French and Francophone Studies: A Note from the New Chair

Having just completed my first year as chair, I am delighted to report that French Studies at Columbia are thriving. Over the last five years the Department has undergone many changes. New faculty have arrived, bringing with them new fields of knowledge and new approaches. In recent years, the Department has moved toward more historical and contextual readings, with an emphasis on the relation between literature and fields such as philosophy, anthropology, law and history. The number of French majors at Columbia continues unabated. Next year we will celebrate 100 years of the Department’s flagship publication, Romanic Review, and this will give us a chance to continue to reflect on the ways we can bring together the past and the future of our scholarly disciplines.

The number of French majors at Columbia continues to rise. We now have two tracks for undergraduates—the French major and the French and Francophone studies major—and students in the College are taking advantage of these new options in ever-growing numbers. We are delighted that the number of Columbia students studying abroad is also on the upswing. More students than ever are going to Reid Hall in Paris and many undergraduates are also taking advantage of Columbia’s developing ties with the Université Cheik Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal.

I am also immensely impressed by the work of our graduate students here. Students are researching and writing on a range of topics from the pleasure of reading in the 18th century to conspiracy theories in the 1930s, from the Palestinian question in North African literature to early modern representations of the non-European world. It has been an exciting time to be in the field, and in spite of what we occasionally hear in the press, scholarly interest in things French and Francophone continues unabated. Next year we will celebrate 100 years of the Department’s flagship publication, Romanic Review, and this will give us a chance to continue to reflect on the ways we can bring together the past and the future of our scholarly disciplines.

Etienne Balibar is Visiting Professor in French and Comparative Literature

In Fall 2008, Etienne Balibar returned to Columbia to teach a graduate course titled “Aporia of the Community: The French Debate,” a study of the question of community in the works of Maurice Blanchot, Jean-Luc Nancy, Jean-François Lyotard and Jacques Derrida. The course was taught through the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and was a continuation of courses Balibar previously taught at Columbia on Hegel and on Freud. Etienne Balibar, Professor Emeritus at the Université de Paris, Nanterre and Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at the University of California, Irvine, is one of Europe’s leading political philosophers. His numerous books include Spinoza and Politics (1998), Les frontières de la démocratie (1999), Politics and the Other Scene (2002), We, the People of Europe? (2003), Masses, Classes, Ideas (2004), and with Immanuel Wallerstein, Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities (1993). Balibar’s work spans the history of moral and political philosophy in Europe and has had a huge impact on contemporary thought. An authority on Spinoza, Marx and Althusser, Balibar is also responsible for important on-going reassessments in thinking about the nation, borders, immigration, global community and the possibilities of a politics of emancipation.

(Continued on next page)
recruitment for the class entering Fall 2008. We received nearly 70 applications for 7 graduate student fellowships. The students who came to our department to pursue their doctorate represent the very best young scholars from the strongest universities in the United States and Europe. I’m delighted to welcome them to Columbia.

The Department is well-positioned to take advantage of the ongoing scholarly interest in things French. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Emilie Littlehales who is now Associate in language in our department and Program Coordinator at the Maison Française. Thanks to Emilie and to Director Nicole Rudolph, the Maison Française along with the Center for French and Francophone Studies hosted an impressive array of conferences and events this year, beginning with the “Literary History of Literature” conference organized by Antoine Compagnon and Vincent Debaene, and, in February, the French Graduate Student Association’s conference on “L’Ennemi: Difference and Antagonism in Literature.”

Speakers who visited the Maison included: Pascale Casanova (CNRS, Paris) who discussed the global literary space, Marnia Lazreg (Hunter College and CUNY) who presented her new book Torture and the Twilight of Empire, Yves Citton (Grenoble) who delivered a lecture on teaching literature in the age of cognitive capitalism, Pierre Menger (CNRS, Paris) who gave a talk on artistic labor markets, Todd Shepherd (Temple) who lectured on French colonialism, Jean-Luc Nancy who spoke on “The Being-With of Being-There,” Kristin Ross (NYU) who discussed her most recent book May 68 and its Afterlives, Marc Fumaroli (Columbia, Collège de France and Académie française) who presented the “rocaille” movement in 18th century French art, Azou Begag who spoke on immigration and integration in France, and former French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hervé de Charette who gave a talk on Nicolas Sarkozy’s foreign policy. This array of scholars, public figures and topics speaks well to the wide range of scholarly work that our faculty and students are undertaking here.

The Department had the good fortune to host three distinguished visiting professors. Gilles Philippe, Professor of French Linguistics at the Université Stendhal in Grenoble returned to Columbia to teach a graduate course in stylistics in spring 2008. Gilles Philippe is the author of many books and articles, including Flaubert savait-il écrire? (2004). He has also published on questions of stylistic purity in 20th century French literature, and is currently editing the Pléiade edition of Marguerite Duras’ collected works. The Department was also delighted to welcome Emmanuelle Naya, Université Lumière Lyon 2, who taught the graduate course on Renaissance literature in Fall 2008. And, for the third year in a row, Etienne Balibar was Visiting Professor at Columbia in conjunction with the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. Professor Balibar taught a course on the “Aporia of the Community” in modern French thought. We look forward to his visit to campus again next year.

Under the steady hand of Pascale Hubert-Leibler, the language program is flourishing and was enhanced by several recent appointments. Marie-Hélène Koffi-Tessio (PhD, Princeton) and Anjali Balashingham (PhD Columbia, stepped aside as chair in JD Fordham) were hired as January 2008 for well-lecturers in language and deserved research sabbatical, Céline Marangé (Institut de but his office is right next Sciences politiques) was door to mine, and I am hired as an Associate in extremely grateful that he language. We are very happy took the time to answer my that they are with us this all too frequent questions as year. I became (re)acquainted with the Department. The note, I’m delighted to have faculty, staff and students taken over as chair of the join me in thanking Pierre Department and I thank all for all his hard work. my colleagues for their One final word, dear warm welcome. I am especially reader, if you have gotten truly thankful to Pierre this far. In next year’s Force. Pierre was chair of newsletter, we will reintroduce the Department for ten dace our “Alumni News” years, and in addition to his column, so please send us teaching and distinguished your news and updates. scholarship, he has been instrumental in rebuilding the Department. Pierre

—Philip Watts
Department Chair
**Alumna Beverley Timins Creates Fund for Graduate Student Activities**

The Department is delighted to announce the creation of the The Beverley M. Timins MA ’61 French Literature Endowment Fund. The endowed fund was created through a generous gift from Beverley Timins in memory of her parents Dr. and Mrs. Allan H. Timins. Ms. Timins is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Douglass College where she majored in French. She was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to pursue graduate studies at Columbia where she earned a Master of Arts in French Literature, writing her Master’s essay under the aegis of Professor Michael Riffaterre. For many years, she taught French language, literature, and culture at a high school in suburban New Jersey where her goal as an educator was to instill in her students her abiding passion for France, the French language and culture as well as “le monde francophone”. This generous gift is designated to support research, travel and various graduate student activities in the Department of French. Funds for graduate student travel will be available starting June 2009. Our sincerest thanks to our generous and gracious benefactor.

**From the Director of Undergraduate Studies**

Last year I returned to the post of Director of Undergraduate Studies for the French and French & Francophone Studies majors. I would like to thank my colleague Joanna Stalnaker for her capable stewardship of our major programs during my leave of absence. I would also like to express my gratitude to our new department chair, Philip Watts, and to the Director of the French Language Program, Pascale Hubert-Leibler, for their strong and dynamic support for our undergraduate programs.

In May 2008, 8 Seniors graduated with a major in French, 2 with a concentration in French, 4 with an interdisciplinary major in French and Francophone Studies, and 1 with an FFS concentration. We warmly congratulate all these new Columbia French graduates! I would like to encourage former majors to stay in touch, and to let us know of new career developments and educational pursuits. Several of last year’s graduating seniors opted to write a senior essay. These independent research projects were devoted to a wide range of literary, historical, and social topics. The College and the School of General Studies recognized the high level of achievement of our essay-writing seniors by conferring departmental honors—a prestigious award that recognizes academic performance, completion of a strong senior essay, and students’ ethics and leadership role—on three of our seniors. We warmly congratulate Ashley Banks, Michele Klapper, and Naomi Salomon, the three recipients of departmental honors. Ashley wrote her senior essay on the flâneur in Baudelaire’s *Spleen de Paris*, Michele wrote on Brancusi and Chagall, and Naomi wrote on novels of the First World War. Our annual in-house French Department prizes were distributed as follows: the Prize for Promise in French Studies was split between Felix Vo and Gerrard Carter, and the Senior French Prize was split between Ashley Banks, Michele Klapper, and Naomi Salomon. The prizes were presented at the end-of-the-year reception last May, during which senior and double prize-winner Ashley Banks serenaded us with an aria from *Carmen*.

An increasing number of French majors are electing to spend a semester or their entire junior year abroad. Most choose to participate in Columbia’s Paris program at Reid Hall. Over the past two years Reid Hall has launched several attractive new initiatives. Students now begin their studies with a month-long language immersion called the ‘Practicum’; during their first semester they take a required course on Academic Writing in French, which prepares them for success in courses taken at institutions such as the Sorbonne, Sciences-Po, and, for our joint French/science majors, the École Polytechnique. Another new initiative is the program of joint seminars conducted with partner universities including the Sorbonne and Sciences-Po. 10 students from Reid Hall and 10 students from a partner university in Paris participate in seminars devoted to topical issues. This year one group is studying French and American models of equal opportunity or “positive discrimination,” while in another French/American seminar students are studying Paris as a capital of the arts.

Several of our French and Francophone studies majors have chosen to pursue study abroad opportunities outside of continental France. Last year Emma Jacobs studied in Senegal, while Cory-Alice Andre-Johnson studied in Madagascar. This year FFS major Sarah Layton is studying in Morocco.

In 2008-9 we offered a wide range of advanced undergraduate courses, including two new courses, one on French cinema, the other devoted to the history of Islam in France. This year our two new faculty members, medievalist Sylvie Lefèvre, and philosopher and Africanist Bachir Diagne, are introducing new courses. Sylvie Lefèvre is teaching “The Author as Lawbreaker,” and in the spring will offer a course on Lyric Poetry. Bachir Diagne is teaching a course on French philosophical writing titled “Discovering Existence.” We are looking forward to a new spring semester undergraduate course on “The French New Wave,” which will be taught by Philip Watts. Other spring courses will include: “Montaigne, Descartes, Pascal” (Pierre Force), “Love, Sex, and Gender in Modern French Culture” (Caroline Weber), and “Cultural Diversity in Contemporary France” (Madeleine Dobie).

We have very strong enrollments this year in our language, literature, and culture courses, as well as in the majors and concentrations. 47 students are currently registered in our two major tracks, and the numbers will go up in the spring, when majors are declared. We are delighted to welcome a dynamic new group of students to our undergraduate programs!

On a last note, I am glad to announce that our undergraduate French theater group, the *atelier de théâtre*, which has been dormant for several years, has recently been revived. Students at all levels are welcome to participate in this informal speech and performance group, which meets weekly at the Maison Française (Wednesday evenings, 7-8pm). I would like to thank the three organizers: Mary-Alice Farina; Céline Marangé; and Rebecca Sopchik, for relaunching the popular *atelier*.

—Madeleine Dobie

Director
Marc Fumaroli, Azouz Begag deliver annual Eugene J. Sheffer Distinguished Lectures

In November 2007, Marc Fumaroli, Visiting Professor at Columbia and Alexander Bodini Senior Research Fellow at the Italian Academy, delivered a scintillating lecture at the Maison Française titled “Du rocaille au ‘retour à l’antique’: la peinture française au 18e siècle.” In April 2008, former French Minister for Equal Opportunities, Azouz Begag spoke on the subject of “L’Egalité des chances, made in France: Promesses et blocages.” Both lectures were made possible by a generous endowment from the family of Ralph Sheffer, in honor of his brother Eugene Jay Sheffer (1905-1981) who served as director of the Maison Française from 1942 to 1966. A native of Long Island, Eugene J. Sheffer arrived at Columbia College as a Freshman in 1922 and remained at Columbia virtually his whole career until his retirement in 1966. As director of the Maison Française, Mr. Sheffer hosted talks by many of France’s leading writers including Albert Camus, André Malraux, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Jules Romains, George Simenon and Vercors. His enthusiasm and efforts as director helped make the Maison Française, one of the leading cultural institutions in New York for writers including Albert Camus, André Malraux, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Jules Romains, George Simenon and Vercors.

In his lecture, Marc Fumaroli spoke about the “rocaille” style that flourished in France at the beginning of the 18th century, in the years following the War of the Spanish Succession. This gracious and piquant style was in tune with what Mr. Fumaroli called private happiness and could be found in painting, but also in theater, in architecture and in the fashion of the early 1700s. It was an extremely popular style that seemed to fascinate not only France but all of Europe. Mr. Fumaroli’s lecture focused on the development of this style, but also on the arrival, around 1750, of a neo-classical revival, a style infatuated with the military virtues of ancient Rome, opposed to the “rocaille,” and announcing the turmoil of the Revolution and the Empire.

During the spring 2008 semester, Azouz Begag, sociologist, novelist and former Delegate Minister for Equal Opportunities in France, spoke on “L’égalité des chances, made in France.” Basing his talk on his own experiences, on his research and on his two years as Minister, Mr. Begag spoke about efforts to create forms of equal opportunity in France. Mr. Begag also spoke about similarities and differences between France and the United States, especially concerning government policy on immigration and integration.

Both lectures were a great success. The Maison Française’s East Gallery was full for both events and the questions and discussions lasted well into the evening.

Graduate Students win Fellowships

David Macklovitch is the recipient of the Grand Marnier Foundation Fellowship. Kevin Erwin has won the American Society of the French Legion Honor Fellowship. Séverine Martin has been awarded a Reid Hall Fellowship. The winners of the Departmental Dissertation Fellowships are Mallika Leceur, Sarah-Louise Rallard, and Benjamin Young. The ENS Paris Fellowship awards went to Roderick Cooke and Ana Oancea.

The Departmental Summer Fellowships have been awarded to Lisa Anchin, Matthew Bridge, Roderick Cooke, Mary-Alice Farina, Olivia Harrison, Casiana Ionita, Mohammad Mack, Séverine Martin, Ana Oancea, and Toby Wikström.

French Department Language Program

Our language program continues to thrive thanks to the remarkable dedication and excellent work of Teaching Fellows, ENS exchange students, adjuncts, associates, and lecturers. In fall 2008 the department welcomed new lecturers Marie-Hélène Koffi-Tessio and Anjali Balasingham, as well as associates Emily Littlehales, who also works part-time at the Maison Française, and Céline Marangé. Liza Gabaston returned as a lecturer after defending her PhD last spring. Kate Deimling and Christopher Wood were also reappointed as lecturers. Michelle Vilain and Denise Carroll returned to the department as adjuncts. The exchange students from the ENS are Marie Kuntzmann, Fanny Jaffray, and Mathilde Unger. The ranks of Teaching Fellows swelled this year with the arrival of seven newcomers in the language program. It is nice to note that all of the TF’s with more than two years’ teaching experience who are not currently on a dissertation or ENS fellowship are or will be teaching advanced courses in 2008-09, either in the Core or in our Department.

—Pascale Hubert-Leibler
Director

The Modern Salon

In the Spring of 2008, the Modern Salon, organized by a committee consisting of Paul Wimmer and Isabelle Coitoux, hosted three events in the Spring semester. On March 25th, the Salon welcomed Mary Shaw of Rutgers University who discussed her translation of the contemporary poet Claude Mouchard. On April 4th, Carole Allamand also of Rutgers University, discussed her latest project, a reading of various autobiographical works (by, among others, Jean Rouaud, Annie Ernaux, and Romain Gary) through the concept of the “scène primitive”. Evelyne Ender of Hunter College and the CUNY Grad Center visited us on April 8th to discuss the first chapter from Architexts of Memory: Literature, Science, and Autobiography, (2005) entitled “The Aroma of the Past: Marcel Proust and the Science of Memory”. All sessions were well attended which made for engaging and lively discussion. The Modern Salon committee for 2008-9 consists of Paul Wimmer, Alexandra Perisic, and Casiana Ionita.

—Casiana Ionita
French Faculty News

VINCENT AURORA following his eighth year review was renewed in his position as Lecturer. He was, for the seventh year, Departmental Representative to the Summer Session program, whose strong enrollment required for the first time doubling sections for all first and second year courses. He wrote the article “French Literature of 2007: France” for the Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook, both designed and implemented a new 1202 course with an emphasis on politics and foreign affairs for the intention of SIPA students, and taught a class for the first time at Reid Hall, Columbia's program in Paris.


PETER CONNOR spent the Spring semester in Paris, where he taught a course on Translation at the Centre Parisien d’Etudes Critiques and carried out research for a book about translation and the formation of national identity. Beginning this semester he will be Director of the project to promote “Translation Across the Disciplines” at Barnard College, made possible thanks to a four-year grant from the Mellon Foundation.

VINCENT DEBAENE edited the works of Claude Lévi-Strauss in the “Bibliothèque de la Pléiade”, for which he wrote the general introduction and prepared the critical edition of Tristes tropiques. The volume was published in May 2008 and met with unexpected success. In collaboration with Frédéric Keck, he is currently finishing an illustrated intellectual biography of Claude Lévi-Strauss for the series “Découvertes / Gallimard”, which will be published in the spring 2009. He also revising his dissertation on the relationship between literature and anthropology in 20th-century France, which will be published by Gallimard in the “Bibliothèque des sciences humaines” series under the title L’Adieu au voyage in Fall 2008. As part of this book project, he gave a talk on scientists and writers in modern France at the international conference “Historical Epistemology,” held at the Maison Française in October. These proceedings will form a special issue of the Romanic Review aptly numbered 100 which will be published in Spring 2009. This year, he continues to organize the French department workshop, which is held once a month and discusses works in progress by advanced graduate students and faculty members. Spring 2009, in addition to teaching Lithium and a survey class on French literature after 1800, Professor Debaene will teach a cross-departmental graduate seminar entitled “Lévi-Strauss on trial” on the controversies raised by Lévi-Strauss’s work from both anthropological and literary fields and from Europe and the U.S. In collaboration with Prof. Antoine Compagnon, he is editing the proceedings of the international conference “Literary Histories of Literatures” which was held at the Maison Française in October 2007. He also organized in December a roundtable on “Claude Lévi-Strauss and literature”, cosponsored by the French Department, the Maison Française and the Department of Anthropology. The event gathered specialists of Lévi-Strauss’s work from both anthropological and literary fields and from Europe and the U.S.

SOULEYMANE BACHIR DIAGNE is the Department of French was delighted to welcome Emmanuel Naya as Visiting Professor for the Fall 2008 semester. Professor Naya taught a graduate course in 16th century literature with great success. Currently Maître de conférences at the Université Lumière Lyon 2, Emmanuel Naya wrote his dissertation on the rediscovery of skepticism in the 16th century and he works on the relations between literature and philosophy in the Renaissance. His books include Rabelais: Une anthropologie humaniste des passions (1998), Essais de Michel Seigneur de Montaigne (2006), Eloge de la médiocrité (2008) and a translation and commentary on Seneca’s De Brevitate vitae. He is currently preparing a new scholarly edition of Montaigne’s Essays forthcoming with Gallimard. Naya’s recent articles include “‘I Am No Philosopher’: Montaigne’s Suspension of Philosophical Ethos”, in Revelations of Character : Ethos, Rhetoric and Moral Philosophy in Montaigne, ed. Corinne Noirot-Maguire and Valérie M. Dionne (2007) and “Périphérie et point centrique : la crise de la signification chez Rabelais” in La Renaissance décortée, ed. Fr. Tinguely (2008). Naya was also recently elected a junior member to the prestigious Institut Universitaire de France for the years 2008-2013.

PROFESSOR EMMANUEL NAYA

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ANNELE CURULLA is a visiting instructor in the Department of Romance Languages at Bowdoin College. In November, she chaired a panel on gothic melodrama at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association’s annual meeting. In March, she will present a paper entitled “Reveving Mélanie: Jean-François de La Harpe and His Critics” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies’ annual meeting.

JASON EARLE presented “Contre-Attaque’s Antagonisms” at this year’s FGSA conference. He has also been working as research curator at the New York Public Library for the exhibition “Between Collaboration and Resistance: French Literary Life under Nazi Occupation,” scheduled to open in April 2009.

KEVIN EHRWIN presented a paper, “Missing Persons: Barbey d’Aurevilly Critiques Progressive Historiography,” at the University of Washington’s Aesthetics and (Self)Deception Conference in October 2007. He also presented, “Le Mystique de la Tradition: Barbey Worships at the Altar of Joseph de Maistre” at the Fifth International Colloquium on Joseph de Maistre, University of Cambridge, in December 2008.


OLIVIA HARRISON co-organized a panel entitled “Crossing the Lines: Women and War in the Middle East” at the 2008 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, where she presented a paper entitled “Domestic Transgressions: Economies of Gender and Genre in Etel Adnan’s Sitt Marie Rose.”


In November 2008, at the MESA (Middle-Eastern Studies Association) conference in Washington DC, he presented a paper entitled “Beur is Beautiful: Urban Maghrebi youth in France, the Kelma organization, and the grooming of homosexuality” (http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/annual/program.htm).

He has been awarded the Academic-Year FLAS Fellowship in Arabic and Area Studies (subject: North African Immigration and France) for the 2008-2009 academic year.

SARAH-LOUISE RAILLARD participated in the Graduate Student Translation Conference hosted at Columbia by The Center for Literary Translation. She presented several translations of poems by French and Spanish poets such as Jules Supervielle, Paul-Jean Toulet, Gabriel Celaya, and Philippe Jaccottet.

TOBY WIKSTRÖM delivered the paper “Unoccupied Land and Its Ironies in Créhèt’s Le Portugais infortunés (1608) as part of the panel “Current Research on Seventeenth Century French Literature” at the MLA Annual Conference in December 2007. In February 2008 he gave the paper “L’Ennemi turc : La Rhodienne, ou la cruauté de Soliman” for the FGSA Graduate Student Conference. He also participated in the Law and Literature Workshop organized by the Cardozo Law School and the Université de Paris-X in June 2008, speaking on law and judgment in the staging of Early Modern Christian-Muslim encounters. In addition, through an arrangement with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Toby taught French to teachers and staff at Public School 125 in Harlem during the 2007-2008 school year.

Pierre Force stepped down as department chair in December 2007, after ten and a half years of service, and is now enjoying a sabbatical year. In February 2008, he gave two talks at Stanford University: one on Montaigne’s skepticism, and the other on Pierre Hadot’s interpretation of Wittgenstein. In June 2008, he chaired the academic review of the department of languages and literatures at the Ecole normale supérieure (Paris). He also joined the governing board of the Institute for Advanced Study of Paris. His current book project is on novelty claims in material culture.

Kaiama L Glover has been working toward the completion of her manuscript, Zombies Become Warriors: the Spiralist Challenge to the Post/Colonial Canon, a study of the general issue of canon formation in the French-speaking Caribbean and of the particular fate of the twentieth century Haitian Spiralist authors vis-à-vis this canon. Articles extracted from this manuscript have recently appeared in a number of peer reviewed journals, including her essay on the pitfalls of theory in the post/colonial Caribbean, “The Consequences of ‘Not-Paris’” (Journal of Post-colonial Writings 44.3 September 2008) and "Showing vs. Telling: spiralisme in the light of antillanité (Journal of Haitian Studies 14.1 spring 2008). She was also invited by the editors of the Journal of Haitian Studies to republish her article “Exploiting the Undead: the Usefulness of the Zombie Figure in Haitian Literature” (JOHS 1.2 fall 2005) as part of a forthcoming anthology titled Beyond Revolution: 200 Years of Haitian History and Culture (Indiana University Press). In addition, Professor Glover’s essay “Ecrire la schizophrénie: la configuration du personnage dans l’œuvre ‘spiraliste’ de Frankétienne, Jean-Claude Fignolé et René Philocée” will appear in the critical anthology Ecrire Haiti Aujourd’hui. This year also brought the publication of “Josephine Baker: a Century in the Spotlight,” Professor Glover’s two-volume special issue of The Scholar and the Feminist Online (6.1-6.2 fall 2007-spring 2008). Also, in March of this year, Professor Glover delivered a talk at the Alliance Française for the American Association of Teachers of French – “Douce Folie: représentations de la femme dans la littérature haitienne” – in which she spoke about portrayals of “mad” women in Haitian fiction. She looks forward to teaching the graduate seminar “Women in/of Disorder” in the spring of 2009.

Danielle Haase-Dubosc continued to serve on the Comité de pilotage of the “Dictionnaire des femmes de l’ancienne France” (for the seventeenth-century in particular) as well as on the editorial board of Nouvelles Questions Féministes, the Women Studies Quarterly, and board of the Association France Union Indienne. She attended the conference “Global French” at Harvard University in December 2007 during which plans were made for the writing of a volume designed to present new approaches to the history of French literature. Her contribution led her to write a chapter “A Genealogy of Feminine Paths across Centuries and Borders”, in the book, entitled “French Global” to be published by Columbia University Press in 2009. She presented a paper entitled “Crossing Borders, Changing Sex: Utopic Dimensions, Dystopic Moments” at the “Utopia, Dystopia, and Concepts of Development” conference held on February 14-15th in Paris. She also spoke at the “Centre National des Livres”, about Amanda Devi’s new book “Mon, l’Interdite”, May 30th, 2008 and participated at the Musée du quai Branly in a dialogue on the theme “Can the Subaltern Speak?”, on June 30th. Danielle continues in her functions as Executive Director of Reid Hall, Director of the Columbia University Institute for Scholars, faculty adviser for the MA in French Cultural Studies, and member of the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme selection committee for scholars. As Associate Provost, she serves as the link between Reid Hall and the University at large and co-ordinates many cultural events at Reid Hall. Two deserve special mention here: the Colloquium “Black France”, held at the Hall in June 2008, and the memorial poetry reading in honor of the late Mahmoud Darwish, held October fifth, 2008.

Heidi Holst-Knudsen presented a paper at the American Association of French Teachers conference in January entitled “Le journal vu comme dispositif pédagogique: Comment intégrer l’actualité en cours de langue”. She is currently working on developing a database of audiovisual materials with associated pedagogical materials through CCNMTL's VITAL media resource.

(Continued on page 8)
Pascale Hubert-Lehner gave a presentation entitled “L’Internet, une multitude de fenêtres sur les cultures francophones” last January at the annual colloquium for high school teachers of French organized by the Maison Française at Columbia and the AATF. As she has been doing since 2002, she also organized the 2008 Orientation Workshop for New Language Teaching Fellows, which is offered every year shortly before classes begin by Columbia’s foreign language departments, and gave a presentation for novice language TF’s on teaching reading in a foreign language in September 2008 at the Columbia Teaching Center. She continued to work with six other colleagues from the German, French, Italian, and Spanish departments at Columbia, U Penn, Princeton, and Yale on the Teach Project, a website of resources for the training of language instructors sponsored by the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. She presented the site, together with her Columbia colleague Angelina Craig-Florèz, at a conference titled “Reassessing the Foreign Language Curriculum in the Age of Globalization,” organized by the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning and the Brown University Center for Language Studies on April 6th, 2008. The site went live in August 2008 and can be viewed at the following URL: http://theteachproject.org/.

Elisabeth Ladenson was on leave in France in Spring 2008. In between trying to work on her book on Colette and editing the Romance Review, she delivered lectures at the Collège de France and Oxford University in February, on respectively, “Proust, Balzac, et la morale publique,” and “Colette and Flaubert.” In March she returned to New York for graduate recruitment, and also traveled to the University of Illinois (Urbana) to give the keynote speech, “Snails and Oysters, or a Brief History of Queerness,” for the fifth “Rhetoric of the Other” conference on queer French studies. She published review essays on Madame Proust in the London Review of Books (May 8 issue), and on Nancy Cunard in Modernism/Modernity (Spring 2008). In September she returned to Columbia and took up her duties as DGS, as well as teaching Literature-Humanities and the graduate survey of 19th-century literature. She spoke on “Colette and the Second Sex” at the Simone de Beauvoir conference held at NYU on September 20th, and on October 17th on “Balzac the Unavoidable” at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies conference held in Nashville, for which she organized and chaired the panel “Changing Reputations.” This year she was elected to the MLA Executive Division on 19th-Century French Literature and the Executive Council of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Columbia, where she was also named to (2002) from the University of the Board of the Society of Paris-Sorbonne. She taught at Fellows. In December she the University of Orléans and gave a paper entitled “The Money Shot” on the “Money in 19th-Century French Literature” panel at the MLA in San Francisco. Forthcoming publications include an article based on her Collège de France paper; an essay on “Proust and Censorship” in a special “Censorship” issue of the Dutch journal Frame; and the “Censorship” entry in the Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Novel. She is currently trying to think up appropriately spectacular ways to celebrate the centenary of Romanic Review, of which the first issue appeared in January 1910.

Sylvie Lefèvre has joined the Department as Professor of French this fall. She received her academic training in France, where she was a fellow of the Ecole normale supérieure. She took the Agrégation de Lettres classiques (1984) and received her doctorate (1992) and habilitation where she was also named to the University of the Board of the Society of Paris-Sorbonne. She taught at

### The Maison Française of Columbia University

It’s our 95th season at the Maison Française, and change is in the air! Samuel Skippon, our Associate Director, has moved on to a new position teaching full-time in the department. While we will miss his learned expertise and superlative administration, we are pleased for him -- and for the department, since so many more students will now be able to benefit from his enthusiasm for teaching French. Back at the Maison, we are fortunate indeed to be joined by the department’s own Emilie Littlehales, who acts as Program Coordinator and oversees all events sponsored by the Maison.

Highlights from our 2007-2008 season included the wonderful conference organized by Professors Compagnon and Debane: “Literary Histories of Literature”, as well as our first two Eugene J. Sheffer Distinguished Lectures, delivered by Académicien Marc Fumaroli and former French Minister for Equal Opportunities Azouz Begag. We also hosted a two-day visit from political scientist Françoise Vergès and a one-day conference in honor of historian Isser Woloch. In March, the Maison was packed to capacity for Jean-Luc Nancy’s visit to Columbia, and our new initiative, a Thursday luncheon series, brought Jacques Revel, Emmanuelle Loyer, Yves Citton, Nancy Green, and Laura Downs, among others, to campus for in-depth seminar talks and lively discussions.

Our Fall 2008 program featured a number of luminaries from the spheres of politics and the arts: in October, we hosted former minister of foreign affairs, Hervé de Charette, while November brought visits from Fatou Diome and Christian Boltanski. We were delighted to have Department Chair Phil Watts kick off our luncheon seminar series on Sept. 25; this series welcomed campus Harvard historian Judith Surkis and French political scientist Vincent Duclert. Two special events honored the lives of major French figures: in October, the Maison Française hosted a round-table tribute to Aimé Césaire, and we closed out the fall semester in December with a panel commemorating the centenaire of Claude Lévi-Strauss by examining his influence on literary studies.

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 French intern, Pauline Labib-Lamour. The Book Club, which meets monthly, continues to blossom under the thoughtful direction of Danièle Lasser. Please check the Maison’s website: www.maisonfrancaise.org for their scheduled meetings.

Finally, we must note with great sadness the untimely passing in August of our friend Philippe Mathé from Société Générale, who joined the Advisory Board of the Maison Française in 2005. He was a true friend of the Maison Française and will be missed.

—Nicole Rudolph

Director
Saint-Etienne before she joined the Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes (1990-1995), laboratory of the CNRS. At the moment, she is in charge of the Section romane of the IRHT. Associate professor at the ENS (1995-2004), she became professor at the University of Tours. Her principal teaching and research interests include French medieval literature (XIIe-XVe), history of manuscript and book, philology and literary theory. She is the author of Antoine de La Sale, La fabrique de l’œuvre et de l’écritain (Droz, 2006) and published in collaboration the Roman de Renart (Gallimard, La Pléiade, 1998), Album de manuscrits français du XIIIe siècle. Mise en page et mise en texte (Viella, Rome, 2001). This spring, she has published the proceedings of a colloquium La lettre dans la littérature romane du Moyen Age (Paradigme, Orléans). Some of his publications were: “L’invention de l’espace de curiosité : le marge et le cadre dans des livres manuscrits de la fin du Moyen Age et du premier XVe siècle”, in Le theatre de la curiosité, Paris, 2008; “Le Lais de Villon, texte d’un voleur, texte volé?”, in Quant l’ang any pour l’autre veille. Mélanges de moyen français offerts à Claude Thury, éd. T. Van Hemelryck and M. Colombo Timelli, Turnhout, Brepols, 2008; “Les rémances de l’impératif ovidien “Dicere quae puduit, scribere iussit amor” (Héroïdes, IV, 10) dans les saluts d’oc et d’oil du Moyen Age”, in L’épistolaire antique et ses prolongements européens, Ve Colloque international des Tours, eds P. Laurence and F. Guillaumont, 2008. She gave a talk “Mise en page et double page” for a conference about L’immagine del testo at the Scuola di Dottorato europea in Filologia romanza (Pavia); and a paper entitled “Tentations lyrique et
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NEWS FROM REID HALL

As Columbia University’s premier center for educational and cultural exchange in Paris, France, Reid Hall continues to attract numerous students and scholars from major universities throughout the United States and the world. It also hosts numerous cultural and social events, such as the monthly literary readings staged by Textes et Voix and Double Change and the Bollywood film series. In addition, Reid Hall is an important component of Columbia University’s global outreach. For example, Reid Hall participated in CAA 2007, the Columbia Alumni Association’s worldwide launch with: A Historic Tour of Reid Hall and Montparnasse; An Inside Look at College Admissions by Jessica Marinaccio; welcome receptions for GSAS and GSAPP; and Café Science with David J. Helfand. In January 2008, Professor Sudhir Venkatesh held his Urban Research Workshop at Reid Hall for students from Sciences Po. Guest speakers and colloquia were scheduled throughout the year; for instance, Judith Butler spoke on Humanité, inhumanité, déshumanisation: pour qui valent les ‘droits humains’? Genres, religions, quartiers, Palestine and Marcus Bruce, Institute Fellow, organized a highly successful colloquium on Black France, dedicated to Aimé Césaire, Michel Fabre, and Ousmane Sembene.

The Columbia University Institute for Scholars, inaugurated at Reid Hall in 2001, has indeed become a vital part of our intellectual community. Over 160 scholars from around the world have had the opportunity to pursue their research in Paris using the facilities and academic assistance provided by the Institute. While the majority of Fellows are specialists in the humanities and social sciences, artists, writers, and scientists are also welcome. Each semester, the scholars in residence formally present their work in progress to an audience of students and faculty; some also teach in Columbia’s graduate and undergraduate program. Offices at the Institute are made available for Columbia and Barnard faculty during the summer months.

The Columbia-Penn undergraduate programs and the Masters in French Cultural Studies attract over 165 students each year. These students come to Paris to sharpen their French through everyday practice and to examine in-depth the issues pertinent to French society in a European and global context. They attend classes at Reid Hall and in the French University system. Undergraduate students share their everyday life with French host families, conduct field visits and fieldwork, and meet and study with French and International students, and access a wealth of resources at partner French universities. More and more are enrolled in two or three classes at the Universities of Paris, I, IV, VII, or Sciences Po where they have a broad selection of courses in history, literature, political science, international relations, economics, urban studies, art history, but also in biophysics, chemistry and mathematics. Tutorials held at Reid Hall in French language and university work methods provide them with the tools necessary to confront with confidence a different educational style. Each semester, at least one student joins a research team at the Pasteur Institute working on the structural and biochemical characterization of a DNA-protein complex. Over twenty students per year work on individual research projects leading to lengthy papers in French on a wide variety of topics, such as: Oscar Wilde et le mythe de Salomé; Le rôle de la religion dans les pièces de Molière; Questions de langue et de séparation : le québécois et le français; L’influence du colonialisme sur l’art Vietnamienn; Analyse du Quatuor à cordes de Ravel; L’Histoire des sciences - étude de Pierre-Louis Gratiolet.

French students now come to Reid Hall in greater numbers, particularly to attend the Honors Seminars jointly sponsored by the Columbia-Penn Programs and a French University partner. In 2007-2008, two such seminars were offered: Diversité, mobilité sociale, discrimination positive (with Sciences Po) and L’actualité artistique à Paris (with Paris I). Others will be developed with the Universities of Paris IV (literature) and Paris VII (world health), as well as with a “classe de prépa” for the Grandes Écoles (French-USA relations).

Students enrolled in the year-long MA in French Cultural Studies in a Global Context, attend seminars at Reid Hall, the EHESS, Sciences Po and other Paris universities. For their MA essay, they conduct original research under the direction of a French professor; the 2007-2008 students worked on such pertinent topics as: Perceptions of Women in the Literary and Artistic Works of Manet and his Bourgeois Contemporaries; Le rôle du rap dans la culture française, Une étude de cas: Casey; les rapports politiques entre Alger-Paris-Washington pendant la Guerre Civile en Algérie 1992-1998. Many of our former MA students are currently enrolled in PhD programs in the USA or France.

Students who have come through our programs often make a point of visiting this place that played such pivotal role in their personal and professional lives; in the words of one such student: “It’s difficult to leave a place like Reid Hall. That’s why so many of us return to our second home abroad that is always ready to welcome us back.”

—Danielle Haase-Dubosc
Executive Director
—Brunhilde Biebuyck
Director
FRENCH GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The French Graduate Student Association of Columbia University (FGSA) would like to thank all its members who helped with FGSA events last year, as well as to those who have volunteered for the upcoming academic year. Thanks to the active participation of graduate students in the Department, the association completed another successful year of activities.

During 2008-2009, for the first time in its history and as allowed by its constitution, the Association is represented by five graduate students! In addition to the standard President, Vice President and Financial Officer positions, this expanded board of officers allows for Correspondence and Activities Officers.

In February, the FGSA held its 17th Annual Conference at the Maison Française, “L’Ennemi: Difference and Antagonism in Literature,” which included students from the department and institutions around the country, as well as Canada, France and the United Kingdom. This also marked the first time an FGSA conference was co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC). Given the interdisciplinary nature of many of its members’ work and the Association’s interaction with other departments in the Humanities, the FGSA intends to continue this partnership and encourage a variety of approaches to its conference topics.

The FGSA also sponsored a number of workshops to help graduate students at various stages in their careers, including a new “professionalization” workshop and an MLA mock interview and much, much more. The Association also held its traditional dinner for incoming students and their current student “buddies,” as well as a widely attended end-of-the-year party. As usual, FGSA representatives participated in the Department’s executive committee meetings and held regular membership meetings open to all FGSA members. New representatives were elected in the spring.

Next year’s FGSA conference, co-sponsored by GSAC, will be held on March 6, 2009 at the Maison Française. It will be entitled “Circulation: Knowledge and the Literary.” Further details, including the Call for Papers, are available on the FGSA web site, at www.columbia.edu/cu/french/fgsaconf.

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

The 2008-2009 FGSA representatives are: Lisa Archin (Communications Officer), Matthew Bridge (President), Jonathan Eskew (Financial Director), Casiana Ionita (Vice President) and Sarah Lazur (Activities Officer).

For all inquiries concerning the FGSA, workshops and other FGSA-sponsored events, please email fgsa@columbia.edu or visit http://www.columbia.edu/cu/french/fgsa.

—Benjamin Young

JOB MARKET REPORT

—Recent graduates have secured the following positions—

Daisy Aaronian, French Instructor, Lesley University

Zeina Hakim, Assistant Professor, Tufts University

Max Kramer, Visiting Instructor, Sarah Lawrence College

Daniel Leonard, Visiting Assistant Professor at Adelphi

Andrea Thomas, Visiting Assistant Professor, Catholic University

Noura Wedeli, Faculty Associate, Ecole normale supérieure, Lyon

—Benjamin Young
Columbia University in 2008, with classes at the undergradu- 
ate and graduate level. With Vincent Debaene, she also 
initiated a monthly French Department workshop where 
advanced students and faculty present work in progress. As 
the director of the Center for French and Francophone 
Studies, she has collaborated extensively with Nicole Rudolph, 
the director of the Maison Française, on developing a 
joint program of speakers and lectures. Her 2007 book, Les 
Enfants de la colonie : les métis 
septembre citoyenneté au miroir de 
la colonisation" — a contribution to 
Histoires Coloniales. Héritages et Transmissions (Paris : Bibliothèque Centre Pompidou, 
2007), "Un droit postcolonial" (Plein Droit, 74, October 2007), 
and several book reviews for Les Annales et Vingtième Siècle. Her current research 
focuses on nineteenth century Algeria and the historiography of 
colonialism and postcolonialism. Finally, with her husband 
and son, she has had the great joy of welcoming a baby girl, 
Ava, to her family on April 20, 2008.

Joanna Stalnaker was on parental leave in the fall of 
2007 for the birth of her second child, Félix Leveau, but resumed 
teaching in the spring of 2008, when she taught the Advanced Translation Workshop 
for undergraduates and the Eighteenth-Century Survey 
for graduate students. While 
revising her manuscript on 
Enlightenment description, The Unfinished Enlightenment, she 
began a new project on last 
works and literary testaments 
in the late Enlightenment, 
tentatively entitled The End of 
Enlightenment. She will present 
a portion of this new project at the 
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies' 
annual meeting in the spring, with a paper called "Buffon on 
Death." She published a book 
review on Susan McCready's 
The Limits of Performance in the 
French Romantic Drama in the 
Modern Language Review, and 
appeared in the conference 
on Enlightenment Teleology at 
Columbia in October. 

Phil Watts continues as 
Chair of the Department of 
French. He teaches courses on 
modern French literature and film, including an undergraduate 
course on "Literature and 
Democracy" in fall 2008. He 
recently published two articles: 
"Aeschylus Soup" on Jacques Rivette's films in Contemp- 
orary French Civilization (Summer 2008) and with Yves Citton 
"rolandbarthesgillesdeleuze" on 
Barthes' and Deleuze's last 
lectures in the Revue Interna- 
tional des livres (Summer 2008). 
He presented several papers 
this year, including "Pictures 
and Proof" at Florida State 
University, "Merleau-Ponty In 
and Out of Film Theory" at 
Barnard College, "France 1958: Responses to a Legacy of Torture" at the University of 
New Mexico, "The Politics 
of the New Wave" at a 
roundtable at New York 
University, "André Bazin, 
Rhetorique et émotion" at 
Université Paris Diderot and 
"Film noir and the Right to 
Silence" at Columbia's Maison Française.

Caroline Weber's latest 
book, "Queen of Fashion," has 
now appeared in several 
editions and translations in 
Europe and South America. 
She will teach the course 
"Love Sex/Gender, Modern 
French Culture" in Spring 
2009 at Columbia.

The Book Club at 
Maison Francaise

Eight books were presented at 
the monthly meetings of the 
Book Club while an enthusiastic 
audience appreciated the expertise 
that members of the faculty 
brought in their discussion of the 
readings. Phil Watts 
presented Modiano's "La Place 
de l'Etoile" and Madeleine 
Dobie presented Yasmina 
Khadra's "Les Hirondelles de 
Kaboul" while two recent literary 
successes were discussed by 
Jason Earle ("Ravel" by Jean 
Echenoz) and Annelle Curulla 
("Trois jours chez ma mere" by 
Francois Weyergans). Isabelle 
Coitoux contributed to the rediscovery of a 1924 novel, 
"Mes Amis" by Emmanuel Bove 
and a Canadian journalist, 
Monique Durand, talked about 
her own novel, "La femme du 
paintre". Simone Weil came 
for Nemirovsky's "Suite 
Francaise" and Kaïama Glover, 
of Barnard, loaned her expertise 
to the reading of Chamoiseau's 
"Texaco".

—Daniele Lasser 
Coordinator

Undergraduate Life at Reid Hall, Paris

The day I decided to come to Columbia, I already 
knew that I wanted to major in French and would 
spend my junior year studying abroad in Paris. Last 
year, when I finally arrived in the City of Lights to 
attend the Reid Hall program, I fell in love. Living in the 
7th arrondissement, I was about a 10 minute walk 
from Montparnasse and Reid Hall, or about 15 
minutes in the other direction from the Tour Eiffel, 
which I would often watch sparkle at night. I took 
classes primarily at l'Université de Paris VII, 
and became enamored with the study of oral literature, 
writing my senior thesis on Algerian fairy tales. With 
the help of the wonderful Christine Babef, Reid Hall 
administrator, the other Columbia students and I were able to attend numerous cultural events 
throughout the year: plays, concerts, museum exhibitions, activities organized with French 
student groups, and even take trips to other French cities. In addition to my classes, I also spent 
seven months teaching English as an assistante in a French elementary school. Though I was sad to 
leave Paris at the end of May, I am enjoying my last year at Columbia by taking graduate classes in the 
French department towards a Master's. I have applied for a Fulbright fellowship and hope to return to 
Paris next year to study the transmission of oral tradition in Algerian immigrant families.

—Allison Grant, CC'09
Please provide your addition to the next “Alumni News” feature by emailing, byd1@columbia.edu. 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.