor at the École normale supérieure in May 2007, he lectured on Pascal, Helvétius, Rameau, Montesquieu, Hume, Yves Montand, Edith Piaf, and Maurice Chevalier. There were also talks by actors and singers such as Louis Jouvet, Simenon, and Vercors. There were also talks by figures. The inaugural lecture was given by Marc Furmaroli on November 27, 2007. A native of Long Island, Eugene J. Sheffer was associated with the French Department virtually since his arrival at Columbia College as a freshman in 1922 until his retirement in 1966 after 25 years as director of the Maison Française. In 1960, the French Government made him a Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur for his work on behalf of French-American cultural relations. During Sheffer’s tenure as director, the Maison Française hosted talks by many of the major French writers of the time including Albert Camus, André Malraux, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Jules Romains, Georges Simenon, and Vercors. There were also talks by actors and singers such as Louis Jouvet, Yves Montand, Edith Piaf, and Maurice Chevalier. Eugene Sheffer wrote daily crossword puzzles for the New York Journal-American, many of which are still in syndication. In his autobiography, Atop an Underwood, Jack Kerouac mentioned Sheffer’s private secretary while he was a student at Columbia that he and Sheffer became fast friends. Eugene Sheffer edited two textbooks destined for the teaching of French at the college level. One on modern warfare: Aspects de la guerre moderne sur terre, sur mer et dans les airs (New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1942); the other (with A J Liebling) on the French Resistance: La république du silence: the story of French resistance (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1946).

Ralph Sheffer (1913-2006) was a sports marketing pioneer, fundraiser and philanthropist. He was a coxswain at Columbia in the early 1930s, recruited during the first days of his freshman year because he was small. He joined not even knowing how to swim. He attended the Law School, fought in WWII and worked with the US Olympic Committee to sell sponsorships and advertising to support American athletes around the world. Ralph Sheffer’s name is carved in the wood paneling of the Columbia boathouse in honor of his rowing accomplishments. In 2002, the Columbia rowing community named the newest boat in its fleet in his honor. Ralph Sheffer’s wife Betty predeceased him; he is survived by three children and five grandchildren, including Brian Reich (Columbia College class of 2002), who was a coxswain for Columbia’s heavyweight crew.

SHEFFER FAMILY ENDS LECTURE SERIES

Following the death of Ralph Sheffer in 2006, the Sheffer family made a $250,000 gift to endow a lecture series named after Ralph’s brother, Eugene Jay Sheffer (1905-1981) who served as director of the Maison Française from 1942 to 1966. The Eugene J. Sheffer Distinguished Lecture Series features talks at the Maison Française by prominent scholars, authors and public figures. The inaugural lecture was given by Marc Furmaroli on November 27, 2007. A native of Long Island, Eugene J. Sheffer was associated with the French Department virtually since his arrival at Columbia College as a freshman in 1922 until his retirement in 1966 after 25 years as director of the Maison Française. In 1960, the French Government made him a Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur for his work on behalf of French-American cultural relations. During Sheffer’s tenure as director, the Maison Française hosted talks by many of the major French writers of the time including Albert Camus, André Malraux, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Jules Romains, Georges Simenon, and Vercors. There were also talks by actors and singers such as Louis Jouvet, Yves Montand, Edith Piaf, and Maurice Chevalier. Eugene Sheffer wrote daily crossword puzzles for the New York Journal-American, many of which are still in syndication. In his autobiography, Atop an Underwood, Jack Kerouac mentioned the son of the famous poet and member of the Maison des Féministes. She presented a paper entitled “De la postcolonialité” to the French-American selection committee for scholars. As Associate Provost, she serves as the link between Reid Hall and the University at large. She is also part of the Comité de pilotage of the “Dictionnaire des femmes de l’ancienne France”. In 2007 she became a member of the board of the Association France Union Indienne (http://www.afui.net/) and also agreed to serve on the editorial board of Nouvelles Questions.

The Sheffer brothers: Ralph (left) and Eugene (right) circa 1945
In 2006-7 the Modern Salon, organized by Elisabeth Ladenson with the help of a committee consisting of Isabelle Coitoux, Jason Earle, Emilie Littlehales and Séverine Martin, hosted a conference sponsored by the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, and which will go online this fall. In 2006-2007 Elisabeth Ladenson became Director of Graduate Studies as well as General Editor of Romancist and organized the Modern Salon with the help of a committee of graduate students. She taught the undergraduate Senior Seminar in the Fall, which featured works chosen by the students in class, from Le Rouge et le noir to Houellebecq’s Les Particules élémentaires; as well as the graduate Survey of 19th-Century Literature. In the Spring she taught the second semester of Language Humanities (Virgil to Nabokov) for the first time, an exhilarating and exhausting experience; and, at the graduate level, a seminar on Colette. Her new book, Dirt for Art’s Sake: Books on Trial for Art’s Sake, was published in January 2007 and has just been reissued in paperback from Cornell University Press. Among her recent publications are “Honte, mémoire, censure,” in Lire, écrire la honte (Presses universitaires de Lyon, ed. B. Chaouat), and “Invidia’s Snake,” in the special issue on Envy of Women’s Studies Quarterly. For the launching of this issue she took part in a roundtable discussion on Envy and Feminism at CUNY Graduate Center. At the School of Criticism and Theory conference organized at the Maison Française by Gayatri Spivak she spoke on “The Riftterre Years.” During the Spring she also spoke at the Société des Dix-Neuviémistes conference at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (UK) (“Not Balzac”); and gave lectures at Proust at Dartmouth College and the University of Oregon at Eugene. Among her forthcoming publications are an entry on “Censorship” in the Harvard Companion to the Classical
After being resurrected five years ago by a small group of Columbia students, the French Cultural Society (FCS) has finally emerged as a popular and active group. Our first general body meeting of the 2007-2008 school year welcomed an unprecedented amount of new members, both French and American alike.

The club is fundamentally a group dedicated to promoting French culture and language at Columbia University. The French Cultural Society upholds the mission to provide an informal environment for students who value French culture and would like to interact with other students with similar interests. Working closely with the Maison Française, the club hosts monthly dinners, study breaks, conversation nights every two weeks and the notorious Eurotrash party each semester. At each monthly dinner, where all conversation is held in French, the FCS picks one region or city of France or the greater Francophone world and creates a menu based on the food from that region. In the past such themes have been cassoulet and plum tart (Toulouse), crepes (Bretagne) and couscous with lamb and vegetables and custard dipped in honey (Morocco). The conversation nights, which have recently witnessed a rise in the number of participants, are held at Max Caffe on Amsterdam. These conversation nights cater to all levels of French, from basic to fluent. The Eurotrash parties, held every semester, are remembered not only for the crazy costumes and packed venues, but also for the French music played by our very own DJ from Paris.

As the year begins, the French Cultural Society also looks to broaden its range of activities in order to take advantage of New York and encourage increased participation from our general body.

Thanks to the small but dedicated executive board, which includes Juliette Premmereur and Allison Hillier as returning co-presidents, Edward Chaffetz as Vice President, Nushien Fateh running publicity and welcoming new members Keving Bolela as Treasurer and Karen Kwan as Secretary, several ideas have already been proposed. These new events include field trips to see French movies, invitations to French speakers, a possible party to celebrate Mardi Gras and collaborations with the executive boards of other clubs, such as the European Student group. We also hope this year to help American students with an interest in France gain insight into French pop culture, an area of French culture that can easily be overlooked inside the classroom.

More information on the French Cultural Society’s members and activities can be found at our website (which will be updated shortly to cater to the new school year): www.frenchculturalsociety.com.

—Alison Hillier
Columbia College 2008

Compagnon and May Receive the Légion d’Honneur

Gita May, Professor Emerita of French, and Antoine Compagnon, Blanche W. Knopf Professor of French and Comparative Literature, have been awarded the Légion d’Honneur with the rank of Chevalier. The Légion d’honneur or Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur was established by Napoléon Bonaparte, First Consul of the French Republic, on May 19, 1802. This world-renowned order is the highest decoration in France.
French domestic architecture, and her dissertation examined the relationships between architects, the housing ministry, and residents of new HLMs during the Trente Glorieuses. Her work on this subject won the Western Society for French History's Millstone Prize for best interdisciplinary paper presented at the annual conference, and in Spring 2008, she will continue to present work related to her thesis when she delivers a conference paper at the University of Nottingham between Modernist architects and 1950s French homemakers. Previous to becoming a Lecturer at Columbia, she taught French at the University of Virginia, the University of Pittsburgh, and New York University. As the new Director of the Maison Française, she looks forward to hosting an active and engaging series of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary luncheon seminars, lectures, and conferences.

Emmanuelle Saada is an Associate Professor in the department and the Director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies. She spent Fall 2006 in New York and Spring 2007 in Paris. Her book, Les Enfants de la colonie: les métis de l'Empire français entre sujétion et citoyenneté, was published by La Découverte in May 2007. She also published an article entitled “La loi, le droit, les indigènes” in the law reference Les Annales. Finally, a short piece presenting her research to high school teachers of French entitled “De l'esclave au citoyen” was published in Le Français Dans le Monde in August 2007. With Maryse Condé, Marianne Hirsch and Susan Suleiman, she participated in a roundtable on “Memory and its Discontents: the Case of France”, held at the Maison Française on December 1, 2006. She also gave a paper entitled “The Law of Assimilation” at the School of Criticism and Theory Annual Conference held at the Maison Française on April 13-14, 2007. She presented papers at the French American Foundation conference on Equal Opportunity in November 2006, at a workshop on sociology and history at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris in March 2007, at a conference organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow on the subject of “After Empire: migrations in a post-colonial context” in May 2007, and at a conference entitled “Racing the Republic: Ethnicity and Inequality in France in American and World Perspective” held at U.C. Berkeley in September 2007. A recipient of the Columbia University Junior Research Award, she began archival work on her new project, entitled “the invention of the indigène,” in the summer 2007.

Sarah Juliette Sassoon’s paper “Justice institutionnelle et justice surnaturelle dans Ursule Mirouët” was delivered in abstentia at the Society of Dix Neuvièmes’s fifth colloquium in Cambridge, England, in March. She is continuing her research on cholera in the nineteenth century. She is also serving as the managing editor of the Romanian Review.

Joanna Stalnaker was a Faculty Fellow at the Heyman Center. She spent Fall 2006 in Paris and Spring 2007 in Moscow, and returned to Columbia in September 2007. She taught French at the University of Pittsburgh, and New York University. Previous to becoming a Lecturer at Columbia, she taught French at the University of Nottingham and Martin Joyce College, and Martin Joyce was a recipient of the American Foundation conference entitled “Racing the Republic: Ethnicity and Inequality in France in American and World Perspective” held at U.C. Berkeley in September 2007. A recipient of the Columbia University Junior Research Award, she began archival work on her new project, entitled “the invention of the indigène,” in the summer 2007.

Sarah Juliette Sassoon’s paper “Justice institutionnelle et justice surnaturelle dans Ursule Mirouët” was delivered in abstentia at the Society of Dix Neuvièmes’s fifth colloquium in Cambridge, England, in March. She is continuing her research on cholera in the nineteenth century. She is also serving as the managing editor of the Romanian Review.

Joanna Stalnaker was a Faculty Fellow at the Heyman Center. She spent Fall 2006 in Paris and Spring 2007 in Moscow, and returned to Columbia in September 2007. She taught French at the University of Pittsburgh, and New York University. Previous to becoming a Lecturer at Columbia, she taught French at the University of Nottingham and Martin Joyce was a recipient of the American Foundation conference entitled “Racing the Republic: Ethnicity and Inequality in France in American and World Perspective” held at U.C. Berkeley in September 2007. A recipient of the Columbia University Junior Research Award, she began archival work on her new project, entitled “the invention of the indigène,” in the summer 2007.

News from the Undergraduate Program

This year, a small but exceptionally talented group of students graduated with a major or concentration in French: we had 12 majors and 2 concentrates for our French track, and 2 majors for our interdisciplinary French and Francophone Studies track.

Many of these students took on the challenge of writing an independent senior essay under the direction of a faculty member, and the superior quality of these essays made the task of nominating students for departmental honors particularly difficult this year. I commend all the students who wrote senior essays for their intellectual independence and creativity, and I extend special congratulations to our three recipients of departmental honors: Natalie Allen of Columbia College, and Martin Joyce and Whitney Krahn of The School of General Studies. Natalie wrote on the tragic dimension of passionate inclination in Lafayette’s famous novel La Princesse de Clèves; Martin focused on Rousseau’s paradoxical combination of misanthropy and love for his fellow man in the Révevres du promeneur solitaire; and Whitney examined Henri Lefebvre’s urban theory in light of the recent uprisings in France. The diversity of these topics reflects both the originality of our students, and the broad, interdisciplinary expertise of our faculty. In addition to congratulating our students, I would like to express my appreciation to the faculty members who devoted their time and energy to directing senior essays, and also to the members of the committee who selected the honors recipients. It is our hope that this new trend of our students engaging in independent, advanced research at the undergraduate level will continue in years to come.

The senior essay is an excellent preparation for advanced study, and many of our best students have chosen to pursue their studies at the graduate level. To cite just a few examples, Natalie Allen is teaching in France this year with the French government’s assistant program, while at the same time preparing applications for doctoral programs in French, and Whitney Krahn has just entered the PhD program in French at New York University. Other recent graduates have used their French major or concentration as a platform for careers outside of French: Connor Kuratek (CC ’06) recently began his studies at Duke Law School after graduating with a concentration in French. A note to all recent graduates: please keep us informed as you move forward in your careers. We love to keep track of our alumni!

As our faculty continues to grow, we are pleased to be able to offer an increasingly broad spectrum of advanced courses to our undergraduates: this spring, Madeleine Dobie will be introducing a new course entitled “Islam and/in France,” and our new colleague Phil Watts will be offering a course in French film that is sure to be popular. With the addition of such appealing and topical courses, we can respond to our students’ current interests, while at the same time continuing to provide them with a solid background in French and Francophone literature and culture. Be on the lookout for more new course offerings next year, as we continue to welcome new members to our faculty.

—Professor Joanna Stalnaker
Acting Director, Spring 2007
Priya Wadhera is very grateful to Samuel Skippon for over-
seeing Maison activities during the fall semester when she was on maternity leave. During this time, the Maison hosted a number of very successful events including a visit by Pierre Ronzanoallon and a roundtable on memory featuring Maryse Condé, Marianne Hirsch, Emmanuelle Saada, and Susan Suleiman. In the spring semester, high points of Maison programming were lectures by Vincent Debaene, Peter Brooks, Edmund White, Jean-Yves Pouilloux and Christian Noyer. During the spring, Priya taught French conversation classes. In addition, she delivered a number of papers, talks, and speeches throughout the semester. The first, in January, was “En vers et avec tous : le poème à l’œuvre dans la salle de classe” at the annual American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) conference. In March, at the 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium “L’exception française,” she delivered “Proust’s pitting of painting against his own art: an exception to the rule of writing?” at Texas A&M University in College Station. Later in the semester, she was chosen by the department of Modern Languages at Phillips Exeter Academy to be a Harkness Fellow, visiting campus to discuss how Exeter’s unique classroom model – centered around tables donated by Edward Harkness 75 years ago – is beneficial to learning and in particular to foreign language instruction. She was invited to address the entire school in assembly and was also a guest speaker in foreign language classes. In the late spring, she gave three separate talks based on her research as the faculty host of a Columbia Alumni trip to Dordogne, France. Having joined Columbia in 1998 to pursue her PhD and having spent the last three years as a Lecturer in the Department of French and Romance Philology and Director of the Maison Française, Priya recently decided to accept a tenure-track professorship in the Department of Languages and International Studies at Adelphi University in Long Island, where she now teaches French language, culture, and literature courses. She continues to study art in 19th and 20th century literary texts and as an extension of her work and research, she will chair a panel called “Art in / and the Everyday” as part of which she will give a paper this fall at the 19th Century French Studies Colloquium entitled “From one cloud to another: Lofty affinities between the low-lower references of Charles Baudelaire and Andy Warhol” in Mobile, Alabama. This December, at the Modern Languages Association Annual Convention in Chicago, she will give a paper in a more recent area of interdisciplinary research. Her paper is entitled “Eat local: Cooking American-Style on the Farm” and was published in a forthcoming collection entitled “Les Cahiers Stiäéliens.” The dissertation was re-submitted last spring and the Department’s recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School was to grant her a PhD retro-active to 1984. Max Horlick served in military intelligence during WWII and kept working for the government after the war, eventually ending up at the Social Security Administration. After retirement, he continued working in the pension industry. He has just published a book on Social Security reform, The Pension Mountain (New York: Vantage Press, 2007).

The University Seminar on Early Modern France

Thanks to the continued participation of its core membership and the contributions of its guest scholars, the University Seminar on Early Modern France wrapped up another successful year of delving into the wide-ranging field of early modern French literature, culture and history. Pierre Force and Benjamin Young continued as Seminar Chair and organizer, respectively. Under the auspices of the University Seminars at Columbia University, the group comprised of faculty members, scholars and graduate students from Columbia and other universities continued its interdisciplinary approach to topics surrounding early modern France, as well as its unique format consisting of an in-depth 90 minute discussion among the guest and Seminar members. The Seminar was pleased to welcome many scholars, including: Gilles Declercq (Paris III), Kathy Eden (Columbia), Sara Melzer (UCLA), Jean-Paul Montagnier (Nancy), and David Quint (Yale).

—Benjamin Young
Maison Française/Center for French and Francophone Studies

This academic year sees the departure of Priya Wadhera as Director of the Maison Française. During her three years as Director, and in collaboration with the Associate Director, Samuel Skippon, Priya successfully animated the Maison with a series of lectures, round tables, conferences, films, and conversation evenings.

Highlights of last year’s programming included a conference on Josephine Baker, lectures by Henri Alleg, Pierre Rosanvallon, and Christian Noyer (the Gouverneur of the Banque de France), as well as a panel discussion on Lawrence Kritzman’s Columbia History of Twentieth Century French Thought, a cycle on the French presidential elections, and Edmund White in conversation with Professor Ladenson.

Under the directorship of Nicole Rudolph, the Maison Française anticipates further opportunities for sustained and invigorating intellectual exchanges, a goal to be facilitated by a gift to the Maison Française for an endowed lecture series in memory of Ralph Sheffer, Class of 1934, and his brother, Eugene Sheffer, who served for twenty-five years as Director of the Maison Française. We are delighted that the inaugural lecture of this series was delivered by Marc Fumaroli.

This fall, we hosted the conference organized by Professors Compagnon and Debaene, “Literary Histories of Literatures,” as well as a one-day conference in honor of historian Isser Woloch, “From the Old Regime to the New: Interpreting the French Revolution with Isser Woloch.” Other lectures include those by Professor Saada, political scientist Françoise Vergès, and sociologist Judith Lyon-Caen as part of our “Literature and Society” cycle.

As in previous years, we continue to sponsor our popular recurring events: Café Conversation on Tuesdays from 5:00pm-7:00pm and Cinema Thursdays at 7:30pm; this year both benefit from the enthusiastic and capable leadership of our new intern from France, Mounir Mahjoubi. The Book Club, which meets monthly, is thriving under the direction of Danièle Lasser and has expanded its membership. Please check the Maison’s website: www.maisonfrancaise.org for their scheduled meetings.

Finally, the Maison will continue its rewarding associations with French Department faculty, students, and staff and their guests. We welcome the events of the French Graduate Student Association, The University Seminar on Early Modern France and the Modern Salon as well as use of the Maison by language instructors. Groups who benefit from the space include the French Cultural Society and other entities on campus with an interest in French, such as the Center for Comparative Literature and Society, the French Club of the Business School, and the Haitian Students Association.

We are pleased to be able to continue to work with all of them.

—Nicole Rudolph
Director, Maison Française
Web Site: www.maisonfrancaise.org

French Language Program

We are delighted that Heidi Holst-Knudsen and Sophie Queuniet have now joined our faculty as language lecturers. The department has also been able to hire five instructors on one-year positions for 2007-2008: Kate Deiming and Christopher Wood have been appointed as lecturers, while Liza Gabaston, Cathy Leung, and Isabelle Urban have joined us as associates in language.

Suman Mallipattana, who is a lecturer at the Language Resource Center, is also teaching one course in our department.

Denise Carroll, Vanessa Merhi, Charles Girard, Anjali of Irlande Saurin, Vincent Mes-Balasingham, and Anne Le Goff have joined or returned to our faculty as adjuncts.

Our team of Normaliens instructors this year is comprised of

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Annelle Curulla was the winner of a Whiting Fellowship, Columbia’s most prestigious award in the humanities. Toby Wistrom won the American Society of the French Legion Honor Fellowship and Olivia Harrison was the recipient of the Grand Marnier Foundation Fellowship. Jason Earle received a Departmental Dissertation Fellowship. The ENS Paris Fellowship was awarded to Matthew Bridge and Malika Lecoeur. The ENS Lyon Fellowship went to Séverine Martin. The recipients of the Departmental Summer Fellowships were Matthew Bridge, Zuowei Chang, Annelle Curulla, Jason Earle, Kirsten Ellicson, Ana Lazic, Malika Lecoeur, Cathy Leung, Emilie Littlehailes, Ana Oancea, and Bingshu Yang.

Web Site: www.maisonfrancaise.org

Language Program Director

Pascale Hubert-Leibler
**NEWS FROM REID HALL**

We are pleased to announce that Reid Hall has now passed Parisian city code and has been completely repainted and repainted. During the Columbia alumni week-end (September 28-30), the President of the University, Lee Bollinger, the Vice-President for Arts and Sciences and many Deans were thus able to visit and stage events in an exceptional setting. More than ever, Reid Hall stands ready to serve the Columbia community at large and to participate in its outreach in global education.

The Undergraduate Program in French Studies has undergone significant changes since 2006, changes reinforced by Reid Hall’s unique position as Columbia’s Paris campus and partner of numerous French institutions of higher learning. A total of 144 students have come through our programs this past year... and the numbers are growing.

All students now benefit from an intensive three-week French language practicum complemented by a follow-up course on French academic writing and individual language tutorials throughout the semester. In this way, the program continues to provide adapted support for coursework in the French University and at Reid Hall. To give students access to an even broader range of French University courses, especially in history, economics, political science and art history, we have established an international exchange agreement with the University of Paris I – Sorbonne. We have also strengthened our existing partnerships with Paris VII – Denis Diderot, Paris IV – Sorbonne, and Sciences Po. These Parisian universities are also opening their doors to many more international students, enhancing their curriculum and support services. The University of Paris VII, for example, just inaugurated its new site at the Grands Moulins (along the Seine river in the 13th arrondissement). It now provides students with a real campus atmosphere, a state of the art library, and easy access to the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF).

Particularly exciting is our joint honors seminar with the Institut d’études politiques (Sciences Po) on Diversty, Social Mobility and Affirmative Action. This semester it has attracted as many as twenty Sciences Po students to Reid Hall who study in tandem with ten Columbia program students. In this way, students from different European countries and from different US universities compare perspectives and debate, in French, on issues pertinent to their own socio-political settings. This seminar, together with several other courses taught in-house, offer an impressive array of guest-speakers and site visits. Students thus have the chance to listen to university scholars, politicians, heads of private businesses, union organizations and NGO’s on questions pertinent to French politics and social action. They also visit museums and galleries and attend a variety of performances in the arts. Spring 2007, for example, students enrolled in the course, “Democracy and journalism” taught by Edwy Plenel, former editor in chief of Le Monde, had the opportunity to visit major newspapers, the Assemblée Nationale in session and Matignon, home of the French Prime Minister, then, Dominique de Villepin, who took time to welcome them.

Such co-curricular activities go a long way to engage students in the realities of everyday Parisian life and are complemented by the week-long homestay in provincial France. This year, in addition to Lyon, Besançon, Auxerre, Aix, students will be able to discover the city of Nantes, a bustling university town and major seaport. These homestays continue to be a unique experience for a majority of our students as it takes them away from Paris and introduces them to distinctive regional traditions.

The academic component of our program is reinforced many support services. Our website is currently under reconstruction and will be linked to an electronic platform providing students with ready access to academic and other resources. Our housing service continues to make concerted efforts to place students in French households; this semester, for example, 75% of our students live in a French home or with French housemates.

Our other programs have also undergone significant changes/improvements this past year: the Columbia University M.A. in French Cultural Studies, a free-standing program given entirely at Reid Hall, has enlarged its offerings in order to become “French Cultural Studies in a Global Context” with two additional tracks – France, Africa and the Middle East and France and Eastern Europe. Students will be expected to study one month in another country. This transformation of our MA has been approved by the Executive Committee and is now being advertised for the 2008-09 academic year.

We continue to provide assistance to Ph.D. students when they come to Reid Hall, either at the beginning of their research or when they are writing the dissertation.

Columbia University’s Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall is now in its seventh year of operation. In cooperation with the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, it provides scholars with offices and administrative services while researching and writing in Paris. Its congenial atmosphere is much appreciated and the productivity of the scholars is, perhaps as a result, extremely high.

Reid Hall also continued to host many conferences and other events of a cultural nature throughout the year. Let us mention, in closing, that our Mason & Hamlin piano was completely refurbished. In June, the concert of Bruno Billiard gave us the opportunity to appreciate its concert quality.

—Danielle Haase-Dubosc
Executive Director, Reid Hall
Brunhilde Biebuyck
Director, Reid Hall
Web Site:
www.columbiaprograms.com

**JOB MARKET REPORT**

Our recent graduates have secured the following positions:

**LEIGH ALLEN** (PhD, 2006)
Lecturer, École normale supérieure, Paris

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

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

**MARIA MURESAN** (PhD, 2006)
Post-Doctoral Fellow, École normale supérieure, Paris

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

**DANIEL LEONARD** (PhD, 2007)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Columbia University

**ANDREA THOMAS** (PhD, 2007)
Lecturer, Loyola College
Baltimore
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