



## Greetings from the Chair –

The 2008-2009 academic year found Yale confronted with the particularly daunting set of challenges posed by the intense economic downturn. Grappling with a loss in its endowment of over 20%, the University mandated that all departments take steps to reduce their budgets for this current year, 2009-2010, by 12.5%. As might be expected for a small and lean department like French, this has been a wrenching task that has forced us to make painful choices. For the moment, however, I am happy to report that we were able to meet those budget reductions without jeopardizing the crucial components of our research and teaching missions and without having to lay off any of our devoted staff. Put differently, all of us are in the process of learning the difficult art of doing more with less and, as chair, I am particularly grateful for the spirit of collegiality and shared sacrifice with which I know everyone in the department will work together to meet these challenges. Unfortunately, an even more difficult task lies ahead as the University was able to hold our cuts to 12.5% this year only by adopting the premise that, during this current academic year, we must plan for yet another round of budget cuts of the same magnitude to be applied in 2010-2011. Succinctly put, frugality will be our watchword.

Turning to happier news, this fall saw the arrival in the department of our new senior colleague, Professor **Alice Kaplan** (right) who is teaching a graduate seminar titled “Fact and Fiction in the Archive” as well as advanced undergraduate courses and a Freshman Seminar on “The experience of Being Foreign.” Last spring, the department received the excellent news that Alice had been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. And then, recently, Alice was named by President Levin as the John M. Musser Professor in French Literature. This fall we also welcomed our new junior colleague, **Edwige Tamalet**



**Talbayev** (left). Trained as an angliciste in France, where she earned both the licence and maîtrise at Paris IV before passing the agrégation d’anglais in 2004, Edwige then came to the United States where she completed the PhD in Literature at the University of California, San Diego. Edwige’s dissertation, directed by Winifred Woodhull, is titled “Modernity in Question: Retrieving Imaginaries of the Transcontinental Mediterranean.” Next year Edwige will be teaching courses dealing with France and the Islamic world, and more specifically with the literature and culture of the Maghreb.



**Soumia Koundi** was promoted to Senior Lector in French. At that rank, she joins our four other senior lectors – **Ruth Koizim**, **Matuku Ngame**, **Lauren Pinzka**, and **Françoise Schneider** – in the over-seeing of our multi-section language courses.

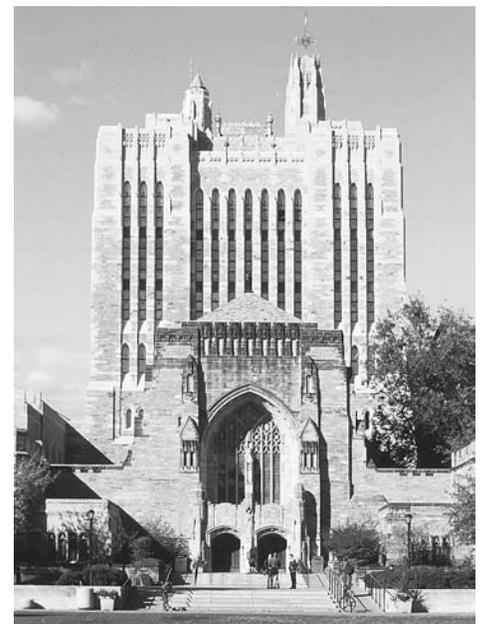
This past summer saw the departure of two junior colleagues. **Julia Prest**, our seventeenth-century specialist, has accepted a tenured position in the French department at Saint Andrews in Scotland and **Catherine Labio**, who held a joint appointment in French and Comparative Literature, has accepted a tenured position in the English department at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Both Julia and Catherine will be much missed and we wish them every success in their new endeavors.

The Department of French will hold its traditional cash bar for alumni, faculty and current graduate students at the annual meeting of the **Modern Language Association**. Please join us:

Tuesday, 29 December  
5:15–6:30 p.m.  
Commonwealth Hall B  
Loews Philadelphia  
1200 Market Street  
Philadelphia

You are also invited to a Yale reception hosted by the Graduate School:

Monday, 28 December  
5:15–6:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom, Salon F  
Philadelphia Marriott  
Downtown  
1201 Market Street  
Philadelphia



## Chair's Message continued from page 1

A number of colleagues were on research leaves last year. During the fall 2008 semester I used my much appreciated leave to complete my manuscript for *Enlightened Pleasures*. During my absence, **Chris Miller** replaced me as Acting Chair for which I am most grateful. **Ora Avni** was also away during the fall on the second of her three pre-retirement leaves. During the spring 2009 semester, **Ned Duval** was on leave and working full-time on his study of lyric poetry. **Howard Bloch**, who has been serving for two years as Director of the reconstituted Humanities Program, used his leave to work on his new project dealing with medieval cathedrals.

This was a rich year for lectures and cultural events. During the spring semester we had visits from Pierre Pacht of Paris VII; Dominique Bluher of Harvard; Charlotte Simonin; David Carroll of the University of California, Irvine as the GAFS lecturer; Jacques Roubaud; Florence Delay; Ari Blatt of the University of Virginia; Judith Butler of the University of California, Berkeley who gave the annual Naomi Schor Lecture; Ronnie Scharfmann of SUNY, Purchase; and Stéphane Gerson of NYU.

This last year also saw a marked resurgence on the undergraduate level of interest in things related to the French and Francophone language and culture. With the support of the **James King Fund**, *L'Amuse-Bouche*, an entirely French-language undergraduate publication, continued to showcase the creative work of students of French at Yale under the direction of undergraduates Jonathan Berken and Sarah Weaver. With help from the **Molière-Guicharnaud Fund**, senior Max Kahn oversaw a French-language production of Racine's *Britannicus* at Yale's Off Broadway Theater. Its cast of undergraduates was complemented by two of our visiting *normaliens*, **Charlotte Emin** in the role of Agrippina and **Marc Douguet** as Nero.

Again this year the French studies of a large number of undergraduate and graduate students were helped by funds made available by the **Kenneth Cornell Memorial Fund**. In spite of the university-wide drop in endowment income, we were able to award grants totaling approximately \$84,000. Fifteen awards totaling \$40,000 were made to undergraduates doing language and literature study in the context of Yale's (and other) summer programs; eight awards totaling \$19,000 were made to advanced undergraduates for work related to their senior theses; and eight awards totaling \$25,000 went to graduate students for summer research. The success of this new grant program was made possible by the devoted work on the selection committees of **Ruth Koizim** and **Lauren Pinzka** for the language study component, of **Ned Duval** and **Julia Prest** as DUS for the advanced undergraduates, and of **Maurie Samuels** as DGS for the graduate students.

I want also to express my personal thanks to a number of people whose unfailing collegiality and hard work were particularly important to the department this year. To **Chris Miller** for his work as Acting Chair during the fall semester; to **Maurie Samuels** for continuing his truly excellent work as Director of Graduate Studies; to **Ned Duval** who served as Director of Undergraduate Studies during the fall semester; to **Julia Prest** who reassumed the duties of DUS during the spring semester while Ned was on leave; to our four exchange students from the École Normale Supérieure – **Marc Douguet**, **Charlotte Emin**, **Céline Mouzon**, and **Cécile Ondoa-Abeng** for their excellent teaching; to **Julia Elsky** and **Aaron Schlosser** for all their help

as the co-chairs of the GAFS (Graduate Association of French Students); to **Agnès Bolton** and **Brenda Crocker** for seeing so well to the smooth, efficient, and friendly day-to-day functioning of our programs and endeavors.

Let me close in thanking the many alumni and friends of the department who made generous contributions to our work. Your gifts to the Alumni Fund has allowed us to defray the expenses of our finishing graduate students when they go to the MLA convention and its interviews; fund travel by graduate students to give professional presentations; and underwrite visits to the Yale campus by prospective students being recruited to the graduate program.

– Thomas Kavanagh

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## From the Acting Chair –

A Congolese proverb says, “Quand ton chef t’offre sa natte, n’en occupe qu’un petit bout.” The sentiment is slightly at odds with the job of acting chair, which I performed during the fall semester while Tom Kavanagh had a well-deserved semester of leave; but I tried my best to do as little as possible. That semester will of course forever be remembered as the one during which the current economic crisis hit hard. Yale was spared some of the worst of it. Most significantly, our junior searches were allowed to proceed as planned.

During the fall semester, the department was privileged to have lectures by Christian Delage of the EHESS, Andrew Curran of Wesleyan University, Sarah Kay of Princeton, Elizabeth Hodges of Miami University, Claire Denis, Christophe Wall-Romana of the University of Minnesota, and the French film critic Raymond Bellour who visited in conjunction with the Paris/New Haven Bazin Colloquium sponsored by the Film Studies Program.

I want to thank the truly amazing Agnès Bolton for making the semester much easier for me.

– Christopher L. Miller

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Your comments, suggestions and news are most welcome!

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## *From the DGS –*

This was a busy and active year for the Yale French graduate program. Thanks to the stellar recruiting efforts last year, organized by Christopher Miller, we welcomed six new graduate students into the department: Julia Elsky, Catherine Fox, Annabel Kim, Kristin Graves, Maren Lackner, and Mary Anne Lewis. It has been a pleasure to rebuild our ranks with such a dynamic group. Julia Elsky, along with second year student Aaron Schlosser, served as GAFS co-chairs.

The department was once again fortunate enough to participate in an exchange with the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. This year, four of our students went to Paris as part of the exchange: Susannah Carson, Jessica DeVos, Anne Linton, and Claire McMurray. Once again, the exchange allowed them to make excellent progress on their dissertations while soaking up French culture in situ. In addition to her ENS fellowship, Jessica DeVos also won a Beinecke Research Fellowship and a FLAS fellowship to study advanced Italian.

Thanks to the generous support of the Kenneth Cornell Fund, we were able to send several students to Paris for research trips last summer. These trips provide an excellent opportunity for students who are preparing their dissertation prospectus to familiarize themselves with Parisian libraries and archives. The Cornell Fund also allowed us to send two rising second year students, Aaron Schlosser and Grey Anderson, to study on the Bryn Mawr Summer Program in Avignon.

The Alumni Fund provided support for several students to travel to conferences this year. Jessica DeVos presented papers at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference and the Sixteenth-Century Society Conference in Geneva, Switzerland; Tara Golba presented a paper at a graduate conference at the CUNY Graduate Center;

Kristin Graves presented papers at graduate student conferences at NYU and Stanford; Irina Iakounina presented papers at the SCSC and at the Renaissance Society of America Conference in Los Angeles; Anne Linton and Raisa Rexer both presented papers at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium in Nashville where Anne Linton won the Naomi Schor Memorial Award for the best graduate student paper for her paper entitled, “Allegory and Exoticism: Balzac’s Allusion to Delacroix;” and Erin Tremblay Ponnou-Delaffon presented papers at the North American Levinas Society Conference in Seattle and at the Twentieth/Twenty-First-Century French Studies Conference in Minneapolis.

This year saw another very interesting lineup of graduate seminars. In the Fall: Howard Bloch once again taught “Old French;” Dudley Andrew, of Film and Comparative Literature, taught “Realist French Film;” Edwin Duval taught “Voix de Femme/Voix d’Homme;” Catherine Labio taught “The Enlightenment and its Legacy;” and I taught “Fin-de-siècle France.” In the Spring: Julia Prest taught “Comedy and Comic Theory from Corneille to Beaumarchais;” Jean-Jacques Poucel taught “Reading/Writing After Mallarmé;” Farid Laroussi taught “Proust’s Laughter;” Ora Avni taught “The German Occupation in Film and Fiction;” and Christopher Miller taught “African-Caribbean Connections in French.”

I am happy to announce that four students filed dissertations this past year. In the fall: Roxana Curto, “Inter-tech(s): Colonialism and the Question of Technology in Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Literature,” advised by Christopher Miller; Alexandra Gueydan, “ImagiNation (post)nationale de l’Algérie: politique et pratique identitaires de la littérature francophone algérienne,” advised by Christopher Miller; and Katherine Lydon, “From Grail

*continued on page 4*

*Below: The Yale Department of French, Fall 2009 (Missing Faculty: Ora Avni, Kathleen Burton, Karen and Ned Duval, Farid Laroussi)*



## From the DUS –

In 2008-09, we saw six seniors through to the successful completion of the French major: Melina Cordero, Rebecca Eisenbrey, Anna Goddu, Gerald McElroy (with International Studies), Marcus Oda and Meredith Williams (with English). Our congratulations to them all! Special congratulations are due to Ms. Cordero, Ms. Goddu, Mr. McElroy, Mr. Oda and Ms. Williams who graduated with Distinction in the Major.

A requirement of the French major is to write an extended essay (in French or English) on a subject chosen by the student. This year's topics represent a variety of interests and approaches to the study of French: Melina Cordero: "Redefining the Book: A Study of Three Works by Didier Mütel" (advised by Catherine Labio); Rebecca Eisenbrey: "The Invention of a Revolution: Representations of May 1968" (advised by Jean-Jacques Poucel); Anna Goddu: "Personal, Political, Provocative: Act Up-Paris as a Force of Change in French Society" (advised by Alondra Nelson of African American Studies, American Studies and Sociology); Gerald McElroy: "Images de la banlieue parisienne" (advised by Farid Laroussi); Marcus Oda: "Aux grands boulevards: une défense d'Hausmann et des grands travaux parisiens" (advised by Maurice Samuels); Meredith Williams: "Raising Good Citizens: Conflicting Visions of Duty and Nation in *Le Tour de France par deux enfants* and the Laic Morality of the Third Republic" (advised by Charles Walton of the History department).

This year the Scott Prize for essays in French was divided into two categories. In the upper division, Annie Killian '11 was awarded first prize for her essay "La Femme Étrangère Comme Mythe de l'Autre." In the introductory level, first prize was awarded to Danie Monahan '12 for composing an additional chapter to Percec's *W*, and second prize went to Cyprien Sarteau '12 for his essay "La Victoire de la soumission." The Montaigne Prize for proficiency in spoken and written French was awarded jointly to Anna Goddu and Andrew Lai, with Marcus Oda and Alison Gillmeister taking second and third place respectively. Congratulations to everybody!

The glossy and elegant French magazine, *L'Amuse-Bouche*, has continued to thrive and published its third edition, featuring articles by undergraduates and graduate students, as well as photographs, poems and cartoons. Meanwhile the French Society, *Vis-à-vis*, has seen a veritable renaissance this year thanks to the sterling efforts of two of our junior majors, Jonathan Berken and Sarah Weaver. Of particular note was the Valentine's Day cheese and wine party they organized, which was absolutely splendid. I have never seen the Romance Languages Lounge so beautifully or atmospherically decorated – thank you and keep up the good work!

– Julia Prest

## From the DGS *continued from page 3*

Procession to Cortège Infernal: Processions in Classical Poetry and Renaissance and Nineteenth-Century French Literature as Poetic Vision and Structure of Critical Thought," advised by Denis Hollier. In the spring: Shira Weidenbaum, "Patterns of Persuasion: Religious Literary Dialogue in Renaissance France," advised by Edwin Duval. Our congratulations go to Alexandra Gueydan for winning the Marguerite A. Peyre Prize for her dissertation and to all the students for a job very well done!

As many of you know, this was a very difficult year for the job market. Many of the jobs that were initially advertised disappeared as a result of the financial crisis. Happily, Alexandra Gueydan and Roxana Curto got jobs last year. And Shira Weidenbaum landed a tenure-track position at Quest University in Canada.

Our recruitment efforts for new graduate students were an extraordinary success. Once again, the Henri Peyre Fund helped us to bring all eight of our admitted prospective students to visit the campus during an action-packed two-day extravaganza, which featured a festive dinner at Thali and an enlightening panel on which Dudley Andrew, Edwin Duval,



Thomas Kavanagh, Christopher Miller, and Yue Zhuo described their current research projects. Of the eight prospective students who visited, six accepted our offer. Caitlin DeWilde, Annie De Saussure, Andrew Gates, Dustin Hooten, Jen Pahlke, and Liz Hebbard (*left to right, in the photo above*) joined us in the fall. This represents our best yield in quite a few years. I'm very grateful to all those who participated in the organization of this event and especially to Agnès Bolton and Brenda Crocker, who both helped make things run so well this past year!

– Maurice Samuels

**SAVE the DATE!**

**Nineteenth-Century  
French Studies Colloquium**

**Theories and  
Methods**

**October 14-16, 2010**

**Yale University**

**From the Archives**

*(see page 7)*

*Thank you, Cathey Baker for sending these! If anyone has an idea of who the artist might be, please let us know.*

**ANSWER: On the left, Jean Boorsch and on the right, Victor Brombert carrying Flaubert on his antlers.**

## Faculty News —

**Diane Charney** gave a lecture on her new hero, Rose Valland, who remains one of France's most decorated women for her valiant, indefatigable efforts to save the country's art from the Nazis. Diane's talk, "Rose Against the Reich: How One Woman Resisted the Rape of Europe's Treasures," was given in Amelia, Italy as part of the International Master's Program in Art Crime Studies. Diane is currently at work on a translation and critical edition of Valland's own account of her wartime experiences during the period, "Le Front de l'Art (1939-1945)."

**Ned Duval** developed and taught two new courses in the fall: a graduate seminar on conventions of gendered speech in poetry and prose of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries ("Voix de Femme / Voix d'Homme") and an undergraduate course on quest narratives from the twelfth through the eighteenth centuries ("Heroes and Quests"). While on leave in the spring he completed drafts of two chapters of his current book project on musical form and poetic genres in Renaissance lyric poetry. He also wrote an article on biblical intertextuality in Rabelais for a forthcoming volume in the MLA "Approaches to Teaching" series.

**Thomas Kavanagh** used his fall 2008 sabbatical to complete his new book, *Enlightened Pleasures: Eighteenth-Century France and the New Epicureanism*, which will appear from Yale University Press in early 2010.

**Chris Miller** has been working on the idea of world literature in French and is preparing an article for PMLA on the newly-discovered first published use of the word "négritude" by Aimé Césaire.

**R. Howard Bloch** spent 7 weeks at the Collegium Budapest, Hungary, where he lectured on Viollet-le-Duc and medieval architecture, and taught a summer course in Paris on "The Age of Cathedrals."

**Maurice Samuels** completed his new book entitled *Inventing the Israelite: Jewish Fiction in Nineteenth-Century France*. It will be released this Fall from Stanford University Press.

**Yue Zhuo** devoted most of her first year at Yale to teaching. She taught four new courses: "Textual Analysis," "France and the Far East," "Proust," and "Barthes, Foucault, Derrida." In March of 2009, she gave a paper on Barthes' *Comment vivre ensemble* at the ACLA conference in Cambridge, MA. She also just completed an article on Barthes' theatre years and on his notion of idiorrhythmy.



## Pierre Capretz Named Yale Innovator

Anyone associated with Yale's French Department knows the name Pierre Capretz.

More than 20 years ago, Capretz used a series of continuing conversations between an American student named Robert and a young French woman named Mireille to teach French to countless Americans by making them part of the conversations. His "French in Action" is best known beyond Yale for the 52-episode PBS television series of the same name which is still going strong. "French in Action" has been used by over 2,000 colleges and universities in the United States alone. It is one of the top-10 royalty revenue generating Yale licenses. The success of "French in Action" has enabled Capretz to transform other cultural materials into interactive language-learning products, such as an interactive CD-ROM based on the classic Truffaut film "Jules et Jim."

Capretz is currently working on a new project, "French in Interaction," that will carry "French in Action" into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At the request of many fans and users of "French in Action," a reunion to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being considered.

*Adapted from Yale Innovators, a supplement to the Yale Bulletin & Calendar, April 2009*

## News from Yale French Studies —

In April 2009, Professor Ari Blatt of the University of Virginia gave the second lecture in a new French Department series sponsored by the office of Yale French Studies. In conjunction with the publication of his volume *Writing and the Image Today* (Number 114, co-edited with Jan Baetens of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), his talk on "Thinking Photography in Film: The Suspended Cinema of Agnes Varda and Jean Eustache" brought together an audience of faculty and students from several departments—French, Film, Art History—for an enjoyable foray into the words and images of these two major *cinéastes*. The most recent published volume of *YFS* (Spring 2009) is an

excellent follow-up to Professor Blatt's talk for readers interested in exploring contemporary film. *New Spaces for French and Francophone Cinema* (115), by James Austin '03 PhD examines films both mainstream and experimental, from Paris to the *banlieue*, from North Africa to Sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Austin of Connecticut College will give our next lecture in the Spring of 2010 from his forthcoming book on *Proust, Pastiche, and the Postmodern, or Why Style Matters*. Please keep an eye on [www.yale.edu/french](http://www.yale.edu/french) for the date of that lecture, and we hope to see many of you there.

— Alyson Waters

## News from Alumni —

**Joseph Acquisto** '03 PhD was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Vermont in 2009. A double issue of *Romance Studies*, co-edited with Adrianna Paliyenko and entitled *The Cultural Currency of Nineteenth-Century French Poetry*, appeared in 2008, and he is currently working on a book-length study of the reinterpretation of the Robinson Crusoe myth in nineteenth and twentieth century French literature.

**Charles Affron** '63 PhD and **Mirella Jona Affron** '64 PhD write that their latest book, *Best Years: Going to the Movies, 1945-1946*, was published by Rutgers University Press in September 2009. Their next book project, a performance history of the Metropolitan Opera, is under contract to University of California Press.

**Ann Alderman** '76 PhD writes, "I'm currently the Chair of the Division of Arts and Humanities at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. With kids grown, I can finally travel. Best recent excursion: hiking the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu with my daughter Alix."

**James Austin** '03 PhD received tenure at Connecticut College.

**Ellen R. Babby** '80 PhD writes, "For the past ten years, I have been at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, DC where I serve as Vice President, Advancement & Member Services. ACE, the major coordinating organization in higher education, represents college and university presidents. Through my work, I am engaged in a broad range of issues impacting American higher education. While I pursued a non-traditional path, I

have enjoyed an immensely rewarding career involving different facets of higher education. More recently, I have assisted graduate students who are pursuing career paths outside academe."

**Karin (Harman) Bohleke** '96 PhD continues to work as director at the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University, where she also serves as an Assistant Professor of French. She recently returned from the national symposium of the Costume Society of America, where she opened the first session of the juried papers with her talk, "Mummies Are Now Called Upon to Contribute to Fashion: Or, Hints Respecting Dress from the Ancient Egyptians in the Nineteenth Century." Karin is currently planning her next exhibits, "America Goes to War: Military and Civilian Fashion"

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## IN MEMORIAM: ALUMNI

**Ken Carter** '40 BA, '42 MA died on June 1, 2009, at the age of 91. His wife Minette wrote that he was a dedicated pupil of Henri Peyre as an undergraduate. Carter received his MA from Yale after participating in WWII. He worked in broadcasting for a short time and spent 40 years teaching French at Long Beach City College in California.

**Robert M. Hammond** '52 PhD died on April 16, 2009, at the age of 88. According to information sent by his son Charles, Hammond taught French at the University of Arizona until 1966, and then at SUNY Cortland where he also served as chair of the International Communications and Culture Department. His teaching and research interests included French language, literature, and cinema. He wrote over 40 plays, several books and poetry. Upon his retirement in 1988 he moved to Paris, where he lived with his wife Marguerite until her death in 2008.

Chris Miller and Maurie Samuels wrote, "As the newsletter was going to press, we learned with great sadness of the death of **Barbara Johnson** '77 PhD. She held appointments as assistant professor here from 1977 to 1981, associate professor from '81 to '83 and was promoted to full professor in 1983. To be a graduate student in the Yale French Department in the late 1970s was to be in awe of Barbara Johnson. Her critical acuity, her intellectual originality, her gift for lapidary phrases and ironic turns were all astonishing and great fun to behold. Sadly for Yale, she went to Harvard as (in her phrase) a 'missionary.' In her 25 years at Harvard, where she taught not only French but also English, Comparative Literature, Women's Studies, and African-American Studies, Barbara Johnson continued to inspire generations of students. As inspiring as she was in the classroom, she was an even better mentor and adviser, encouraging students to care about language and to think with precision. She truly made a 'world of difference.'" Samuels recalled, "She was my first French professor in college and she

changed the way I thought. For a long time, I used to dream about her class."

**John William Kneller** '50 PhD died on July 2, 2009, at his home in Westport, CT at the age of 92. He was predeceased by Alice, his wife of 61 years. According to his niece Susan Hart, Kneller continued his studies as a Fulbright Fellow and French Government Fellow at the University of Paris after receiving his PhD. During World War II, he served as the official translator for the 8<sup>th</sup> Service Command of the Army Air Corps. He began his academic career in 1950 as a French instructor at Oberlin College. He left there as provost in 1969, to assume the role of president of Brooklyn College, where he served for ten years. From 1979 to 1995 he taught French literature at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY. At the Graduate Center, Kneller was co-chair of the Henri Peyre Institute for the Humanities and managing editor and editor in chief of the *French Review*, as well as author of a number of articles and books on French life. In 1999, the French government bestowed upon him its highest rank, Commandeur de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques in recognition of his remarkable contributions to French culture, literature and education.

**Philip D. Walker** '45w BA, '58 PhD died on March 9, 2009, in Montecito, CA at the age of 84. He was a professor of French literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara from 1960 to 1990, including four years as department chair. He wrote books and articles on French naturalism and Émile Zola. Walker had a life-long passion for music. In his retirement, he embarked on a second career as a composer, receiving a BA in music composition from UC Santa Barbara in 1995. His composition *Land that I Love, O Land of the Free* was performed by the Santa Barbara Symphony in 2002. Walker is survived by his wife of 57 years, Corlette, whom he met and married in Paris while a Fulbright scholar.

## Alumni news *continued from page 6*

which will open in the fall, and “Nineteenth-Century Costume Treasures of the Fashion Archives and Museum,” which will open in the spring and present a decade-by-decade evolutionary fashion survey accompanied by a full-color catalog.

**Mary Ann Caws** '56 MA is still happily teaching at the Graduate Center of CUNY in English, French, and Comparative Literature, preparing a Modern Art Cookbook and a Living Bloomsbury collective biography. Forthcoming is her piece on “The Curious Case of Joseph Cornell” in the *London Review of Books*, as well as a piece for the *Archives of American Art* on how Cornell used his source files. She was just elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Ronan Chalmin** '05 PhD writes from Paris that his dissertation has been accepted for publication by Honoré Champion and that he also has an article on Moliere that will appear in the journal *Littérature*.

**Perry Gethner** '77 PhD writes from Oklahoma State University, “I have had several editions published recently, including the second volume of a projected five-volume anthology of French women playwrights. I am also working on editions of plays by Rotrou, Voltaire, Thomas Corneille and Du Ryer, plus a novel by Mme de Murat. I have survived ten difficult years as head of my department and will attempt to survive three more.”

**Sara Gibson** '06 MA writes, “I have been on quite a journey since leaving the French program three years ago! I started off working at a law firm in Chappaqua, NY (where locals and fellow Yale alums Bill and Hillary often pop into Starbucks for a quick caffeine fix)

in the fall of 2006–spring of 2007. Despite working on malpractice suits (far from my lofty aspirations of international human rights work), I actually decided that I liked the law—and have been planning to apply to law school ever since. I got to brush up on my French in the summer of 2007 in—of all places!—India, where I visited the former French settlement of Pondicherry as part of a month-and-a-half-long trek through India and Nepal. Besides toiling away on my law school applications, I am currently working on the editorial staff at an educational testing company, doing some freelance French translation, and teaching the LSAT for Kaplan. I also have plans to travel to Rwanda sometime in the next few years as a volunteer French translator for *Voices of Rwanda*, a film project dedicated to preserving the testimonials of genocide survivors. In the meantime, I am trying to enjoy all of the French novels I can before the onslaught of case books, etc. this fall!”

**Ross Guberman** '94 MA writes, “I am still running my legal-writing training business and am going on a five-week work-pleasure trip to Asia this summer with my wife and two kids (7 and 9). I’m also writing a book for Oxford on the nation’s top legal advocates. And I’ll be presenting in Paris in the fall!”

**Stirling Haig** '64 PhD writes, “I have been fully retired for five years from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I read indiscriminately, play tennis, and have developed a passion for duplicate bridge. Judy and I garden and travel (mainly to see our two sons and six grandchildren). This summer I had the pleasure of showing my 14-year-old grandson around Paris. No more scholarship except that, to my surprise,

Cambridge UP recently released a paperback edition of my *Flaubert and the Gift of Speech* (originally published in 1986).”

**Sally Hess** '91 MPhil recently published three articles: “Radiant Shapes: Contemplative Practice in Performance,” in *A Yoga Symposium: Practice in Body, Mind and Spirit*, Conference Proceedings, Swarthmore College, July 2009; “Elephant Mind: Devotion and Ecstasy in Asana Practice,” in *Performing Ecstasy: The Politics and Poetics of Religion in South Asia*, Pallabi Chakravorty and Scott Kugle, editors, Manohar: New Delhi, India, 2009; and “Energy and Symmetry in Language and Yoga,” co-authored with Donna Jo Napoli, in *Leonardo/The International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology*, August 2008, 41, 4: 333-338.

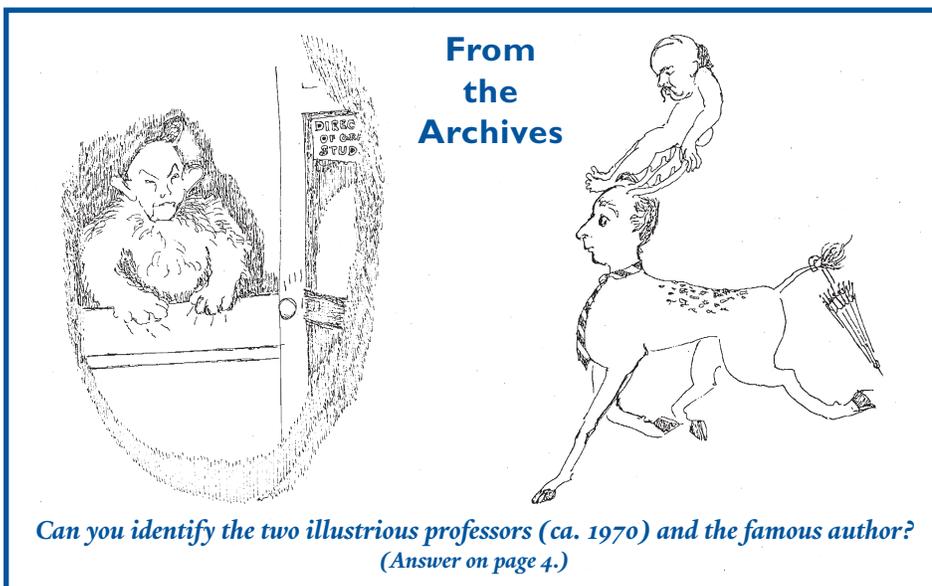
**Erec Koch** '88 PhD writes, “My new book, *The Aesthetic Body: Sensibility, Passion, and Corporeality in Seventeenth-Century France*, was published in 2008. Although I left Tulane for University of Tennessee, Knoxville two years ago, I am thrilled that the Tulane French program is so well represented among graduate students!”

**Anne Ladd** '73 PhD writes, “I am pretty much retired after many years as a software technical writer and tutor in French and Spanish. I was saddened this December by the death of my roommate and friend, **Rhea Jacobs** '71 MPhil. I enjoyed my years with the Yale French Department and recently read *French Lessons* by Alice Kaplan, which renewed my interest in learning and teaching French.”

**Régine Latortue** '82 PhD appeared on “Creole Poems” in *History Detectives* on PBS (Season 7, episode 2), which also featured her book, *Les Cenelles: A Collection of Poems by Creole Writers of the Early Nineteenth Century*, co-authored with Gleason R. W. Adams, Boston: G.K. Hall, 1979.

**James Magruder** '84 MA writes, “My debut novel, titled *Sugarless*, will be published this fall by the University of Wisconsin Press. One might summarize it by saying it’s about Jesus, sex, and speech team—or my sophomore year of high school. I continue to teach translation and adaptation at the Yale Drama School and dramaturgy at Swarthmore College. I have a feeling I will relocate in late 2010 to Uganda with my partner Steve, who helps conduct HIV vaccine trials in Kampala.”

*continued on page 8*



Can you identify the two illustrious professors (ca. 1970) and the famous author?  
(Answer on page 4.)

## Alumni news *continued from page 7*

**R. Matilde Mésavage** '79 PhD continues her research in literature of the Maghreb and has recently published the following article: "Concupiscence, transgression et déception dans *La Fraude* de Mohammed El Hassani," Sinaïa, Romania: Conseil International d'Études Francophones, June 2006, in the book *Vitalité littéraire au Maroc* en 2009.

**Armine Kotin Mortimer** '74 PhD writes, "I have been awarded the rank of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government. This honor recognizes my contributions to the French language and culture. The distinction came during July 2009. Also, I will have a translation of Philippe Sollers's book *Mystérieux Mozart* published next year by the University of Illinois Press."

**Julia Nolet** '77 PhD writes, "I've been posting my 'Amuse-Bouche' column (explaining French to Americans) as a blog on the 'New York in French' site. It's available for use in teaching, or just for laughs. <http://nycfrench.ning.com/profiles/blog/list?user=2gl7xv0lntdyf>. Registering on site is free and implies no further responsibilities."

**Buford Norman** '71 PhD writes: "Since retirement in 2005, I am back and forth between Columbia, SC and Paris. I continue to work on the relations between literature and music, especially Quinault and Racine. A French translation of my book on Quinault's libretti appeared in June 2009: *Quinault librettiste de Lully. Le Poète des Grâces*."

**Neal Oxenhandler** '55 PhD just published a critically acclaimed book with Ohio State University Press: *Rimbaud: The Cost of Genius*. He writes, "It's the first psychocritical study of the poet and makes some discoveries about the poems that renews them in ways one might not have thought possible after all these years."

**Kezia Raffel Pride** '90 MA is senior editor at Gefen Publishing House, and writes occasionally for the Jewish educational website Aish.com. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and six boys.

**Amy Baram Reid** '96 PhD is still teaching French at New College of Florida, and directing the Gender Studies Program for the 4th year. Her translation of Véronique Tadjó's *Reine Pokou: Concerto pour un sacrifice* (2005) is forthcoming from Ayebia Clarke (Oxford, UK). She also has an article forthcoming in *Women in French Studies*, "Shades of Truth: Véronique Tadjó's *L'Ombre*

*d'Imana: voyages jusqu'au bout du Rwanda* (2001) and *Reine Pokou: concerto pour un sacrifice* (2005)." In the fall all three of her kids (Jacob 7, Miriam & Benjamin, both 5) will be in the same public school.

**Marilyn R. Schuster** '73 PhD became the Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Smith College on July 1. She has been at Smith since 1971, beginning in the French department and then moving to the Program for the Study of Women & Gender about ten years ago."

**Paul Schwartz** '71 PhD writes, "Last fall I resigned as Dean of the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, and went to Houston with my wife, Lucy, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia. The treatment has dragged on as there have been complications, so we will end up spending a year or so here, and then move on to happier retirement lives, dividing our time between western New York state and France. I have just published the second volume of a fiction trilogy, and am well into volume three. A good way to keep focused when it's 100 degrees in Houston."

**Philip Stewart** '67 PhD had three articles recently published "Are Atheists Fanatics? Variations on a Theme of Locke," in Ourida Mostefai and John T. Scott (ed.), *Rousseau and "l'Infâme": Religion, Toleration, and Fanaticism in the Age of Enlightenment*, Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2008, pp. 227-238, Philip Stewart and Michel Delon (ed.); *Le Second triomphe du roman du XVIIIe siècle*, Oxford: Voltaire Foundation (SVEC 2009:02). Introduction to same volume, with Michel Delon, pp. 1-11, and "Traductions et adaptations: le roman transnational," pp. 161-170; and "Candide," in Nicholas Cronk (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Voltaire*, Cambridge University Press, 2009, pp. 125-138; as well as a translation of Alexandre and Sonia Poussin, *Africa Trek: In the Footsteps of Mankind*, Portland: Inkwater Press, 2 vols., 2008.

**Joseph Sungolowsky** '63 PhD continues to teach French Literature at Queens College, City University of New York. He wrote "Joseph Sinzheim, President of Napoleon's Sanhedrin and First Chief Rabbi of France" which appeared in *Midstream*, Winter 2009 and "Holocaust Autobiography" which appeared in Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Bloom's Guides, Chelsea House, 2009. He reviewed Victor Brombert's *Les Trains du souvenir*, Editions Bernard de Fallois, 2002 which appeared in *Tsafon*, a journal of Jewish Studies published by Université Charles de Gaulle, Lille, France, Winter 2009.

**Camelia Tumminello** '98 BA, '01 MA writes, "I am living in Phoenix, AZ with my husband, Anthony and my three year old son, Aiden. After a three year hiatus from work, I will be returning this coming school year. I will be teaching 5th grade Latin, 7th grade Spanish and a senior French Literature seminar at BASIS Scottsdale."

**Jocelyn Van Tuyl** '86 BA/MA, '93 PhD, Professor of French Language and Literature at the New College of Florida, the liberal arts honors college of the state of Florida, writes, "Amy Reid '96 PhD and I make up the entire French program; between us, we do everything from 'bonjour' to senior theses. I also co-chair the North American branch of the Association des Amis d'André Gide." The paperback edition of her book, *André Gide and the Second World War: A Novelist's Occupation* was published by The State University of New York Press, 2007 and reviewed in *Bulletin des Amis d'André Gide*, *Dalhousie French Studies*, *The French Review*, *French Studies*, *H-France Review*, *Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France*, *South Atlantic Review*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

**Richard Watts** '98 PhD has been appointed associate professor at the University of Washington, Seattle, beginning Fall 2009. After 11 years at Tulane University, he leaves New Orleans with a heavy heart, though the lack of fried oyster po' boys in Seattle will undoubtedly promote a healthier heart.

**Seth Wolitz** '65 PhD Professor of French, Italian and Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin is particularly proud of an exhibition "Futur Antérieur, l'avant-garde Yiddish, 1900-1939" that he helped organize at the Musée d'art et d'histoire juive in Le Marais in Paris. It has received great reviews from *Le Figaro*, *Le Monde* and other journals and academic reviews. He wrote the lead article in the catalogue that has just been published with scholarly articles and the most complete collection of avant-garde Jewish art of Eastern Europe on paper ever assembled. He adds, "I am also working with Jean-Claude Grumberg whose play, *Vers toi terre promise*, just won le Moliere, the Pulitzer Prize in theater of France. I am working on a translation of his play *Maman revient pauvre orphelin* and these two plays deal with Jewish life in Paris after World War II and today. The French-Jewish contribution to *la culture européenne* of the past 60 years is now starting to be appreciated for how rich and massive it has really been."