



DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ROMANCE PHILOLOGY ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Columbia University in the City of New York — Spring and Fall 2009

Editor: Philip Watts; Design: Benita Dace

DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ROMANIC REVIEW AND MORE

On October 2 and 3, 2009, the Department held a conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of our flagship publication the *Romanic Review*. Organized by Professors Elisabeth Ladenson and Sylvie Lefèvre, the conference was an occasion to examine the past and to think about the future of literary and cultural studies. The speakers came from universities from across the globe, and brought with them a wide variety of approaches and interests. For two straight days, and nights, the speakers at the Maison française evoked with the history of the field of romance philology and invoked the future.

The conference raised a number of questions that we in the field of French and Francophone studies are currently asking ourselves about the object of our study and our various approaches. Of course, academic disciplines are constantly shifting and adapting to new forms of knowledge and new configurations of the world. Literature and literary criticism have always been interdisciplinary fields, forms of *bricolage*, piecing together the various fields of knowledge of their time. But the changes today seem particularly important and exciting. Faculty in our Department now regularly teach and publish on literary works from the Maghreb, West African philosophy, economic treatises from 17th century Europe, 18th century debates around literature and science, film aesthetics, legal documents from the

history of French colonialism, anthropological treatises, censorship laws, medieval book publishing and Proust. The object of our research and teaching remains literature in French, but literature understood in the widest possible sense, understood in the way that Madame de Stael defined it in 1800: literature, she wrote, now encompasses the “philosophical writings and works of imagination, everything that concerns the use of thought in writing, with the exception of the physical sciences.” Indeed, several faculty in our Department are even investigating the relation between literature and the physical sciences.

It's a tall order, but this diversity of approaches is contributing to the growing interest in the field. As Madeleine Dobie reports in her letter from the Director of Undergraduate Studies, we now have more majors than we have ever had before, and more students are taking French at Columbia than at any time since the high water mark in 1968. On this note, our Teaching Fellows and Lecturers should be congratulated for their tireless work with the Columbia students. Under the supervision of Pascale Hubert-Leibler, the language program here has continued to maintain the highest standards. Our Department is dedicated to teaching students how to read literary and cultural works in the original language, and this starts from the very first day a student steps into first semester French. One thing that ties together the diverse approaches

of our faculty is a belief that independent thought is to give learning to think, write, read students the tools—such as the in-depth knowledge of a language other than one's own can be foreign language—through one of the most enriching which they can encounter the experiences offered to Columbia complexities of the world students. One of the ways to themselves. Being dedicated promote new knowledge and

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ADAM GOPNICK AND ANTOINE COMPAGNON HOLD CONVERSATION ABOUT MARCEL PROUST



Photography: d kelly



Photography: d kelly

In one of the year's most engaging events, Antoine Compagnon, Blanche W. Knopf Professor in the Department of French and editor of Marcel Proust's work in the *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade*, and Adam Gopnick, staff writer at the *New Yorker*, author of *Paris to the Moon* and *Angels and Ages*, and avid reader of Proust, spoke to a packed house about the life and work of Marcel Proust. As the conversation followed the turns of Gopnick's probing questions, we learned about Proust's complex relation to the works of Charles Darwin and about his fondness for Dostoyevsky. We were also reminded of the humor in *A la recherche du temps perdu*, which Professor Compagnon called one of the few works of French modernism that has a happy end. When asked how, in today's busy and overscheduled world, readers can find time to read Proust, Compagnon responded: “read Proust quickly.” Proust wrote at a relatively fast pace, and reading quickly can open up a new experience of Proust's great novel.

to the study of French means actively engaging in the ways in which language participates in the understanding and the creation of our common life.

Our graduate students continue to write important and original dissertations and are finding tenure track jobs even in today's difficult job market (in the last few years our PhDs have found positions at Tufts University, Loyola University, University of Chicago, Adelphi University, Colby College). The number of tenure-track jobs was drastically reduced last year with the economic downturn and the postponed job searches are slowly beginning to return. But there is reason to remain optimistic. More and more college students are taking foreign languages and enrollments in French nationwide continue to increase. What is more, the research of our graduate students is on the cutting edge of emerging forms of knowledge in the field of French studies. One indication of this was the high quality of papers that our graduate students delivered at the French Graduate Student conference in March 2008 on "Circulation, Knowledge, Networks and the Literary."

The graduate student conference was part of a varied and rich spring program at the Maison française. In February 2009 the writer and literary critic Pierre Pachet spoke on "Baudelaire et les complots," and our own Sylvie Lefèvre gave a lecture titled "Le livre ouvert" on reading in the Middle Ages. In March, Patrick Weil (Université Paris, 1) delivered the Eugene J. Sheffer lecture (see inset) on French Citizenship and Laurent Dubois of Duke University gave a talk on "Zinedine Zidane and the Empire of Soccer in Algeria." Zidane was also the subject of a talk on the "French Color Line" by Nacira Guénif-Souilamas (Université Paris XIII). On April 1, the Maison hosted a round table on OULIPO with Jacques Roubaud, Anne Garréta, Ian Monk, Marcel Bénabou and

PROFESSOR SYLVÈRE LOTRINGER RETIRES



The Department wishes to express its thanks and gratitude to Professor Emeritus Sylvère Lotringer for 35 years of loyal service to Columbia University. After receiving his PhD from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sylvère joined the Department of French in 1972. He taught a wide variety of courses on literature, philosophy and theory, and quickly organized the famous 1975 conference on Schizo-Culture,

a conference that brought together Michel Foucault and John Cage, Gilles Deleuze and William Burroughs, Felix Guattari and R.D. Laing. It was around this time that Lotringer and a group of graduate students founded *Semiotext(e)*, a publication that remains one of the bridges between theory and the arts. The writings of Jean Baudrillard, Paul Virillo, Deleuze and Guattari, Foucault, Jean-François Lyotard, Luce

Irigaray all passed through the pages of *Semiotext(e)* and through Sylvère's perceptive and deft prose. Under Sylvère's guidance, *Semiotext(e)* remains one of the fundamental tools for thinking about the relation between capitalism and aesthetics in our world. Since arriving at Columbia, Sylvère has published extensively on 20th century literary and intellectual movements, including Dada, surrealism, structuralism and semiotics and he has continued to write about on the relations between literature, art and politics. Among his most recent publications are essays on Jean Baudrillard in the *Nouvel Observateur*, a new edition of his book *Overexposed: Perverting Perversions* (MIT, 2007), and articles on Christian Boltanski and Antonio Negri in *ArtForum*. Next year, the Department will host a conference on the continuing presence of *Semiotext(e)*.

Daniel Levin Becker. That same month, we hosted an international symposium on "Constructing Black France."

In September of this year, we were delighted to welcome the new director of the Maison française, Shanny Peer. Shanny received her PhD from N.Y.U. and is a specialist in 20th century French history and culture. Shanny replaces Nicole Rudolph who directed the Maison for two years and who has since taken a tenure-track position in French at Adelphi University. Many thanks and best wishes to Nicole!

Since arriving at the Maison, Shanny has organized a huge number of successful events, including a talk by Jacqueline Cerquini-Toulet, from the Sorbonne on Christine de Pizan, a lecture by Etienne Balibar on "Secularism and Cosmopolitanism," a conversation on Marcel Proust between Professor Antoine Compagnon and Adam Gopnik from the *New Yorker*, a

symposium with Walter Russell Mead and Yannick Mineur on "U.S. and the European Union in a Time of Change," a talk by Elsa Dorlin, Professor of Philosophy at the Sorbonne on "Sexuality, Colonization and the Genealogy of the French Nation," a reading by Adbellah Taia, a joint presentation by Joy Sorman and Maylis de Kerangal on their recent works of fiction, a workshop with Peter Schulman (PhD, 97), Professor of French at Old Dominion University, Serge Gavronsky of Barnard, Jeanine Herman (MA, 91) and Edwin Frank, editor at the *New York Review of Books*, a talk by Indira Goris on Ethnic Profiling in France, a lecture by Didier Fassin of Princeton and the EHESS in Paris on "Trauma as a Political Resource," and on the occasion of a Truffaut retrospective at the Alliance française, a talk by Dudley Andrew of Yale and Sam Dilorio of Hunter College on the complex relations between

film critic André Bazin and the films of François Truffaut.

It was a busy and extremely rich fall semester, and this is an occasion to thank Shanny for her tireless devotion to the Maison. This newsletter is also an opportunity for me to thank all the individuals, foundations and corporations who help our Department, the Maison française and our graduate program with gifts and fellowships. Our thanks go out to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their continued generous support of our *Centre pluridisciplinaire*. The Department is also extremely grateful to Mr. Serge Bellanger of the Grand Marnier Foundation, Mr. Guy Wildenstein of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, Ms. Beverley Timins and Mr. James Battenweiser, all of whom renewed their support for our graduate program.

—Philip Watts
Department Chair

FRENCH AND ROMANCE PHILOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS

ROD COOKE presented three papers this year. 'Le Jeu de l'Emprunt et les Enjeux Cachés dans *Le Devoir de Violence*', on Yambo Ouologuem, was part of Bacau University's 'Journées de la Francophonie' in April. He contributed 'Rewriting in the Shadow of the Monolith: the final *Tintin* albums and Émile Zola's disciples' to the IBDS conference in London in June, and 'Évoluer vers la Littérature: Schopenhauer et le Roman Naturaliste' to October's NCFS conference in Salt Lake City. Versions of the first two papers will appear next year in the *Actes* of the colloquium and a special issue of *European Comic Art*, respectively.

ANNELE CURULLA is a Visiting Instructor in the Department of

Romance Languages at Bowdoin College. In December, she will present "Convent Drama: Church, State, and Public Theater in Eighteenth-Century France" at Bowdoin College's Faculty Seminar Series. In April, she will curate an exhibition, "Spaces of Enlightenment," in the Becker Gallery of Bowdoin College's Museum of Art. Two of her courses, "Joan of Arc and La Marianne" and "Censorship and Enlightenment," have included community-based educational partnerships with Bowdoin College's McKeen Center for the Common Good and Brunswick High School.

JASON EARLE gave two curatorial lectures at the New York Public Library in conjunction with the exhibition "Between

Collaboration and Resistance: French Literary Life Under Nazi Occupation."

OLIVIA HARRISON taught the French Department's Introduction to French and Francophone Studies II in Spring 2009. In April she presented a paper on Kateb Yacine's dialect theater at the ACLA annual meeting in Boston. This academic year she is a visiting scholar at UCLA in the Department of French and Francophone Studies and Comparative Literature. She is co-organizing a seminar entitled "French Language (In)Hospitalities" with Zeina Hakim and Teresa Villa-Ignacio at the upcoming ACLA annual meeting in New Orleans, where she will present a paper on the Moroccan Jewish writer Edmond Amran El Maleh.

MEHAMMAD MACK passed the Masters of Philosophy with distinction, and is spending the year in France on the ENS fellowship.

ANA OANCEA published her first article, "1830 sous le rire méphistophélique de Julien Sorel" in *Acta Iassyensia Comparationis* and presented a paper on "The Future at the End of the 19th Century" at the subject of Mediterranean *Anticipation* in Montreal. She also just found out she'll be

returning to Montreal in the spring to present a paper on "Neil Gaiman's Happy Villains" at the 2010 NeMLA conference.

SARAH-LOUISE RAILLARD presented a paper entitled "La circulation épistolaire et la lettre de rupture dans *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*" as part of the French Department's Graduate Student Conference "Circulation: Networks, Knowledge, and the Literary" on March 6th, 2009. She also provided translation and interpretation services for the third year to DoCip (Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information) during the 8th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

TOBY WIKSTRÖM presented at two conferences this spring. At the French Graduate Student Association conference in March, he gave a paper entitled "Involuntary Circulation: Staging Mediterranean Slavery in Molière's *Le Sicilien ou l'Amour peintre*." In May, he attended the conference of the North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature and spoke on the subject of Mediterranean slavery in Georges de Scudéry's *L'Amant libéral*.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Once again, the originality and high quality of our graduate students' research was acknowledged and rewarded with a number of fellowships. MEHAMMAD MACK was selected as a fellow at the Ecole normale supérieure in Paris where he is currently researching the construction of *beur* masculine sexuality. After teaching Literature Humanities for two years, MATTHEW BRIDGE was awarded a department dissertation fellowship to write his dissertation on the reception of the works of the Marquis de Sade in literature and film. ROD COOKE's research on aesthetic debates around Naturalism and the Dreyfus Affair was rewarded with a Grand Marnier dissertation fellowship. ANA OANCEA was selected for the American Society of the French Legion of Honor dissertation fellowship for her work on literature and science at the end of the 19th century. TOBY WIKSTRÖM was awarded a Columbia University Whiting fellowship in order to complete his dissertation on "Law, Conquest and the Extra-European World on the French Stage, 16000-1685." NICOLAE VIRASTAU, DIANA KING, REBECCA SOPCHIK, ELIZABETH MARCUS, ANA OANCEA, ROD COOKE, CASIANA IONITA, OLIVIA HARRISON, JASON EARLE, ISABELLE COTTOUX, SEVERINE MARTIN AND TOBY WIKSTRÖM were all awarded summer fellowships in recognition of their outstanding graduate work. JOHANNA MAGIN and PAUL WIMMER were both awarded a summer research fellowship from the Beverley Timins Fund, a fund established for graduate students by alumna Beverley Timins in memory of her parents Dr. and Mrs. Allan H. Timins. This fund is specifically designated to help graduate students with their research projects, and to travel to France and the French-speaking world. Congratulations to all the graduate students for their outstanding work, and many thanks to the foundations and individuals who continue to support graduate studies in French, especially during these times of stringent budgets.

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

2008-2009 was another banner year for Columbia's major programs in French and French & Francophone Studies. As in the previous year, enrollments in French courses rose across the board. Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of our language program director, Pascale Hubert-Leibler, and her talented team of lecturers and graduate teaching assistants, French language courses from the introductory to advanced levels have been filled to capacity. Students have also been attracted to our advanced courses in literature and culture. Last year the department's new course offerings included Sylvie Lefèvre's course on lyric poetry, Bachir Diagne's "Discovering Existence," Phil Watts' "Literature and Democracy" and "New Wave Cinema," and Pierre Force's "Montaigne, Descartes, Pascal." This semester new undergraduate courses included Joanna Stalnaker's "Enlightenment/Counter-Enlightenment," Emmanuelle Saada's "France, Past and Present: an Introduction to French Civilization," and Pierre Force's course on Molière. In spring 2010 students will be able to take new courses in "Negritude : Literature and Philosophy" (Bachir Diagne), "The French Philosophical

Tradition" (Pierre Force) and French Film (Phil Watts).

Study abroad programs have also flourished over the past year, with French overtaking Spanish as the most popular language for Columbia students going abroad. Our Paris Center, Reid Hall was the destination for most French majors, as well as a number of students from Art History, History, Economics, and Human Rights. A couple of majors, however, traveled elsewhere. Sarah Baker opted for a semester in Dakar, while Sarah Layton studied in Rabat. Reid Hall continues to offer a number of appealing courses, as well as to expand its partnerships with Parisian institutions. Columbia students now regularly take courses at Paris I, Paris VII, Sciences-Po, and—in the case of our science and engineering students and double majors—the Institut Pasteur and the École polytechnique. Reid Hall's own innovative courses include joint seminars in which 10 students based at Reid Hall and 10 students from local partner institutions take seminars co-taught by Columbia and Paris faculty. Last spring Columbia History professor Greg Mann co-taught a joint seminar with Sciences-Po on "Relations France-Afrique." Another recent joint seminar has been "L'actualité artistique à Paris" (with Paris I). Last spring at Reid Hall Professor emerita Maryse Condé offered a popular course on "French Speaking Writers of Africa and the Caribbean and their Literary Strategies."

After major declaration period last spring the department had a record 70 French majors and concentrators. We are delighted to welcome students who have just joined the department to our courses and activities. We also want to congratulate and say "au revoir" to the 19 majors who graduated in the spring. Of these 8 were French majors, 1 a French concentrator, and 10 were French & Francophone Studies majors. We hope that these new graduates will keep in

touch and keep us abreast of their activities and career moves.

Last year seven of our graduating majors wrote senior essays on a wide range of literary, cultural, social and scientific topics. Stephanie Morgan Davidson wrote on "Pierre-Louis Gratiolet (1815-1865): l'anatomie du cerveau et ses enjeux philosophiques au XIX^{ème} Siècle," a project inspired by her double major in French and Biochemistry, and by her studies in Paris at the École polytechnique; Valeria Zhavoronkina wrote on "La Ville et ses transports : quels enseignements des sciences économiques pour Paris et l'Île de France"; drawing on his background in dance, Gerrard Carter wrote two senior essays on Oscar Wilde in France: "La Sulamite à Sodome. Influence littéraire et influence biblique dans Salomé de Wilde," and "Le Huitième Voile. Le Séjour de Wilde à Paris et l'écriture française de Salomé"; Alison Grant wrote "Voilà ce qui arrive à ceux qui n'écourent pas leur femme! Étude de cinq contes merveilleux algériens," work that she is currently developing in the context of a DEA program in Paris; Jennifer Brown wrote on "Intertextualité, expérimentalisme, et pratiques anti-littéraires dans *Nadja* et dans *Dora Bruder*"; Oriana Isaacson wrote on "La Torture: Fanon, Camus et Sartre de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale à l'Algérie"; and Nina Morency-Brassard did a translation with critical introduction of a work by Amadou Hampaté Bâ. These essays are all accomplished pieces of research and analysis that reflect both the strength and the intellectual range of our majors.

Graduating seniors were toasted at a reception/prize ceremony held in May. At this ceremony I was able to announce Departmental honors (a distinction conferred by Columbia College and the School of General Studies) for: Jennifer Brown, Gerrard Carter, and Stephanie Morgan-Davidson. Following suit, the department split its Senior French Prize

among the same three talented and hard-working students. We also awarded our annual prize for promise in French Studies, a prize given to a sophomore enrolled in an introductory-level culture/literature course. Last year the prize was presented to Emmeline Lih, now in Paris for Junior Year abroad.

I have noticed that undergraduates are increasingly making their way to the

Maison française to attend lectures, conferences, lunch seminars and screenings. This is an encouraging trend, and in closing I would like to express the hope that French majors will continue to find the time to participate in the Maison's stimulating cultural programming.

—Madeleine Dobie
Director, Undergraduate Studies

DEPARTMENT FACULTY NEWS

In 2008, VINCENT AURORA spoke at the French Department's outreach to the American Association of Teachers of French, *Le film dans l'enseignement du français*, on "L'Usage de la vidéo dans la salle de classe" and updated the syllabus for 1202 for SIPA students. He spent the month of June teaching at Reid Hall, Columbia's program in Paris, and published his 13th consecutive article for the Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook on the year's French literature. This year, he is coordinating 1202 for all sections and participating in the committee on the undergraduate curriculum.

ANTOINE COMPAGNON taught at Columbia in the fall of 2008, and lectured in the spring of 2009 at the Collège de France, where the title of his course was "Écrire la vie: Montaigne, Stendhal, Proust." Apart from France and the US, he gave lectures at the Institut français in Madrid, the Bibliothèque nationale in Tunis, and the Académie tunisienne des sciences, des lettres et des arts in Carthage. He was invited as an Eminent Scientist of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) in April and May 2009, and lectured at the Universities of Tokyo, Kyoto and Sendai, the Universities Keio and Chuo in Tokyo, the Maison franco-japonaise in Tokyo. He gave the Zaharoff Lecture at the University of Oxford and lectured at the

Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU) in Moscow. He published *Que reste-t-il de la culture française? Le souci de la grandeur*, in collaboration with Donald Morrison (Paris: Denoël, 2008), and a critical edition of Charles Péguy, *L'Argent* (Paris: Éd. des Équateurs, 2008). He edited *De l'Autorité. Colloque annuel du Collège de France* (Paris: Odile Jacob, 2008) and *Proust, la mémoire et la littérature* (Paris: Odile Jacob, 2009). Other articles include "L'antimodernisme de *La NRF*," *Romanic Review*, 99, 1-2, 2008; "Le sens moral du narrateur," *Proust et la philosophie aujourd'hui* (Pisa: Edizioni ETS, 2008); "Désécrire la vie," *Critique*, 740-741, 2009; "Raconter avec photos," with Russian translation (Moscow: RGGU, 2009); "Bernard Faÿ, jeune homme moderne," *La Nouvelle Revue française*, 590, 2009; "Tant qu'il y aura des romans," *Le Monde*, M, March 2009. He received the Premio Tarquinia Cardarelli per la Critica letteraria internazionale in Italy, was made Commandeur des Palmes académiques, and was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

PETER CONNOR spent the Fall semester of 2009 in New York and the Spring semester on leave in Paris, where he was a visiting professor at the Centre Parisien d'Etudes Critiques. He continues to direct the Mellon-funded Translation Across the Disciplines initiative at Barnard College. He is working on a

series of articles concerning translation and national identity in the works of a variety of authors and translators including E.M. Forster, Charles Mauron, Stephen MacKenna and Yves Bonnefoy.

In May 2009, VINCENT DEBAENE published an illustrated intellectual biography of Claude Lévi-Strauss for the series "Découvertes / Gallimard", in collaboration with Frédéric Keck. He has also edited, in collaboration with Prof. Antoine Compagnon, the proceedings of the international conference "Literary Histories of Literatures" which was held at the Maison française in October 2007. These proceedings, for which he wrote the general foreword as well as a theoretical introduction, will form a special issue of the *Romanic Review* (aptly numbered 100) which is about to be published. On research leave in 2009-2010, he has been elected as fellow both at the Columbia Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall and at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Paris (IEA-Paris). He is currently finishing his book on the relationship between literature and anthropology in 20th-century France, which will be published by Gallimard in the "Bibliothèque des sciences humaines" series. In April 2009, he gave a talk on the stay of Lévi-Strauss in New York at the international conference "Land of Refuge, Land of Exile", held by NYU's Center for French Civilization and Culture. This paper should be published in the journal *French Politics, Culture and Society*. During his leave, he will give several talks at the Reid Hall Institute, at the IEA-Paris, at the Ehess, at the Collège de France and at the University of Liège.

SOULEYMANE BACHIR DIAGNE is currently the Director for Graduate Studies, after Elisabeth Ladenson has decided to step down from that position. On May 27 this year, during the 15th General Assembly of the Agence Universitaire de la

DEPARTMENT FACULTY RECEIVE PRIZES

Congratulations are in order for our professors whose scholarship received international recognition.

PROFESSOR ANTOINE COMPAGNON was made Commandeur des Palmes académiques in recognition of his exceptional contribution to French culture. PROFESSOR COMPAGNON also received the Premio Tarquinia Cardarelli per la Critica letteraria internazionale in Italy. In May, PROFESSOR SOULEYMANE BACHIR DIAGNE was awarded the Mohammed El Fasi Prize, the highest award granted by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF). PROFESSOR DIAGNE received the honors from the former President of Senegal, Abdou Diouf. PROFESSOR PIERRE FORCE was named a winner of a 2009 John Simon Guggenheim fellowship for his work on novelty claims in early modern French literature and science.

Francophonie (AUF), Bachir French and Francophone Studies programs. She offered the Introduction to French and Francophone Studies I and Advanced Translation courses, as well as a seminar on cultural diversity in contemporary France and a graduate course on literature and immigration on France. In spring, 2009 she had the pleasure of being a visiting professor at Princeton University, where she offered a graduate seminar on the subject of transnational French literature. Last February she gave a talk entitled "Going Global: Diderot 1770-1784" at the colloquium "Diderot Today," organized by Anne Deneys-Tunney and Lucien Nouis at NYU's Maison française. A version of this talk will shortly be published in the journal *Diderot Studies*. In April she spoke at Princeton on "Writing in the Time of the Hostage," a talk based on her current book project on the figure of the hostage in contemporary francophone literatures. Her essay "Translation in the Contact Zone. Antoine Galland's *Thousand and one Nights: Arab Tales*" was published in the

volume *The Arabian Nights in Historical Context. Between East and West*, published by Oxford University Press. She is also looking forward to the publication of her book *Trading Places. Colonization & Slavery in Eighteenth-Century French Culture* by Cornell University Press in 2010. Finally, along with her French Department colleague, Emmanuelle Saada, she was awarded a generous grant by the Sterling-Currier Foundation to organize a conference on the question of "Thinking the Postcolonial in French." This event will be held at the Maison française on March 26, 2010.

PIERRE FORCE won a Guggenheim fellowship for his project on novelty claims in early modern French literature and science. In November 2008 he was a visiting professor at Université Paris XIII. There he lectured on the reception of French classicism and gave a public talk on the globalization of higher education. The proceedings of the *journée* on literature and eloquence he organized for the 60th congress of AIEF appeared with an introduction in volume 61 of *Cahiers de l'Association internationale des études françaises* (2009). He published three articles in the field of intellectual history: "Montaigne and the Coherence of Eclecticism" in *Journal of the History of Ideas* 70:4 (2009); "Voltaire and the Necessity of Modern History" in *Modern Intellectual History* 6:3 (2009); and "Helvétius as an Epicurean Political Theorist" in *SVEC* 12 (2009). In addition, he gave an account of the history and present state of French studies at Columbia in the journal of the ENS alumni association: "Les études françaises à Columbia," *L'Archicube. Revue de l'Association des anciens élèves, élèves et amis de l'Ecole normale supérieure* 5 (2008). He continued serving on the governing board of Association internationale des études françaises and on the scientific

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council of the Institute for Advanced Study, Paris.

DANIELLE HAASE-DUBOSC is on research leave this semester and her chapter "Crossing Genders across Time and Geographical Borders" is coming out in the volume *New Approaches to the History of French Literature* at Columbia University Press.

HEIDI HOLST-KNUDSEN presented a paper at the American Association of Teachers of French conference in January entitled "Lire et voir Persépolis en classe : du texte à l'image". She was invited to give a talk entitled "Enseigner avec le film" at the Journée pédagogique for CUNY graduate student teaching fellows in April. She received a grant to support her development of an audiovisual database and associated pedagogical materials.

PASCALE HUBERT-LEIBLER gave a presentation titled "New and Mixed Identities in Recent French Songs" for Teach Europe at Columbia University on October 24th, 2008. In January 2009, she talked about the use of student-made videos 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 2009 Orientation Workshop for New Language Teaching Fellows, which is offered every year shortly before classes begin by Columbia's foreign language departments. 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, (<http://theteachproject.org/>). She also authored over thirty online grammar tutorials to accompany the textbooks *Chez nous* and *Réseaux*, published by Prentice Hall.

Much of ELISABETH LADENSON'S time in 2009-10 was devoted to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the *Romanic Review* (see conference entry). She also gave lectures at Muhlenberg College ("Queer in School," at the invitation of the Gay-Straight Alliance, February 2009), Brown University ("Gigi at the Gas Station," March 2009), the Institut d'études françaises in Avignon ("Jean-Henri Fabre, Homère des insectes," June 2009), and UCLA ("Colette and Popular Culture," November 2009), and spoke at a number of conferences: a Colette conference at the IMEC center in Caen (March 2009); a University of Florida 19th-century French studies workshop at Reid Hall (June 2009); a day devoted to Virginie Despentes's *King Kong théorie* in Brussels (June 2009), the Nineteenth-Century French Studies conference in Salt Lake City (October 2009), a round table at the Centre Pompidou entitled "Qu'est-ce que vous fabriquez?" (October 2009), the "Adelphiques" conference in Lyon (October 2009), and the British Society des Dix-neuviémistes conference in Bangor, Wales (March 2010). In November 2009 she led a discussion on "Proust Wars" at Café du Soleil as part of Columbia's "Café Humanities" alumni/community outreach program. As a member of the MLA Executive Committee on 19th-century French Literature she organized and chaired a panel on "Napoleon" at the December MLA conference in Philadelphia. In addition to her duties as General Editor of *Romanic Review*, she was a member of Columbia's Executive Counsel of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and served on the Governing Board and Selection Committee of the Society of Fellows. She continues to teach Literature-Humanities, as well as graduate courses in Stylistics and Theory of Literature; she looks forward to offering a graduate course on Proust in Fall 2010. Her recent publications

include "Shame on Me" in the volume *Gay Shame* (eds. David Halperin and Valerie Traub, U Chicago Press, 2009) and "Colette et le 19^e siècle" in *Cahiers Colette* 30 (2009). Forthcoming publications include encyclopedia entries on Censorship in the *Blackwell Companion to the Novel* and on Liane de Pougy in the *Encyclopédie des femmes créatrices* (ed. Béatrice Didier, PUF), and a review of Ingrid Galster's *Beauvoir dans tous ses états*. She is writing a book on Proust and Colette.

SYLVIE LEFÈVRE is still working on a new critical edition of *L'Heptaméron* de Marguerite de Navarre with Nicole Cazauran (ed. Champion). In October, she co-organized with Elisabeth Ladenson, a two day conference to celebrate the centenary of the Department's flagship publication : *Romanic Review : 1910-2010. 100 years of Romance Studies. The Return to History and the Future of Romance Studies*. Papers and discussions will be published in the first issue of *Romanic Review* 2010. As the chair of the Section romane of the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes (CNRS-Paris), she is delighted to announce that *Jonas*, a database for texts and manuscripts of French medieval literature, is now online (jonas.irht.cnrs.fr/). In the fall, she offered a graduate course on "Readings and Rewritings of the Middle-Ages : *Jean de Saintré* d'Antoine de La Sale," and will teach "History and Structure of the French Language" in the spring. Some of his publications were : "Décrire, écrire, s'écrire : les langages de l'identité dans le livre III des *Chroniques* de Froissart," in *Froissart à la cour de Béarn. L'écrivain, les arts et le pouvoir*, ed. Valérie Fasseur, Brepols, 2009 : "Emprise chevaleresque et projet romanesque : entre réalité et fiction", in *Le romanesque aux XIV^e et XV^e siècles*, éd. D. Bohler, Bordeaux, 2009. She also recently delivered a talk at Princeton University about

Philippe de Thaon and his (almost) lost Bestiary.

EMILIE LITTLEHALES is currently in her second year of teaching in the Department. During this time she has enjoyed engaging with students from a variety of backgrounds.

SOPHIE QUEUNIET following her third year review was renewed in her position as Lecturer. She presented a paper at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in April 2009 on teaching literature in Intermediate French classes. She also worked for the Student Activities Manual of *MyFrenchLab*, an online resource accompanying the new edition of the Introductory French manual *Chez nous* (Pearson, 2009).

EMMANUELLE SAADA is returning from maternity leave. She is beginning work on a new book on the historiography of imperialism and colonization. In January 2009, she presented her work at a conference in Paris entitled "La pensée coloniale 1900" held at the University of Chicago Paris Center. Her paper, "Penser le fait colonial à travers le droit en 1900", will be published in *Mil neuf cent. Revue d'histoire intellectuelle* (27, November 2009). Also in January, she was invited by the Zentrum Moderner Orient and the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin to give a talk in the "Neue Trends der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften in Frankreich" series. There, she presented preliminary work from her new project in a talk entitled "How to write the History of Colonization? Some Remarks on Recent French Historiography." In April, she was chair and discussing on a panel at "Constructing Black France. A Transatlantic Dialogue"—a conference held at Barnard college in April. In June, she was interviewed for a radio show on France Inter *L'histoire et moi* which pairs historians and individuals whose personal trajectories

(Continued on page 7)

On March 9, 2009 historian Patrick Weil delivered the Eugene Sheffer Distinguished Lecture on the topic "How To Be French: Old and New Challenges Around Citizenship." In front of an audience of more than 150 spectators, Professor Weil spoke on the changing definitions of citizenship in France throughout the 20th century. Citizenship is a question of laws, of course, and these laws are constantly shifting. Of equal significance however, are the varied understandings of citizenship within national communities. Are citizens defined primarily by their passports or can they be defined by common values and by a shared history? In what ways can individuals be autonomous of the law and of the state? In his lecture and in his most recent book *How to Be French* (Duke, 2009), Professor Weil tackled these and many other questions about immigration, law and culture in modern democratic nations. Professor Weil's lecture was followed by a lively discussion about citizenship laws and recent events in France and in the United States.

Professor Weil's lecture was 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

HISTORIAN PATRICK WEIL DELIVERS ANNUAL EUGENE J. SHEFFER DISTINGUISHED LECTURE



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 all things French. Past lecturers in the series have included Azouz Begag and Marc Fumaroli. With the Sheffer Distinguished lectures, the Sheffer family and the Maison française are honoring Eugene Sheffer's legacy and indefatigable spirit.

have been impacted by history. She also collaborated on a documentary movie on *métis* children in Indochina "Né sous Z." that will be broadcasted on France 2 in February 2010. This fall, she is teaching a new undergraduate class for the department entitled "France : past and present. An introduction to French Civilization". With Professors Diagne and Dobie, she participated in a panel on postcolonialism at the conference organized by Prof. Ladenson and Prof. Lefèvre on the occasion of the centenary of the *Romanic Review* on October 2 and 3. This year, she will be organizing the French Department workshop—a collegial and productive conversation about current research by members of our department. With the help of Aleksandra Perisic and Erin Twohig, she is co-organizing with Prof. Dobie a conference to

be held at the Maison française on March 26, 2010 entitled *Thinking the Postcolonial in French: Historiographies, Politics and Literature*. With Romain Bertrand from the Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes Internationales at Sciences Po in Paris, she was awarded an Alliance Program Joint project grant for a project on *Colonialisms and Imperialisms: Comparisons, Confrontations and Connections in the Study of Imperial Power Formations*. The money will be used to organize a research workshop in April 2010, the first step in the creation of an international research network that will be associated with the *Center for French and Francophone Studies*.

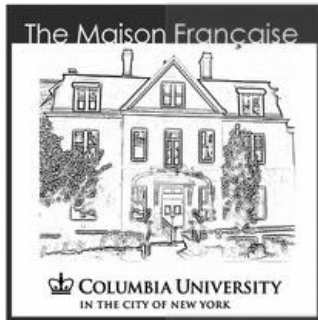
SAMUEL SKIPPON completed his second-year review and has been promoted to Lecturer. As of fall 2008, he is the Departmental Representative to Columbia's Summer Session program.

JOANNA STALNAKER's first book, *The Unfinished Enlightenment: Description in the Age of the Encyclopedia*, will come out with Cornell University Press this spring. During her junior leave, she also moved forward with her new project on literary testaments and the philosophical and scientific conceptions of death underpinning them at the end of the Enlightenment. She presented work from this project at the "Diderot Today" conference held at NYU in January; her paper, entitled "Diderot's Literary Testament," is forthcoming in *Diderot Studies*. She also spoke on "Buffon on Death" at the ASECS annual conference in Richmond, Virginia in March and gave a talk entitled "How Does Enlightenment End?" for Columbia's Café Humanities alumni lecture series at PicNic Café. She moderated a round panel on the future of Romance Studies

for Elisabeth Ladenson and Sylvie Lefèvre's conference to celebrate the centenary of the *Romanic Review*. She resumes teaching this year with Literature Humanities, the eighteenth-century graduate survey, and a new undergraduate course, "Enlightenment/Counter-Enlightenment."

Over the 2008-09 academic year PHILLIP JOHN USHER gave papers on various Renaissance topics at conferences in California, Michigan, France, and Canada. Articles on Ronsard appeared in the *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance* and in the *Revue des amis de Ronsard*. Other work appeared in *L'Esprit Créateur* and elsewhere. His book on Renaissance travel literature is now forthcoming in Frank Lestringant's collection "Les Géographies du Monde" at Classiques Garnier. In the fall semester 2009, he is Visiting Assistant Professor at Boston University.

PHIL WATTS is Chair of the Department of French and Romance Philology. He taught courses on modern French literature and film, including a graduate seminar on "Cinema and Democracy" and an undergraduate course on the films of the French New Wave in Spring 2009. With Gabriel Rockhill he co-edited a volume of essays titled *Jacques Rancière: History, Politics, Aesthetics* that has just been published by Duke University Press. In January 2009, he was Visiting Professor at the Université Paris VII (Diderot) where he delivered a series of lectures and led seminars on 20th century culture, including a talk on Roland Barthes and André Bazin and another on the remnants of tragedy in contemporary film. Since then, he has given talks on Marguerite Yourcenar and economics at the 20th and 21st century French and Francophone Studies conference, on Jean-Luc Godard's history of World War II at UCLA, on sound in film at Dartmouth College and on Irène Némirovsky and Jonathan Littell at Cal State Long Beach.



Nicole Rudolph stepped down as Director of the Maison Française in June 2009 to accept a position as Assistant Professor at Adelphi University. The Department of French at Columbia is extremely grateful for Nicole's enthusiasm and dedication to the Maison and to the Department over the last two years.

Shanny Peer was hired as the new Director of the Maison Française and took up her position on September 1, 2009. Shanny holds a Ph.D. from NYU's Institute of French Studies and taught French Studies for ten years, at the University of Vermont and then at NYU. She also has experience in the non-profit foundation and policy worlds, having worked at the French-American Foundation for eight years as the Director of Policy Programs, and then worked briefly at Families and Work Institute before coming to Columbia this fall. Shanny Peer's publications include a prize-winning book called *France on Display: Peasants, Provincials and Folklore in the 1937 Paris World's Fair*, a number of scholarly articles, and policy reports. The directorship has been redefined as a full-time position with Shanny Peer's hiring, allowing her to focus her full efforts on the Maison Française.

We were delighted to welcome several new board members to the Advisory Board in 2009: Christine Ourmières, VP and General Manager for Air France and KLM, U.S.; Diony Lebot, CEO of Société Générale Americas; Thierry Simon, CEO-Americas of Crédit Agricole CIB; and Pierre-Jean de Filippis, COO Structured Finance for BNP Paribas. Robert Paxton, Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, and Charlie Kolb, president of the Committee for Economic Development in Washington

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Patrons: Mrs. Henriette Beilis, Ms. Louise Bourgeois, Mrs. Stephen M. Kellen, Dr. Paul LeClerc, Mr. Jacques Maisonrouge.

D.C., were also nominated as new members of the Advisory Board in November 2009.

Before this newsletter went to press, several important changes occurred on our Advisory Board. Serge Bellanger, Board Chairman since 1998, died in December 2009 after years of devoted service and loyalty to the Maison Française; we have included a brief obituary about Serge on the last page of the newsletter. In March 2010, Dr. Paul LeClerc agreed to be nominated as our new Chairman and was elected unanimously by the Board. (More information about Dr. LeClerc's nomination can be found on our website.) We have

also added four new members: Renaud Dutreil, Chairman of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Inc.; Edouard Têtreau, Head of Research with AXA Private Equity; Adam Gopnik, author and staff writer for the New Yorker; and Bernard Laleuf, Senior Vice President and Deputy General Manager for CIC.

This year's French intern is Jérémie Fredj. In addition to leading the weekly Café Conversation and Cinema Thursday series, Jérémie brings other great talents to the Maison team, including computer programming and design skills.

In order to revitalize the role of the Maison Française and celebrate its rich history as it nears its centenary, Shanny Peer is taking the lead in developing plans for an ambitious series of conferences, exhibitions, publications and other events as part of a multi-year anniversary campaign. Our plans also include a renovation to honor the historic origins of the Maison Française and of Buell Hall, the oldest building on the Columbia campus. Fundraising efforts are vital to the success of this anniversary campaign and will focus on corporate sponsors, individual donors, alumni and members of the Société des Amis de la Maison Française, as well as foundations. Our vision of the Maison's mission is focused not just on its rich history, but also on offering high-quality programming around current issues and interests in France and the French-speaking world, from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The roster of events in Fall 2009, for example, included a talk by philosopher Etienne Balibar on "Secularism and Cosmopolitanism," a discussion of the French health care system and lessons for U.S. health care reform by Patrick Morvan, and a panel discussion on: "The U.S. and the European Union in a Time of Change: Is Obama's Victory Misunderstood in Europe?" with Walter Russell Mead and Yannick Mireur, moderated by Charlie Kolb. Other events included a delightful "Conversation on the Work of Marcel Proust" with Antoine Compagnon and Adam Gopnik that drew a huge crowd.

MARC FUMAROLI RETURNS TO CAMPUS AS DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR



In the Fall 2009 term, the Department was once again delighted to welcome Professor

Marc Fumaroli as Visiting Professor. Professor Fumaroli taught a course on French Art Criticism from Diderot to Paul Valéry, and delivered several lectures at the Italian Academy where he held the position of Distinguished Senior Research Scholar. Marc Fumaroli came to campus in the wake of his most recent book *Paris-New York et Retour* (Fayard, 2009) which won high praise throughout France. This book is an exploration of the relation

between art and the culture industry in two capitals of modern art, but it is also a plea for a return to beauty in a world that, according to the author, needs it more than ever. *Paris-New York et Retour* is another landmark in Professor Fumaroli's illustrious career. He is Professor emeritus at the Collège de France and a member of the Académie française, and has taught at the University of Chicago, All Souls College, Oxford and the Institute for

Advanced Studies, Princeton. Professor Fumaroli is the author of more than 20 books, including *L'Âge de l'éloquence* (Droz, 1980), *L'Ecole du silence* (Flammarion, 1998) and *Chateaubriand Poésie et Terreur* (Fallois, 2003). His work has received numerous prizes, including the Criticism prize from the Académie française and the Balzan prize in September 2001 to honor his work on history and literary criticism from the 17th century to the present.

REID HALL PROGRAM

In keeping with its mission, Reid Hall hosted numerous cultural events, lectures, colloquia, conferences, musical recitals and concerts organized by its members and partner institutions. One of the highlights this year was the two-day colloquium, *Voices from the Field: Study Abroad in 21st Century France*, sponsored by the Columbia-Penn Programs in Paris and the newly-created Association of American Programs in France (<http://www.apuaf.org/index.html>). Organized by Brunhilde Biebuyck (Columbia, Paris), Monique Fecteau (Tufts, Paris), and Sylvie Toux (Dickinson, Toulouse), it featured two keynote speakers: Anthony C. Ogden on "Decolonizing Study Abroad: Getting Students Off the Veranda" and Pascal Baudry on "Explicitness and Individuation: Consequences for Acculturation of American Students in France". It also included workshops on: program design and in-house courses, housing, internships, and the impact of U.S. programs and students on French universities. The colloquium drew a large audience of study-abroad administrators and professors. Other conferences and events of note included: *Homage to Mahmoud Darwish*, organized by Sarah Riggs and Omar Berrada (writers/translators); *Journée d'études Jean-Richard*

THE UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON EARLY MODERN FRANCE

2008-2009 marked another successful year of productive interdisciplinary discussion for the University Seminar on Early Modern France (USEMF), which continues to be chaired by PIERRE FORCE and organized by BENJAMIN YOUNG. The group furthered its examination of literary, historical and cultural issues surrounding the Early Modern period to the acclaim of both its members and guests.

This year, the Seminar was pleased to elect distinguished academics from the Greater New York area and the West Coast as members. Membership consists primarily of a core group of regular attendees—both professors and graduate students—from the French Department, as well as colleagues from related Columbia departments and other universities. It now includes scholars from institutions as close as Princeton and NYU and as far as the Université de Paris and Berkeley.

Over the past year, the USEMF was privileged to host scholars with wide-ranging

interests, including Renaissance scholar François Cornilliat (Rutgers), *dixhuitiémiste* Anne Deneys (NYU), historians Chantal Grell (CNRS) and Matthew Jones (Columbia), philosopher/music historian Catherine Kintzler (Lyon III, emerita), and *dixseptiémiste* Nicholas Paige (Berkeley), among others.

Operating under the auspices of the Office of University Seminars, the "Salon" (as it is still affectionately known to many members and guests) continues to pull together threads of knowledge from a variety of fields in the humanities and social sciences. Its unique format forgoes formal presentations, devoting the full length of each meeting to an in-depth discussion of a text written by its guest scholar.

Further information is available online at www.columbia.edu/french/salon. Please direct membership or sponsorship inquiries, guest suggestions and general questions to BENJAMIN YOUNG at byoung@columbia.edu.

Bloch, organized by Christophe Prochasson (EHESS); *Le journal d'Hélène Berr, journal intime et témoignage au cœur des années noires*, Rencontre with Esther Benbassa, Philippe Lejeune, Jean David Nasio, organized by Antoine Sabbagh (Paris III) and with a special appearance by Simone Weil; the launching of the *Petit Larousse* (2010) by the Éditions Larousse. The monthly readings organized by the association *Textes et Voix*, in collaboration with the *Librairie Tschann* (<http://www.tschann.fr>), inaugurated at Reid Hall in

1999, continue to be popular. In 2008-2009, texts by such authors as: Jorn Riel, Atiq Rahimi, Denis Podalydès, Claude Levi-Strauss, Sylvie Germain, Pierre Michon were read by renowned French actors Maurice Bénichou, Marie-Christine Barrault, Bernard-Pierre Donnadiou, Nicolas Pignon, Marie-Armelle Deguy, André Marcon, François Marthouret. Each evening, an ambiance of hushed intensity reigned in Reid Hall's *Grande Salle* as the audience of book-lovers and theater buffs concentrated on

the voice of an author conveyed by that of an actor. For a complete list of readings, see <http://www.textes-et-voix.asso.fr>.

The Columbia Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall hosted fellows from several universities in the US and other countries: Dawn Fulton (Department of French Studies, Smith College); Mas'ud Hamdan (Departments of Theatre and of Arabic Language and Literature, University of Haifa, Israel); Adam Kosto (Department of History, Columbia University); Herman Lebovics (History

(Continued on page 10)

Department, Stony Brook University); Andrea Troxel (Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania); Tatiana Smoliarova (Department of Slavic languages and Literatures, Columbia University); Klaus Thomas Volkert (Seminar für Mathematik und ihre Didaktik, University of Cologne, Germany). A lunchtime lecture series featured the Fellows and guest speakers who presented their work in progress. For more information on current and past scholars and events, see the Institute's recently renovated website www.columbia.edu/cu/reidhall.

The Columbia-Penn Undergraduate Program attracted a record number of students Fall, Spring and Summer 2008-2009, with around 200 in residence. The strikes in the French universities greatly affected our program since students are required to take at least two of their five courses at a Paris University. Since the strikes persisted throughout the term, special tutorials were organized so program students could complete their work. On

the up side, the strikes accelerated the construction of our electronic educational platform (<http://syllabi.reidhall.com>). The coordinators for the French University, Laurence Gallu and Christine Valero, kept our students abreast of the rapidly evolving situation, course by course. In collaboration with tutors, they posted all French university courses in which program students are enrolled, providing a broad portfolio of on-line resources and e-documents.

Another new addition to the Paris-based website is the blog, "*Allées et Venues*" (<http://columbiaprograms.reidhall.com/blog>), produced by Christine Babef, Student Affairs coordinator. It contains a plethora of information on cultural, social, culinary, artistic activities and events. Students also comment on their experience in Paris through interviews or essays. Special attention is also paid to colloquia, conferences, lectures taking place in Paris and its vicinity.

Spring term, the program welcomed two professors from Columbia University: Gregory

THE MODERN SALON

The Modern Salon, organized by Alexandra Perisic, Casiana Ionita and Paul Wimmer, hosted three events. Jarrod Hayes of the University of Michigan visited us in November 2008 to discuss a piece from his new book project entitled "Queer Roots for the Diaspora, Ghosts in the Family Tree," in which he examines the incorporation of the notion of roots into articulations of lesbian and gay identities. In March 2009, Gisèle Sapiro, Research Director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and Fulbright Visiting Scholar talked about her forthcoming article "Authorship and Responsibility: The Case of Émile Zola's Commitment in the Dreyfus Affair." For the last Salon, which met in April 2009, we welcomed James Williams, from Royal Holloway, University of London, who presented his article "Confronting Crisis, Resurrecting the Modern: The Cinema of Jacques Nolot." All discussions were very lively and we were happy to have participants from several other Departments such as Sociology and Film Studies. The organizers for 2009-2010 are Jacqueline Lerescu, Jonathan Eskew and Laure Astourian.

MAISON FRANÇAISE BOOK CLUB

Eight books were presented during the academic year to the expanding audience of the BOOK CLUB.

Vincent Debaene gave a post-colonialist look at Hergé's comic "*Tintin au Congo*" while Toby Wikström reached back to Montaigne's cannibals with Rufin's "*Rouge Brésil*. Enigma and religion in Laurence Cossé were Professor Diagne's domain, while suspense and history in François Vallejo's "*Ouest*" were untangled by Vincent Aurora. Two novels emanated from francophone authors: Shan Sa's "*La Joueuse de Go*" transported the BOOK CLUB members to civil war China along with Geneviève Lafrance and Yasmina Khadra's



"*L'Attentat*, an approach to suicide bombings in Israel, was reviewed by Madeleine Dobie. Finally, Isabelle Coitoux revived the 1924 novel of Emmanuel Bove, "*Journal écrit en hiver*."

Eight books will again be presented during the 2009-2010 year as the BOOK CLUB members show, in their growing number, enthusiasm and appreciation towards the French Department faculty members who generously contribute their time and expertise.

—Danièle Lasser, M.Phil '84
Program Coordinator

Mann, (History Department) *Monde?*"; *L'ambivalence du bien et du mal chez Henri-Georges Clouzot*; *The Louvre Abu Dhabi, an Impetus for Change in Two Cultures*; *Les étudiantes maliennes et franco-maliennes à Paris: le chemin qui mène vers les études supérieures*; *La pipolisation de la vie politique en France vue par les acteurs clés: les hommes politiques et les médias*; *Perceptions françaises du néoconservatisme américain et de sa politique étrangère: les créateurs d'opinion et leur influence depuis le 11 septembre 2001*. Several students who completed their MA benefited from a new addition to the program: travel grants for conducting fieldwork; one student went to Russia, another to Mali, and yet a third to Abu Dhabi.

Many other study-abroad programs and research centers at Reid Hall also contribute to making this center a lively locus of French-American intellectual exchange.

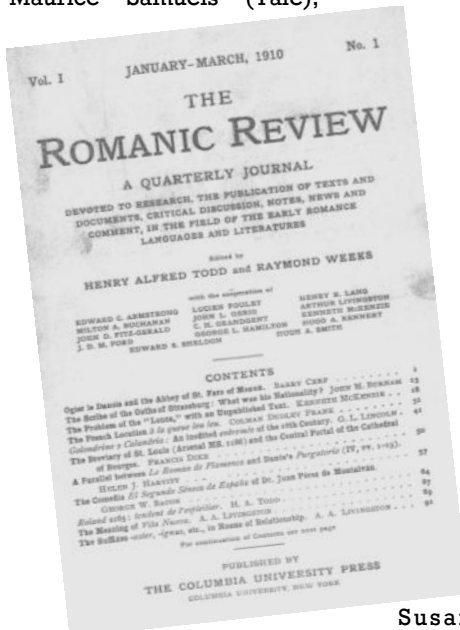
—Danielle Haase-Dubosc
Executive Director

—Brunhilde Biebuyck
Director

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ROMANCE STUDIES: *ROMANIC REVIEW* CENTENARY CONFERENCE

On October 2-3 Columbia's Maison Française hosted a conference marking the 100th anniversary of *Romanic Review*, organized by Elisabeth Ladenson and Sylvie Lefèvre with the capable and efficient aid of Isabelle Coitoux and Casiana Ionita. The first day was devoted almost entirely to Medieval Studies and Romance Philology, in keeping with the original mission of *Romanic Review*. Participating Medievalists included Howard Bloch (Yale), Jacqueline Cerquiglini (Sorbonne), David Hult (Berkeley), Sarah Kay (Princeton), Stephen G. Nichols (Johns Hopkins), Richard Trachsler (Göttingen), and Michel Zink (Collège de France). A roundtable discussion on "The Future of Romance Studies" concluded the first day's events, with presentations by Carlos Alonso (Columbia), Serge Gavronsky (Barnard), Justin Steinberg (Chicago), Jane Tylus (NYU), Jesús Rodríguez Velásco (Columbia), with Joanna Stalnaker moderating. The panels on October 3

approaches: the Return to History, with Maurice Samuels (Yale),



Susan Suleiman (Harvard), Emily Apter (NYU), and Philip Watts moderating; Gender,

with Jane Gallop (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Marianne Hirsch (Columbia), Sarah Kay, and Elisabeth Ladenson moderating; Postcolonialism, with Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Madeleine Dobie, Emmanuelle Saada (Columbia), and Barnard's Kaiama Glover moderating; Theory, with Elena Russo (Johns Hopkins), Peter Brooks (Princeton), Gerald Prince (Pennsylvania), and Emily Apter moderating; and History, with Antoine Compagnon, Denis Hollier (NYU), Edward Mendelson (Columbia), and Pierre Force moderating. Vigorous and sometimes contentious debate followed each of the panels, and the conference concluded with a sumptuous reception organized by the Maison's peerless Shanny Peer, without whose good-humored efficacy none of this would have been possible. The conference proceedings, including transcripts of some of the more lively discussions, will be published in the centenary issue of *Romanic Review*, along with a memorial tribute to Michael Riffaterre, who served as its General Editor for thirty years.

ALUMNI NEWS

ROBERT FRAIL: Columbia University: Class of 1985 has recently published *Realism in the Novels of Samuel Richardson and the Abbé Prévost* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2005), *Fringe Dwellers* (a novel) (Dorrance Publishing Co., 2006) and *A Singular Duality: Literary Relations between France and England in the Eighteenth Century* (AMS Press, 2007). He is currently working on the Catholic Enlightenment, especially Catholic writers and *L'Encyclopédie* (ASECS Panel, Richmond, VA 2009).

NEAL OXENHANDLER, MA 1951 and Professor Emeritus Dartmouth College has just completed a book on Arthur Rimbaud's poetry *Rimbaud, The Cost of Genius* (Ohio State University Press, 2009). This book, which examines twenty-on poems, has been hailed as a "tour de force," and "one of the most satisfying studies" of Rimbaud.

Please provide your addition to the next "Alumni News" feature by emailing, bydl@columbia.edu.

SERGE BELLANGER (1933-2009)

As the newsletter was going to press, we were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Serge Bellanger, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Maison Française. Born in Vimoutiers (Orne), on April 30, 1933, Serge Bellanger studied at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris. After a few years at Banque Régionale de l'Ouest (a bank of the CIC group), he joined the French division of Citibank in 1964 and moved to the New York division of the same bank in 1968. In 1974, he was persuaded to create and lead the New York branch of CIC and he was still heading CIC New York at the time of his death. During his forty-year career in the United States, Serge Bellanger displayed

a stupendous energy and vitality, and became a leading advocate for French-American understanding, not only in business but also in politics and culture. In 1983, he was elected President of the New York Chapter of the French-American Chamber of Commerce, and national President of the same organization. He later served as President of the worldwide union of French Chambers of Commerce. He joined the Advisory Board of the Maison Française at Columbia University in the early 1980s and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1998. He showed great dedication to this task. Thanks to his efforts, numerous French business leaders and policymakers were invited to address student and faculty audiences

on the Columbia campus, and the Maison Française played a major role in the intellectual life of the university. Serge Bellanger cared deeply about students: an initiative he was especially proud of was a program that allowed American student to secure internships in France. As chairman of the Grand Marnier Foundation, he also helped to support graduate student dissertation fellowships. Over the years, Serge Bellanger developed friendships with several Columbia professors, and he played a key role in persuading the New York French business community to support the promotion of French culture at Columbia University. He was one of a kind, and his many friends at Columbia remember him fondly.

Please provide your addition to the next "Alumni News" feature by emailing, bydl@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 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Office of Admissions, 108 Low Library MC 4303, New York, NY 10027, tel. (212) 854-8903. You may also visit the Department's website: www.columbia.edu/cu/french.

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