WITH TRANSITIONS UNDERWAY IN the Department, we have entered into deep conversation about our future. As I write, we’ve just received excellent news of authorization to conduct a senior search for a scholar in 18th century studies. Acting Chair MAURICE SAMUELS will be reaching out to senior scholars in the field for their input.

Scholarship on this period of contradictory energies, encompassing libertinage, the Encyclopédie project, key advances in the sciences, and the rise of the novel, has always been particularly rich. Some of the most exciting work in recent years has explored the underside of Enlightenment through the study of issues of slavery, the slave trade, empire, and colonialism. And, as we like to remind our Anglophone colleagues, without 18th century French literature, the American Revolution could not have taken place—there would be no Jefferson, no Adams, no Federalist Papers….

HENRI PEYRE, GEORGES MAY, PAUL DE MAN, and their distinguished students have set a high bar for influential scholarship since the post-war era. For the past decade, the French 18th century has been brilliantly represented on campus by THOMAS KAVANAGH, an expert on Enlightenment literature and thought, who came to Yale in 2002. With Tom’s phased retirement (He is teaching his last course this fall.), it is vital that we maintain our standing in this area.

WITH THE DEATH OF PIERRE CAPRETZ on April 2nd, 2014, the Department has lost the brilliant animator of French in Action and a revered friend and mentor. A Memorial ceremony will be held at Battell Chapel on Oct 11, 2014 at 1:30 pm (See program here.), followed by a reception at the Graduate Club. Ruth Koizim is in charge of arrangements, with support from the President’s office.

Pierre Capretz’s life was remembered around the world: in the Yale Daily News, Yale News, the Paris Review, the New York Times, and in a speech (below) given at his gravesite in Aix-en-Provence on April 7th.

— Alice Kaplan, summer 2014

“Patron!”
C’est la première parole que j’ai entendue de la bouche de Pierre Capretz.
C’était en 1960; j’étais son étudiant dans un cours de français Intermédiaire à Yale. Nous devions lire Les Copains de Jules Romains, dont on n’avait pas encore vu le texte et dont “Patron!” est le premier mot.

Et Pierre de demander notre interprétation du vocable qu’il venait de prononcer.

Moi, fort de mes études de français à l’école, cependant déficientes en phonétique, je comprends “Pas trop!”, et comme un idiot je lève la main pour en expliquer le sens.

Je ne me rappelle pas la réaction de Pierre—je l’ai sans doute refoulée—et ce n’est que beaucoup plus tard, quand j’ai commencé à travailler avec lui professionnellement, que j’ai compris que le coup de “Patron!” était du plus pur Pierre Capretz.

Ce n’était pas le sens du mot qu’il voulait que nous saisissions mais sa fonction sociale et culturelle.

IN MEMORIAM: PATRON

Je ne savais pas non plus à cette époque-là qu’il travaillait déjà à une méthode d’apprentissage du français, fondée sur ce principe d’authenticité culturelle, qui allait révolutionner notre métier et enrichir la vie de dizaines de milliers de gens—jeunes et moins jeunes—, leur ouvrir une grande fenêtre sur la langue et la culture françaises.

J’ai eu par la suite l’immense chance et le grand bonheur d’être son collaborateur dans la transformation de cette méthode en French in Action; son collaborateur et son ami. Amitié complexe, bien sûr, comme toutes les amitiés qui s’honorent.

Aujourd’hui, rétrospectivement, c’est le mot “patron” qui me revient à l’esprit. Car Pierre a été trois fois mon patron. J’ai travaillé avec lui et pour lui, pour réaliser son rêve; il a été pour moi le modèle d’une action innovatrice et efficace en pédagogie, un modèle et un mentor; et il a été un père, un père professionnel.

J’ai reçu dernièrement le mot d’une collègue dans une université autre que la mienne qui enseigne également French in Action: c’est, dit-elle “la seule et meilleure méthode.”

Elle n’est pas seule à le penser. Quand je leur ai annoncé la mort de Pierre, plusieurs de mes étudiantes sont venues m’exprimer leurs condoléances et leur douleur devant la nouvelle: l’ayant vu quasiment tous les jours sur leur écran, elles avaient l’impression de le connaître.

So goodbye Pierre. Adieu, Patron. — Barry Lydgate
IN MEMORIAM: FRIEND

We note with sadness that JOSUÉ HARARI, Ora Avni’s husband and a critic who influenced several generations of graduate students at both Johns Hopkins and Emory, died in June. Joe Harari will be remembered for his keen intelligence and theoretical acumen, his sense of humor, and his joie de vivre. All our sympathy goes to Ora.

EVÉNEMENTIEL

MARIE-HÉLÈNE GIRARD spearheaded the Olympiad Conference, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Manet’s Olympia. Co-sponsored by the Department of Art History.

MARIANNE AMAR, Head of the Research Department of the Parisian museum, the Cité nationale de l’histoire de l’immigration. Seminar organized by graduate student JULIE ELKSY on the Berberova Papers at the Beinecke Library: “Un musée en tensions. Reflexions sur l’évolution de l’exposition Repères à la Cité nationale de l’histoire de l’immigration.” Co-sponsored by Yale Department of History and Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism (YPSA).


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GRISELDA POLLOCK, Professor, University of Leeds, UK, delivered the ANNUAL LECTURE IN MEMORY OF NAOMI SCHOR: “Crimes, Confession and the Everyday: Challenges in Reading Charlotte Salomon’s Leben? oder Theater? 1941-42.” Co-sponsored by: Naomi Schor Memorial Lecture Fund; Women Faculty Forum; Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Program; and Whitney Humanities Center.

RHONDA GARELICK ’91 PhD, Professor, Department of English University of Lincoln Nebraska. “An Exterminating Angel: Coco Chanel, Myth, and Fashion” Co-sponsored by the YPSA and the Whitney Humanities Center.

MORGANE CADIEU, PhD Cornell University. “Enumérer jusqu’à épuisement: esthétique de la liste dans les espaces littéraires.” (See page 3.)

CORBIN TREACY, PhD University of Minnesota. “Multidirectional Memory Gone Wrong? Boualem Sansal’s Le Village de l’Allemand.”

ALISON RICE French Department Graduate Student Conference: “Bad Literature.” Keynote Speaker: Professor Alison Rice, Notre Dame University. “Acting Out: Theatricalities and Technicalities in Worldwide Women’s Writing in French.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
VINCENT KAUFMANN, Professor Universitàt St. Gallen, Switzerland and Director of the MCM Institute, was the 2014 JAMES T. KING DISTINGUISHED VISITOR (See page 6.). His talk was titled “Authorship Between Page and Screen 1930–1956.”

GENEVIEVE SELLIER, Professor in Film Studies at the University Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3, author of The Battle of the Sexes in French Cinema, 1930–1956 (Duke U Press). “Couples incestueux, pères défaitants et garces diaboliques: la drôle de guerre des sexes du cinéma français 1930-1956.”

ROBERT MANKIN, Professeur, UFR d’Études anglophones, Université Paris Diderot. “How did Gibbon write? Reflections on his libraries and his method.”

JACQUES REVEL, Professor at the EHESS, Paris and NYU. “The Making of the Heritage: Patrimoine, History, and Memory in France (18th to 20th Century).”


ANTONIN BAUDRY, Cultural Counselor, Cultural Services of the French Embassy. “Quai d’Orsay” - Film screening and Q&A.

KAPLAN’s research leave in the fall of 2014. This academic year, CHRISTOPHER SEMK is once again serving as DUS, and CHRISTOPHER MILLER as DGS. The Direction of the Language Program is still in the expert hands of FRANÇOISE SCHneider. And we have welcomed to campus a new librarian for Western European Humanities at Yale, MICHAEL PRINTY.

JALONS

After a rigorous nationwide search and interviews with many brilliant finalists, we welcome a new faculty member, Assistant Professor, MORGANE CADIEU, a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Professor Cadieu, an award winning graduate teacher at Cornell, has written a thesis entitled “Random Walks: Chance, Necessity, and Clinamen as Literary Paradigms.” She will enrich our offerings in very contemporary French literature and in theory.

Hats off to SOUMIA KOUNDI, MATUKU NGAME, and CONNIE SHERAK, who were renewed as Senior Lectors, and to LAUREN PINZKA, who was appointed Senior Lecturer.

LAURE ANDRILLON, JUAN BRANCO, GABRIELLE STEMMER, and VICTOR SERRE from the Ecole Normale Supérieure came to the Department as lectors. Their team continued in the new tradition of a French film series begun by the normaliens of 2012-2013. In fall 2014, we welcomed SOLANGE ARBER, CLEMENT BADY, CAROLINE BOUQUET, and ALICE PROVENDIER.

Our summer program in Paris continued to thrive with HOWARD BLOCH, AUDREY HOFFMANN, CONNIE SHERAK, SOUMIA KOUNDI, KATHLEEN BURTON, MATUKU NGAME, and CANDACE SKORUPA serving as our faculty at large.

We bade farewell to JONATHAN CAYER, post docteure in the department for the past 2 years, and a vital presence in and out of the classroom. Our Operations Manager DEBORAH PETROSKEY retired at the end of September. We are happy to welcome SUSAN HART as our new Operations Manager.

Professor THOMAS KAVANAGH announced his plans for phased retirement in summer 2013. A department leader and brilliant scholar of incomparable wit, he will be missed terribly! This fall he is teaching two courses: “Libertins et Philosophes” and “French Cinema.”

MERCi!!

Warm thanks to DEAN MARY MILLER, whom we will miss, and to our excellent Deputy Provost EMILY BAKEMEIER, joined this fall by Associate Provost JOHN MANGAN, for guiding us through this year of change and more change. We have the deepest regard and appreciation for our staff: AGNÈS BOLTON, who serves with elegance and rigor as our ministre auprès des anciens élèves as well as our Chair’s assistant and manager here in 82-90 Wall.

SONIA BAUGUIL, in her 3rd year in the department, has proven herself an excellent liaison to our undergraduate majors and our graduate students, working closely with the DUS and DGS. We are also grateful to the MacMillan Center for International Studies and its chair, IAN SHAPIRO, for funding and administering the research of several faculty in French.
FACULTY NEWS

After many decades of helping others do their best writing, DIANE CHARNES is on leave this fall during which she will work on some of her own writing projects. On the linguistic front, she is learning Slovene alongside her toddler granddaughter, while assisting husband James navigate Italian as he teaches his “Madness at the Movies” course at two Rome universities. Music and Sisyphian amounts of weeding will also keep her busy as she continues to contemplate Voltaire’s admonition to “cultiver son jardin.”

In 2013 – 14, THOMAS CONNOLLY taught four new courses, including undergraduate courses on ekphrasis, modern French poetry, and poetry of the Holocaust, as well as a graduate course on Mallarmé. He is currently completing a book manuscript entitled *Unfinished Poetics: Approaches to Paul Celan’s Eingedunkelt*, from which he published an extract in the May 2014 edition of *Modern Philology*. In October he attended the Nineteenth Century French Studies Conference in Richmond, VA, presenting on prostitution in Baudelaire’s prose poems, and in April gave a paper on musical ekphrasis at the American Comparative Literature Association annual conference in New York. This year he will begin a new research project, examining literary ekphrasis in cultures where there has traditionally been a prohibition on visual representations of sentient beings and of the divinity, beginning with poetry from the French Maghreb.

ALICE KAPLAN began a new book project, a history of Camus’ *The Stranger*. Her translation of Roger Grenier’s *Palace of Books* is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press this fall. In the spring she taught a new graduate seminar on Camus and Algerian literature. She is surprised and delighted to have been named an American chevalière.

TOM KAVANAGH’s first year in the phased-retirement program allowed for a fall semester devoted to his continuing work on two research projects, one on the transformation and resurgence of the Enlightenment Epicureanism in the aftermath of the Revolution, the other an investigation into the history of French film taken as a unique synthesis of personal directorial styles, national culture, and state involvement. In October, he gave the keynote address, *La Liberté des plaisirs*, at the annual convention of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. With his return to teaching in the spring of 2014, he offered a graduate seminar on French film which focused on the diverse ways in which film study can find its place within a French department. His other course was a broad-gauged undergraduate introduction to the literature, culture and esthetic practices of Enlightenment France.

CHRIS MILLER had a productive semester of leave in the Spring, working on his project on intercultural literary hoaxes and on Césaire. He returns for a final year as DGS this fall.

LAUREN PINZKA enjoyed serving as course chair of F160 and teaching “Introduction to Literature in French.” She has submitted an abstract entitled “Approaches to Teaching the French Revolution: Myth and Memory in Modern France” for a proposed MLA volume, *Approaches to Teaching the French Revolution*. She continued in her role as Freshman and Sophomore advisor and served a second year on the UWC committee. She gleaned many new ideas for teaching from the numerous workshops she attended throughout the year.

MAURICE SAMUELS continued directing the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, which hosted a major conference entitled “Exodus or Exile? The Departure of Jews from Muslim Countries, 1948-1978.” He also published an article on Baudelaire in a special issue of Yale French Studies and prepared several articles on Proust for publication. He is looking forward to serving as acting chair of French in the fall.

CHRIS SEMK enjoyed his first year as Director of Undergraduate Studies and looks forward to continuing to serve the Department in this role. In May he attended the North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature annual conference hosted by Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill, where he gave a paper on Eucharistic participation and theater in Bossuet’s oratory. He also has an article on preaching and the trope of “ticklish ears” forthcoming. He is beginning a new project on, unsurprisingly, Bossuet.

CANDACE SKORUPA, senior lector, inaugurated last fall a successful telecollaboration project with Télécom-Paris, for the FREN 121 intermediate course. During the semester the students had biweekly small-group conversations with
the Télécom university students in Paris, who are learning English. Alternating every ten minutes between French and English, the students discussed topics ranging from engineering career options to their college courses, favorite foods and beloved films, Thanksgiving and life in the residential colleges. The semester concluded with a large Skype farewell, in which the French students expressed their delight and surprise at the international breadth of the group of Yale students.

At a Brown-Bag Luncheon at the CLS in November, Candace presented her curricular work, “Telecollaboration at Yale: Conférences par Webcam avec Télécom-ParisTech,” to language-teaching colleagues.

In late April at the University of Chicago conference “Bridges to Everywhere: Language Learning Collaborations,” Candace presented a paper, “Then and Now:” A Retrospective of Two Computer-Assisted Telecollaboration Projects in the French Language Classroom.” Her transatlantic teaching partner, James Benenson, from the engineering grande école Télécom-ParisTech, was skyped in to participate in the presentation, in which they discussed the evolution of curricular telecommunication, as well as the challenges and rewards of such projects in the classroom today.

In May Candace participated virtually – as a robot (!!) – in an pedagogy atelier at the UPLEGESS 2014 (’Union des Professeurs de Langues des Grandes Écoles) in Lyon in a workshop entitled “Comment utiliser les TICE dans l’enseignement des langues?”

ALYSON WATERS is finishing her translation of Daniel Pennac’s Journal d’un corps (Diary of a Body) for Maclehose/Quercus, which will be published in late 2015. In early 2015, she will begin her translation of Jean Giono’s Un roi sans divertissement for New York Review Books. The writer Pierre-Autin-Grenier passed away in April 2014, and her current project is to introduce as many people as possible to his work, including readers of this newsletter. Waters recently published her translations of excerpts from Autin-Grenier’s Je ne suis pas un héros in The Brooklyn Rail and Stonecutter. His obituary in Le monde read in part “En 1993 paraît Je ne suis pas un héros (Gallimard, l’Arpenteur), qui constituera une trilogie du désespoir élégant et joyeux avec Toute une vie bien ratée (1997) et L’Eternité est inutile (ce dernier vaudra à son auteur le prix Alexandre Vialatte). La concision de sa prose poétique, qui entretient quelque défiance à l’égard de la classique forme romanesque, peut-être trop pompeuse pour lui, est mise au service de sa vision de l’absurdité du monde, et de sa grande drôlerie.” Rest in peace, Pierre.

Below: The Yale Department of French, Fall 2014
C'est ainsi que je me suis présenté: médiologue, entre littérature et médias. C'était aussi le sens de la conférence que j'ai eu l'honneur et le plaisir de faire au French Department, dont j'ai été pendant quinze jours l'heureux hôte, grâce au généreux soutien du James T. King Distinguished Visitor Fund : qu'arrive-t-il à la littérature lorsqu'elle rencontre la télévision, puis Internet, ou plus exactement lorsque de nouveaux médias s'imposent à elle, lorsqu'ils la subjuguent ?

Les médiologues ont l'habitude de fermer – un peu – les yeux pour mieux voir les rapports cachés entre technique et culture, ils sont en somme restés théoriciens. Mais il leur arrive aussi de les ouvrir, de devenir des ethnologues, du moins s'ils veulent comprendre dans quel monde ils sont tombés. Où étai-je, où est-on lorsqu'on est à Yale ? Au-delà des conférences et des interventions dans les cours, au-delà de nombreuses conversations, déjeuners et diners généreux, au-delà des amitiés nouvelles et anciennes sur lesquelles le temps ne semble pas avoir de prise, qui ont fait de ma visite un bonheur, j'ai donc endossé le rôle du médiologue-ethnologue, en repartant, en élève appliqué, du fameux The medium is the message de McLuhan. Quel medium est le message de Yale, quel unique selling point convient-il d’associer à l’unique Yale ? La réponse, tout le monde la connaîtrait là-bas et elle s’impose à vous très vite : la bibliothèque, les bibliothèques, le reste s’en déduit. Vous êtes à peine arrivé, vous avez peut-être froid, surtout si vous venez au cours du mois de février le plus glacial depuis les années 80, quand les grands lacs et tout le reste étaient gelés), il y a un bon mètre de neige sur les trottoirs, vous êtes rouge de froid et de fierté d'avoir traversé sans encombre quelques tempêtes géantes pour être là le jour convenu. Au bout de trente minutes on s’étonne que vous n'ayez pas encore passé à la bibliothèque, et au bout de deux heures on commence à vous demander ce que vous y avez trouvé de beau, car forcément vous êtes en train d’en revenir puisque vous n’êtes pas.

La Sterling Library, c'est la cathédrale de Yale, comme le confirment son architecture et sa centralité. Je conserve ma Yale University Library Privileges Card, valable du 2 au 15 février 2014, comme une précieuse relique, et comme persuadé que dans ce cas le terme de privilèges reprend son premier sens : I was there, I was there ! Cette carte, c'est mon selfie, mon Instagram à moi. La bibliothèque est le cœur de Yale, autant duque se dispose, dans un monde passé ailleurs aux médias électroniques et numériques, une formidable culture du livre et de la lecture, avec ses professeurs brillants, ses érudits charmants, ses étudiants curieux, qui lisent encore les textes, comme « autrefois », en ayant même l'air d'y prendre du plaisir, par exemple la bonne vieille Société du Spectacle de Guy Debord, pourtant rébarbative à souhait au regard de l'impératif contemporain du divertissement. Une culture qui ne semble pas en proie au doute comme c'est le cas presque partout ailleurs. Pour l’imiter, il faudra se lever tôt, ou revenir de très loin. Et encore, on n’y serait jamais abrité ou soutenu par un rempart à la hauteur de la Sterling.

Mais derrière la Sterling, il y a mieux encore, il y a le saint des saints, la Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, avec ses panneaux de marbre translucides, qui laissent passer la lumière comme le faisaient autrefois les vitraux des Églises. Ici, il ne s'agit plus d’avoir accès à tout ou presque tout, comme à la Sterling, mais à ce que vous ne trouvez nulle part ailleurs. La Beinecke est un immense pied-de-nez adressé à l’omniprésente culture numérique de l’open-access et du cut-and-paste. Elle fait de vous non seulement un lecteur privilégié, mais un lecteur exclusif : vous y lisez ce que vous ne pouvez lire que là - I was there and I was the only one. Je pense par exemple aux magnifiques collections consacrées aux mouvements d’avant-gardes et aux groupes de l’ultra-gauche européenne des années 1950-1970, où l’on retrouve entre autres nos vieux amis situationnistes, les taupes de la guerre culturelle.

Le saint des saints sait cependant faire sa place à l’ironie, et même à l’ironie de l’histoire. Voici donc tous nos enragés, tous nos destructeurs de cultures, tous nos anti-capitalistes et anti-impérialistes précieusement archivés au cœur de la Méca de la culture bourgeoise, capitaliste, que dis-je, impérialiste. Je ne sais pas ce qu'en penseraient les archivés, parfois disparus de longue date, mais je note que ceux qui sont encore vivants et pas encore archivés se précisent à la Beinecke avec leurs cartons et leurs classeurs pour en être aussi, pour prendre leur place dans une culture du livre exclusive, select. Et le médiologue, bien entendu, approuve, puisqu’il a autrefois placé toute l’histoire de l’avant-garde sous le signe du livre total cher à Mallarmé. Celui-ci voulait que tout au monde existe pour aboutir à un beau livre. C’est ces beaux livres, ces documents rares et précieux que les avant-gardes sont devenues, peut-être parce que c’est ce qu’elles ont toujours voulu devenir. Elles se sont amusées un temps sur l’échiquier du temps, puis elles ont été rangées une à une dans la belle boîte marbrée de la Beinecke, qui décidément existe pour que tous les beaux livres, tous les livres rares y aboutissent, comme si le temps qui passe n’avait pas pris sur Yale, comme si au contraire c’est Yale qui avait pris sur le temps.

— Vincent Kaufmann
The Marguerite Peyre Prize of the French Department was shared by ANNABEL KIM and RAISA REXER. KRISTIN GRAVES’s dissertation co-won the Sylvia Ardyn Boone Prize for the best written work by a graduate student on African or African-American art and culture, awarded jointly by African American Studies and the History of Art.

CHAPMAN WING, who received his PhD last year, is now Assistant Professor of French at CUNY-Staten Island.

ANNABEL KIM is a Provost’s Postdoctoral Associate in Literature at Duke.

KRISTIN GRAVES, who is now Kristin Graves Okoli, is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Tulane.

JULIA ELSKY will have two positions this year: in the fall, Visiting Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of West Florida, working with the Village Study Abroad Program (Pontlevoy, France); and in the spring, Visiting Scholar of French Studies at MIT.

JONATHAN CAYER, who completed a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at the Whitney Humanities Center, is now a Fellowship Instructor in World Languages, Literature & Culture at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

AARON SCHLOSSER has moved to San Diego and taken a position in computer programming. He continues to run several popular internet forums on literature while he completes his dissertation.

BENJAMIN HOFFMANN won a Whiting Fellowship for his nearly-complete dissertation on “Posthumous America.” In addition, Benjamin has written another novel, American Landing, to be published by Gallimard next fall, and he has contracted to produce new critical editions of Lezay-Marnésia’s Lettres écrites des rives de l’Ohio (1800), in both French and in English.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
PROUST MARATHON

Le 16 septembre 2013, à l’aube, un message énigmatique envoyé via marcel.proust@yale.edu a déferlé sur le campus de Yale. Au cours des semaines suivantes, des affiches annonçant simplement: “Proust arrive le 16 novembre 2013” ont fait leur apparition dans les residential colleges et les diverses facultés de l’université.

Quelques jours plus tard, un site internet a finalement permis d’élucider le mystère: pour célébrer le centième anniversaire de Du côté de chez Swann, premier tome du monument littéraire du XXe siècle À la recherche du temps perdu de Marcel Proust, le Département préparait une lecture marathon du chef-d’œuvre.

Le marathon était ouvert à 100 lecteurs, en reconnaissance du siècle passé depuis la publication du roman en 1913. Etudiants, professeurs, invités distingués et amis, se sont inscrits en ligne sur proustatyale.com pour lire des passages du livre, affectueusement nommés Proustines par nos organisateurs.

Dans une reconstitution de la mythique chambre à coucher de l’écrivain, nos invités ont lu des passages du texte dans leur langue de prédilection: français, anglais, polonais, allemand, et plus encore.

L’événement a duré 22 heures et a connu un grand succès. Nombre d’invités notables sont venus au théâtre Saybrook de Yale à New Haven pour nous accompagner dans notre lecture:

Le département était bien représenté. RUTH KOIZIM, levée aux aurores, a ouvert le marathon en prononçant le fameux: “longtemps je me suis couché de bonne heure.” Autre souvenir impérissable: la lecture du passage de la rencontre avec la dame en rose par Lauren Pinzka, toute de rose vêtue pour l’occasion.

Ont aussi participé à l’aventure Professors ALICE KAPLAN, directrice du département, MAURICE SAMUELS, HOWARD BLOCH, YUE ZHUO, TOM CONNOLLY, CHRIS SEMK, FRANÇOISE SCHNEIDER, directrice du programme de langue et son mari, Bob Schneider, Professeur de théâtre à NIU, et bien d’autres encore. Nos doctorants CATHERINE CHIABAUT, JULIE ELSKY, ANNABEL KIM, JENNIE CARR, LAURA JENSEN, USHA RUNGOO, BENJAMIN HOFFMANN et CLÉMENTINE FAURÉ-BELLAICHE ont également mis leurs talents de lecteurs à contribution.

Nous avons aussi eu le plaisir d’écouter Prof. Peter Brooks from Princeton; Prof. William Carter, éminent biographe de Marcel Proust et éditeur de la nouvelle traduction du roman parue cette année chez Yale University Press; Dean Mary Miller, doyenne de Yale College; John Palatella, éditeur littéraire de The Nation, Lorin Stein, éditeur de The Paris Review; André Aciman, écrivain et Professeur au City University Graduate Center; Madame Laurence Marie, attachée culturelle à l’ambassade de France et Elisabeth Ladenson, professeure et rédactrice en chef de la Romanic Review de Columbia, et bien d’autres.

Merci à tous nos lecteurs pour leur présence et leur enthousiasme!

Nous vous invitons à (re)découvrir cet événement unique grâce aux liens ci-dessous:

• The Yale Proust Marathon in Photos dans L’Amuse-Bouche
• More To Remember Than just the Madeleine dans The New York Times
• Proust Marathon Reading Highlights French Culture dans The Yale Daily News
• In Search of Lost Silence dans The Yale Daily News Weekend
• Site officiel
• Yale YouTube Channel

L’ÉQUIPE:

COMITÉ D’ORGANISATION/COMMITTEE:
JOHN SUNUNU (SY ’15)
BENJAMIN MAPPIN-KASIRER (TD ’14)
Prof. ALICE KAPLAN
AGNÈS BOLTON

DRAMATURGE/THEATRICAL PLANNING:
SARAH KRASNOW

DÉCOR/SET:
EDWARD MORRIS

ÉQUIPE DE CONSEILLERS DOCTORANTS/GRADUATE STUDENT TEAM:
ANNABEL KIM
JULIA ELSKY
LAURA JENSEN
Our course offerings this past year included:

OLD FRENCH
Howard Bloch

GEOFFREY CHAUCER AND FRANCOPHONE TRANSLATION
Ardis Butterfield

L’ÉCOLE DE LYON ET LA PLÉIADE
Edwin Duval

EIGHTEENTH- AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH ART CRITICISM
Marie-Helene Girard

ROLAND BARTHES: LA LITTÉRATURE ET SES SIGNES
Yue Zhuo

AIMÉ CÉSaire: ONE HUNDRED YEARS
Christopher Miller

STÉPHANE MALLARMÉ
Thomas Connolly

CAMUS AND THE ALGERIAN QUESTION
Alice Kaplan

FRENCH FILM: HISTORY, CULTURE, PEDAGOGY
Thomas Kavanagh

MODERNITY
Maurice Samuels

CORNEILLE ET RACINE
Christopher Semk

Our students attended conferences from Bergen, Norway (NATHALIE BATRAVILLE) to Chicago (SEAN STRADER), and including the CIEF meeting in San Francisco (USHARUNGGO), ASECS (BENJAMIN HOFFMANN), the ACLA (JULIE ELSKY), the SFHS (COLIN FOSS), the 21st Annual Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference (ANNABEL KIM), the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium (RAISA REXER), and a conference at Simon Fraser University (ANNE DE SAUSSURE). Annie, by the way, is staying at the ENS for a second year.

In addition, the graduate students in French once again organized a conference here at home, devoted to “Bad Literature.” Organized by CATHERINE CHIABAUT, USHA RUNGOO, SEAN STADER, and ROBYN PRONT, it included papers by CATHERINE CHIABAUT, CLÉMENTINE FAURE-BELLAICHE, KRISTIN GRAVES, LAURA JENSEN, ANABEL KIM, ROBYN PRONT, and a number of graduate students from outside Yale.

This was an unusually rich admissions season, yielding the biggest group of matriculants in years.

IAN CURTIS has a BA from Kenyon College and a Master’s from Paris-VIII.

CAROLE DELAITRE, with the Lycée Louis-le-Grand, the ENS and Paris-IV (where she completed a Master’s) in her background, was a visiting lecturer at Smith College for two years. She began a Master’s at UMass, then moved to our program.

PIERRE HUGUET, after doing classes préparatoires in France, was attracted to a joint honors program in Philosophy and Comparative Literature at the University of Montreal, where he completed his undergraduate work. He followed this with an MA at McGill.

SHANNA JEAN-BAPTISTE comes to us from CUNY, the City College of New York, where she was a Mellon-Mays Fellow.

RICHARD RIDDICK has a BA from University College London and an MA from Cambridge University. He spent two years as a lecteur in Perpignan.

IMANE TERHMINA comes to us from Mount Holyoke College, where she completed a BA in French last spring.
GREETINGS FROM THE DGS, cont. from page 9

In addition, we are joined by LEAF ARBUTHNOUT, from Magdalene College, Cambridge, who comes to us as a Henry Fellow. This is an exchange program between Harvard and Yale on the one hand and Oxford and Cambridge on the other; it provides for a postgraduate year of research. Leaf is particularly interested in the representation of Jewish women in French literature.

In conclusion, I want to thank NED DUVAL for graciously delaying a leave so that he could serve as acting DGS in the spring, as I took my own (delayed) leave. And I am delighted, as I complete my term as DGS, to be working again with the remarkable SONIA BAUGUIL.

— Christopher L. Miller

IN MEMORIAM: FRIEND

This spring brought the terribly sad news that REBECCA RUQUIST ’03 PhD had succumbed to cancer and passed away. Some ten years ago, Rebecca had barely settled in to her assistant professorship at Florida State when she received an initial diagnosis; she fought back with conventional and unconventional medicine. She will long be remembered as a particularly vibrant member of this community; for her passionate activism that included serving as chair of GEOS; and for her scholarship. Rebecca began working on her dissertation under the dual tutelage of myself and Naomi Schor—another untimely passing and still sorely missed. I remember Naomi saying what we both thought: that Rebecca had a remarkable gift for analysis, and a genuine feel for France—its foibles and its glories. Rebecca’s dissertation, Paris, Race and Universalism in the Black Atlantic: Leopold Sedar Senghor, Simone de Beauvoir, Boris Vian and Richard Wright, was full of wit and insight, and a fitting memorial to her talents. Her close friend Jeffrey Boyd ’07 PhD writes: “Becky was a person of rare intensity: her incisive academic writing, her myriad creative projects, her organizing legacy in the union, and her larger-than-life persona changed those of us whose lives she touched. We are so grateful for her time with us.” — C.L.M.

GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

JOSEPH ACQUISTO ’03 PhD was promoted to Professor of French at the University of Vermont. A paperback edition of his 2012 book Crusoes and Other Castaways in Modern French Literature appeared this year with University of Delaware Press, and he is co-editing a volume entitled Poets as Readers in Nineteenth-Century France.

CHARLES AFFRON ’63 PhD and MIRELLA JONA AFFRON ’64 PhD have completed an institutional and performance history of the Metropolitan Opera titled Grand Opera: The Story of the Met, published by the University of California Press in September 2014. This is the first comprehensive history of the company in thirty years. A brief description of the book and author bios can be found at the UC Press website. Charles has launched a blog devoted to operatic performance; OperaPost.

SAHAR AMER ’94 PhD has left the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill after 19 years and taken up a position of Professor and Chair of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Sydney (Australia) since January 2014. She welcomes visits as well as news about any Yale Alumni in the Sydney area! Her latest book What Is Veiling? was published by the University of North Carolina Press in September 2014. It is an introductory book on the multiple meanings and practices of veiling in both Muslim-majority and Muslim-minority societies, and it is addressed both to undergraduates and students (great for teaching!!) and the general educated public.

NATASHA (LEOF) BOAS ’96 PhD is a San Francisco–based independent curator, writer, and professor of contemporary art. She has been curating internationally for over twenty years and has contributed to numerous publications and catalogues. She has taught contemporary theory, modernist methodologies and curatorial studies at UC Berkeley, California College of the Arts, San Francisco Art Institute and Stanford University.

Her most recent exhibition at Grey Art Gallery, NYU has garnered critical attention from the New York Times and other media outlets such as the Huffington Post and Art Practical and the SF Chronicle. Other exhibitions funded by the prestigious Warhol Foundation Grants for the Arts included “We They, We They: Clare Rojas,” “Only Birds Sing the Music of Heaven in this World” with Harrell Fletcher, and “E is for Everyone: Celebrating Sister Corita.” Boas’ essay “Was There Ever Really a Mission School: A Partial and Incomplete Oral History” was published in 2012 in DAP/University of California Berkeley Art Museum Barry McGee retrospective catalogue and her book Energy That is All Around is a current new release (2014) from...
GREETINGS FROM THE DUS

WHILE THE PROUST MARATHON may have left some of us feeling a little winded, it certainly did not exhaust our undergraduates’ enthusiasm and energy, as they continued to write for L’Amuse-Bouche and organized the first-ever Senior Essay Colloquium, during which graduating seniors shared their work with the Department.

In 2014, nine outstanding seniors graduated with a major in French: MONICA AGUE, with an essay on color and space in Rimbaud’s Illuminations (directed by Thomas Connolly); CHRISTOPHER BAKES, with an essay on Québécois theater (directed by Christopher Semk); MADELINE DUFF, with an essay on Victor Hugo’s theater (directed by Marie-Hélène Girard); ANDREW GIAMBRONE, with an essay on the formative years of Albert Camus (directed by Alice Kaplan); LAUREN HOFFMAN, with an essay on Au Bonheur des Dames (directed by Yue Zhuo); JEANNI HWANG, with an essay on dialogism in Montaigne’s Essais (directed by Edwin Duval); BENJAMIN MAPPIN-KASIRER, with an essay on Proust and the weather (directed by Maurice Samuels); JULIA MATTINSON, with an essay on the myth of the Middle Ages in nineteenth-century antisemitism (also directed by Maurice Samuels); and RACHEL O’DRISCOLL, with an essay on the literary representation of Algerian women (directed by Maryam Sanjabi). Congratulations to all on their excellent work! We particularly congratulate those who graduated with Distinction in the Major: Andrew, Jeanni, Benjamin, and Julia.

Each year, the Department grants a number of awards to accomplished students of French from across the university. The Scott Prize “for best essay in French” was awarded to MAX NORMAN ’17 (1st place) for an essay analyzing Sonnet 30 of Du Belley’s Les Antiquitez de Rome, to ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER ’16 (2nd place) for his essay on Rimbaud and Apollinaire, and to FELICITY SHEEHY ’15 (3rd place) for her essay examining the objectivity in D'Aurevilly’s Le Bonheur dans le crime. The Montaigne Prize “for proficiency in speaking and writing French” was awarded to ALAN SAGE ’14 (1st place), RADHIKA KOUL ’14 (2nd place), and ANADA LAKRA ’14 and OLAFUR OLAFFSON ’15 (tied for 3rd place). A Kenneth Cornell Memorial grant, to support research in French and Francophone Studies, was awarded to ANDREW GIAMBRONE. The grant made it possible for Andrew to visit the Centre Albert Camus in Aix-en-Provence. Last, but certainly not least, the James T. King Prize for Distinction in the Senior Essay was awarded to BENJAMIN MAPPIN-KASIRER for his remarkable study of le temps as both “time” and “weather” in Proust’s Recherche. Congratulations to all of our prize recipients!

This year’s course offerings at the undergraduate level all periods, literary genres, and areas of the French-speaking world. In addition to language and “gateway” courses that prepare students for the study of literature and culture in French, the Department offered eleven advanced courses taught in French: Premodern Travels (Cayer); French Classical Tragedy (Semk); Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century (Samuels); Modern French Poetry (Connolly); Introduction to Francophone African and Caribbean Literature (Miller); Literary Analysis and Theory (Zhuo); Power in Medieval French Literature (Cayer); Seventeenth-Century France in Cinema (Semk); The French Enlightenment (Kavanagh); Writers and Artists in Paris, 1780-1914 (Girard); and Subjectivity and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century French Fiction (Zhuo). In addition to these, seven more courses were offered in English: Medieval Humor (Bloch); Ekphrasis (Connolly); Medieval Biography (Butterfield); French Theory from Sartre to Derrida (Zhuo); Actor and the Text: The Misanthrope (Dorfman); Money and the Novel (Freshman seminar; Samuels); and The Modern French Novel (Kaplan & Samuels), which included an optional French section.

— Christopher Semk

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:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015
7:00–8:15 pm
West 209, Vancouver Convention Center
1055 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC, Canada
“CAPRETZ AND CAMUS, TO WHOM I OWE BEAUCOUP”

“Qu’est-ce que vous vouliez faire, quand vous étiez jeune?” a crisp, silky voice would ask. Then a second time: “Qu’est-ce que vous vouliez faire, quand vous étiez jeune?”

If I were taking an exam for French in Action, the immersive language course designed by the late Pierre Capretz (1925-2014), I would repeat the following sentence in my head a few times, figuring out where the accents were supposed to go, then lean into one of the audio devices provided by the Yale Center for Language Study, where the exams are held, and give it my best:

“Quand j’étais petit, je voulais être écrivain.”

Provided that my tongue didn’t get twisted, I would respond fluently, eliding and liaising the right words at precisely the right moment. As if, for me, French flowed as naturally as the Seine.

At the time — my freshman year — this was rarely the case. Before arriving at Yale, I had had minimal exposure to French through family friends and the few food items I knew from fancy restaurants in New York, such as Le Bernardin and La Grenouille, whose unpronounceable names (and prohibitive prices) gave those places an air of mystery for me. My stomach was in love with French and the country it came from before my head and heart were. But so it goes.

French in Action opened those doors and more, by inviting its students to translate their life experiences into a new language. There were few wrong answers in the program; you could equally claim to have aspired to become poète, peintre, père, or pompier. What mattered was saying it right, which is to say the French way.

For Capretz, the program’s beloved professeur, saying it the French way meant using quintessential French phrases with proper pronunciation. By now, some of these idioms are surely dated; FiA was produced in 1987, and who today says “mystère et boule de gomme!” without a hint of irony? Still, through videos and an accompanying textbook and workbook, the course taught beginning French students like me the names of things and when to use them most aptly. More than that, it gave you the confidence to believe — if only for short, 15-second bursts at first — that you could speak, read, and write French, and that you sounded French doing it.

The story of FiA involves an American, Robert, and a French girl, Mireille, who meet in Paris and eventually fall in love. It’s cheesy, it’s touristic, it’s the stuff of camp. But it is also a testament to Capretz’s legacy that the Department still uses FiA for French neophytes, as I once was, more than twenty years after M. le Professeur created it. He had a gift for pedagogy, which has been passed down and developed by the Department through years of hard work and passion. I saw that passion firsthand at various steps along the way. Above all, it was evident in the French classes I took, including “Advanced Culture and Conversation” with Françoise Schneider during my sophomore year, “French Fiction since 1800” with Yue Zhuo during my junior year, and “Paris, Capital of the 19th Century” with Maurice Samuels during my senior year. These teachers, among others, were essential to my relatively rapid linguistic development because they inspired sincere intellectual efforts on the part of their students. They pushed us to speak, write, and, indeed, think our best French, with often surprising and enlightening results.

Similarly, generations of Yale students and others have benefited from Capretz’s creation. In my own case, I journeyed from the classrooms of Harkness Hall during my first semester, to Paris the summer after my sophomore year, and finally to Aix-en-Provence during my senior year, where I conducted archival research for my thesis on Albert Camus. I began reading Camus in high school, and when I realized I could understand and analyze his work in French — largely thanks to le Professeur and other teachers at Yale — I thought his education and formative years would make for a fascinating paper. (With Alice Kaplan’s aide and guidance, I believe it did.)

What I didn’t expect was the sense of freedom and self-discovery my entire journey brought with it, from becoming part of a French famille d’accueil when I was in Paris, to taking advanced French literature courses with enormously dedicated professors at Yale, to being capable of writing an essay that was longer and stronger than anything I had written before.

It’s taken a while, but I’ve finally learned to swim — the French way. And I’m heureux for it.

—Andrew Giambrone ’14 BA

NOTE: Undergraduate ANDREW GIAMBRONE, winner of a Kenneth Cornell Memorial grant, went from French in Action to advanced French courses in four years. He is currently an editorial fellow for The Atlantic.
A Memorial Celebration  
of the Life of  
PIERRE CAPRETZ

Saturday, October 11, 2014  
1:30 PM — Battell Chapel  
400 College Street  
New Haven, Connecticut  

Reception afterwards  
The Graduate Club  
New Haven, Connecticut

YALE SUMMER SESSION

Many undergraduates studied French at all levels in Yale Summer Session in Paris 2014. Colleagues offered Level 1 to Level 5 classes in New Haven and then in Paris, and all students lived with host families in the Parisian region.

In a short four weeks in the Elm City, MATUKU NGAME and CANDACE SKORUPA prepared the 13 students of the L1/L2 level (FREN 110/120) for their 4 weeks in Paris. Most activities in Paris were inspired by French in Action locales, from the Closerie des Lilas to the Jardin du Luxembourg. The students loved visiting the Opéra Bastille for the ballet Notre-Dame de Paris, as well as their adventures to the medieval town of Provins (the hometown of Colette in French in Action!), with a dégustation of all things rose, and to the Loire Valley to visit Chenonceaux, Chambord, and Blois (though we did not see Hubert!).

SOUMIA KOUNDI and KATHLEEN BURTON taught the 8-week FREN 130/140 course. This is the first time the travel itinerary was expanded to a different country, in their overnight to Brussels, where the students were thrilled to be able to speak French to their Francophone neighbours, eat moules, frites, and gaufres, and wash them down with Belgian beer. After a day-trip to Normandy, excursions to Chartres and a performance at the Comédie Française, they topped things off with our annual dinner on a beautiful barge on the Seine with a gorgeous view of the Eiffel Tower as the sun set.

“Incredible program! Very well organized, taught and conducted to result in one of the best summers of my life…” — Azan Virji ’17

In the early summer AUDREY HOFFMANN and CONSTANCE SHERAK taught the five-week L5 courses, FREN 150 (Advanced Language Practice) and FREN 160 (Advanced Culture and Conversation) in Paris. Among the highlights shared by students in both courses were the trips to Provence (Arles, the Camargue, les Baux, and Avignon) and to Normandy that included a cider tasting at a Normand eco-farm and a brisk hike to the top of the cliffs at Étretat to view l’Aiguille, as well as a private invitation to attend a special session of the Assemblée Nationale back in the capital. Students also got a taste of France’s cultural life in Paris by seeing performances at the Comédie Française, the Théâtre du Châtelet, and the Opéra Garnier.
“AU PRINTEMPS DERNIER, l’Amuse-Bouche, magazine pour les francophiles et francophones de Yale, a entrepris un projet de renaissance et de transformation. C’est avec fierté et plaisir que nous dressons le bilan de la première année académique complète du nouvel AB en ligne : un an de collaboration, de créativité, d’érudition et d’humour. Aux nombreux étudiants, doctorants et professeurs qui ont fait de la maturation de l’AB un succès : un très grand merci !

Selon sa formule habituelle, chaque numéro de l’AB s’est articulé autour d’un thème spécifique. En octobre, entamant tout fraîchement son deuxième semestre sur internet, le magazine a voulu se découvrir à travers L’AB se trouve. Cette recherche a été brillamment amorcée par le premier article d’une série d’études sur le genre autobiographique par ELEANOR MICHOTTE. La recherche de soi passe souvent par la compréhension de l’autre: ANNABEL KIM a déchiffré l’amour des Parisiens pour Brooklyn et JOHN SUNUNU a continué sa quête du meilleur burger à Paris. De plus, VICTOR SERRE de l’École normale supérieure nous a livré une réflexion soignée avec Albert Camus et le terrorisme et PEDRO ROLÓN a creusé le lien entre écriture et création de soi chez Jean Genet.

En février, avec L’AB se déboussole, le magazine s’est permis d’amusants ébats d’imagination : entre autres, CHRIS BAKES nous a fait part de The Parallel lives of Frank Sinatra and Edith Piaf, KEREN ABREU de son Carnet de voyage, et BENJAMIN MAPPIN-KASIRER a relu Balzac avec Le Pére Goriot et la téléralité. Une série exploratoire a vu le jour : Léya, Yale en verlan. Le numéro a aussi incorporé certaines de nos réflexions les plus éloquentes de l’année, dont une magnifique traduction du roman célèbre de Shumona Sinha, Assommons les pauvres!, signée JENNIFER CARR et la première partie d’une biographie de JACQUES GUICHARNAUD, grand professeur de français de Yale, par ZOE EGELMAN ’13, ancienne éditrice-en-chef de l’AB. Puis, à l’article de JOHN MCWHORTER du New Republic, qui a notoirement clamé : “stop pretending that French is an important language,” CATHERINE CHIAUBAUT a répliqué sur nos pages avec lucidité et brio.

Pour l’été, une nouvelle perspective: L’AB en contre-plongée. Entre autres, la revue a ouvert ses pages à l’atelier de création littéraire mené au printemps par BENJAMIN HOFFMANN, auteur et doctorant, qui nous a présenté un dossier magnifique intitulé La tendresse en héritage. JOHN SUNUNU a réfléchi au métro de Paris, INDRANI KRISHNAN-LUKOMSKI, elle, à Gillo Pontecorvo et La Bataille d’Alger. CHRIS BAKES a imaginé les grands auteurs du canon français en tant que Seniors de Yale College et SETH THOMPSON a découvert un document du peintre Yves Klein détenu par la Yale University Art Gallery (YUAG).

Nous tenons à remercier tous nos auteurs, collaborateurs, lecteurs et amis pour une superbe année. Un grand merci à KEREN ABREU, CHRIS BAKES, SETH THOMPSON et JOHN SUNUNU, notre vaillant comité éditorial, et à Prof. ALICE KAPLAN et Madame AGNÈS BOLTON pour leurs soutien et précieux conseils.

Nous vous invitons à découvrir notre plus récent numéro sur notre site web lamusebouchemag.fr ou à nous contacter à allez@lamusebouchemag.fr.

Bonne lecture!
— L’équipe de l’Amuse-Bouche
EDMUND J. “ED” CAMPION ’76 PhD has now retired for medical reasons from his former positions as a Professor of French at the University of Tennessee and as a French linguist for an agency of the federal government. He would be delighted to hear from those whom he knew during his years at Yale from 1971 to 1976. He and his wife Mary Ellen have been married since 1978 and they still live in Knoxville. He writes, “I very much enjoyed my five years at Yale. Georges May directed my dissertation and I have very fond memories of him, Jacques Guicharnaud, and Jean Boorsch. It is sad that none of them is still with us.”

CAROL F. COATES ’64 PhD writes, “I just retired completely (as of 1 July 2014) from Binghamton University—SUNY. Having relegated a number of unpublished manuscripts and much documentation to distant subterranean shelves, I have turned full-time to the exploration of Ivan Andreievich Krylov’s Basni (fables) and Russian history, primarily from Catherine the Great to Alexander I. This relates to my graduate work at Yale since I wrote a first paper on Krylov while taking Richard Burgi’s seminar on “Pushkin” somewhere around 1958-59. My work is not primarily comparative, but I do not forget La Fontaine as I work since Krylov so clearly took some of his poetic inspiration from the Fables.

I always incur a pang of nostalgia when I read the notices from a very few Yale graduates who preceded me, remember several of those who were there at the same time in the late ’50s, and admire the achievements of the younger generations, a few of whom I have met and others I have read.


DAVID ELLISON ’75 PhD will retire after 38 years in the profession (16 years at Mount Holyoke College, 22 years at the University of Miami) in December 2014. His recent publications include Ethics and Aesthetics in European Modernist Literature: From the Sublime to the Uncanny, A Reader’s Guide to Proust’s In Search of Lost Time (these two by Cambridge UP), and Proust et la tradition littéraire européenne (Classiques Garnier). He is Officer of the Palmes Académiques, and last year was designated Distinguished Faculty Scholar by the University of Miami. He looks forward to more reading and writing, no administrative work, and to hearing from his Yale friends.

KAREN ERICKSON ’87 PhD has been appointed Academic Dean at the College of St. Benedict / St. John’s University.


JULIA FREY NOLET ’77 PhD is finishing a monograph on French artist Edouard Vuillard for Reaktion Books, due out in 2015, she hopes. She continues to commute between Paris and the Côte d’Azur, but would be willing to add NYC 1-2 months a year, if anyone is interested in an apartment/house exchange: julia.frey@aya.yale.edu.

RHONDA GARELICK ’91 PhD writes, “This fall, my biography of Chanel is coming out with Random House. It is entitled, Mademoiselle: Coco Chanel and the Pulse of History, and its publication date is September 30, 2014. More information is here.

Also, this academic year I am living back home in New York City, where I will be a visiting scholar at the CUNY Graduate Center in the fall and a visiting professor there in the spring.”

KATHRYN GROSSMAN ’73 PhD writes, “Since mid-2012, when I held a visiting professorship at the University of Bristol, I have been collaborating with a colleague there on a variety of projects relating to the interpretation, reception, and adaptation of Hugo’s works. This summer we are finishing a volume on Les Misérables and its Afterlives: Between Page, Stage, and Screen (forthcoming in 2015 at Ashgate Publishing), as well as an essay on “Les Mis” for the Oxford Handbook of the British Musical. Had I known I was about to become head once again of Penn State’s...
IN MEMORIAM: GRADUATE ALUMNI

JOAN E. DIMANCESCU '72 MPhil died in her sleep in her Manhattan home on September 20, 2013, at the age of 68. Dimancescu began her career as an educator, consulting as a learning specialist at The Collegiate School. She went on to become an administrator, serving as Middle School Head of the French-American International School in San Francisco and Head of the Bilingual French-American School in Cambridge, MA. She later returned to New York where she taught private students English Composition, French, Spanish, Latin, and History.

RICHARD M. DUNN '69 PhD died on May 16, 2014 from complications of pancreatic cancer. He became a professor of French at the University of Chicago shortly after graduation, but in 1974 began a new career in international banking. During his years in finance he also researched and wrote Geoffrey Scott and the Berenson Circle: Literary and Aesthetic Life in the Early 20th Century. After the book’s publication in 1998, he returned to teaching. He was a much-loved teacher of English, Latin, and French in East Hampton, New York until his illness forced him to retire.

J. JEFFERSON HUMPHRIES, '81 PhD died unexpectedly at his home in New Orleans on September 20, 2014. He was LSU Foundation Professor of French Studies and of English at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, where he spent his entire career. Jeff was a person of extraordinary and unusual talents. He wrote almost constantly, with a broad and voracious intelligence. Among his most noteworthy works are Katrina, mon amour; Collected Poems of Edouard Glissant; Borealis (a collection of Jeff’s poems); Reading Emptiness: Buddhism and Literature; The Partisan and the Cynic: The Literary Moralist in America and France; Metamorphoses of the Raven: Literary Overdeterminedness in France and the South Since Poe; and (his dissertation) The Otherness Within: Gnostic Readings in Marcel Proust, Flannery O’Connor, and François Villon. His favorite saying was from Pascal: “Tout le malheur des hommes vient d’une seule chose, qui est de ne pas savoir demeurer en repos dans une chambre.” A memorial website has been set up in his honor.

MARIO MAURIN, '47 BA, '51 PhD passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the age of 85 after a long battle with cancer. He came to Bryn Mawr in 1953 and became Eunice Morgan Schenck 1907 Professor of French there in 1979, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. His scholarship included early work on André Suarès, a French philosopher, and books on the Italian writer Giacomo Leopardi and the French writer Henri de Régnier. Henri Peyre, chair of the French department at Yale for more than four decades, was the subject of his final book, Henri Peyre: His Life in Letters, written with John W. Kneller and published in 2005. Maurin also wrote numerous articles in Spanish that were published in Latin American and South American newspapers. During his career, he was recognized by the Guggenheim Foundation and the Académie française, and was named Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques in 1976. Well-respected as a professor and mentor, he was also a patient and fun-loving father who liked to hike and drive fast. Maurin immigrated to the United States in 1941 with his mother and maternal uncle, a founder of the French Communist Party. The family was given refuge here under a Roosevelt administration program to save European intellectuals from Nazi persecution. His father, Joaquin Maurin, one of the founders of the Spanish Socialist Party, remained in prison in Spain.

REBECCA RUQUIST, '03 PhD (see page 10).

MARK J. TEMMER, '52 PhD died in his sleep in Santa Barbara, CA, on June 6, 2014 at the age of 92. After serving in WWII he studied at Yale under the G.I. bill. He taught at Brown and the University of New Mexico before settling at the University of California at Santa Barbara where he remained for 35 years. While at UCSB he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for French Literature and a Camargo Foundation Fellowship in poetry. He also taught at Santa Barbara City College’s Adult Education Program. Temmer published several academic works, among them Samuel Johnson and the Three Infidels: Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot. His passion for writing extended to the realms of poetry, short stories, plays, and fantasy fables. He traveled extensively and loved camping, especially in the national parks of Canada and Alaska.

JAMES ANDREW VACCARO, '59 Grd died in Madison, WI on June 26, 2014 at the age of 86. After serving in the Korean War, where his considerable bravery was awarded the Silver Star and other medals, he went on to graduate school at Yale and the Sorbonne. He completed his PhD in French at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1970 he and his wife took a year in Paris where he received a certificate from the Cordon Bleu Cooking School and he began research for his book The Art of Wine Tasting. Upon returning to Madison, the couple opened the Stock Pot, a beloved area restaurant where he could apply his culinary skills daily.

WILLIAM VAN HOEK, '61 Grd died on January 7, 2014 in Jacksonville, FL. Born in the Netherlands, he immigrated to Canada at an early age. He came to the U.S. to study at Yale and settled in Connecticut. As a multi-lingual educator and researcher, he taught French and German language and literature at the University of Connecticut Hartford before full-time pursuit of a variety of research projects. He eventually retired to Florida where he became very involved with activities in his condominium complex and the local Catholic church. He especially enjoyed sailing and daily walks.
H. GASTON HALL ’59 PhD writes, “[your request for news] reached me as I completed the last paragraph of an article on ‘Imitation, Invention and Wit in Haydn’s Creativity’ by invitation for the Haydn Society of Great Britain Journal no. 33 (2014). I expect to see my first piece on a 21st-century writer soon out in the summer 2014 no. of The Sewanee Review: ‘Kathryn Stockett’s The Help: an Appreciation.’

My first ever electronic only article appeared last month on the CNRS website: ‘Hamlet’s “To be, or not to be” Soliloquy: a Mirror up to Dido’s Suicide?’ in the Dictionary of Shakespeare’s Classical Mythology—another piece on Shakespeare & Virgil for my email friends at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier. I have begun reviewing for Cahiers Elisabéthains and had a new poem ‘In Praise of Bridge’ in Bridge magazine for April 2014. I don’t know when if ever I have contributed to five such different publications in the same year; & I very much enjoyed being the guest of the President of the University of Erfurt in Thuringia for two weeks in April.”

MARINA KUNDU ’86 MA was elected this year by the faculty of HEC (Hautes Etudes Commerciales) Paris to the position of Associate Dean in Charge of Executive Education. She became the first non-French, non-male, non-business school faculty to take the position in the history of HEC Paris. After 5 years in the position of Director of Degree Programs, she now leads an international team of 200 staff members based in Paris, Qatar, China, and Ivory Coast on a full range of programs designed for senior managers and executives, from Executive MBAs and Executive Specialized Masters degrees to open enrollment programs and programs tailor-made for companies. HEC Paris has been ranked by the Financial Times Number 1 worldwide three times in the last five years for its Executive Education programs.


BARRY LYDGATE ’75 PhD writes, “On Monday, April 7 I was present at the graveside ceremony for Pierre J. Capretz, at a cemetery deep in the countryside near Aix-en-Provence. The place is very beautiful and the ceremony was deeply moving. Pierre’s family and friends read poems and excerpts from scripture, and spoke of Pierre in reminiscences that were loving and evocative, and sharp as pepper. I had been his student as a Yale sophomore, and had the good fortune subsequently to become his associate and co-author on the French in Action project, whose 30-year history takes another step forward with the publication of a new edition this year by the Yale Press. An observance is planned at Yale for October 11, 2014 to mourn the loss and commemorate the life and work of this brilliant and innovative teacher.”

JAMES MAGRUDER ’84 MA. In response to the anti-gay legislation signed into law by President Museveni in February, James Magruder (MA 1984) fled Uganda with his partner Steve after ten months of reading and writing and conducting adaptation workshops in Kampala. His second book of fiction, a linked story collection titled Let Me See It, was published in June by TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press. Current projects include a new—and slavishly faithful—translation of Giraudoux’s La Folle de Chaillot for American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. He continues to teach dramaturgy at Swarthmore College and fiction at the University of Baltimore.

CLAIRe MCMURRAY ’10 PhD writes, “I am now working as the Graduate Writing Specialist at the Writing Center at the University of Kansas. I consult with graduate students on their theses, dissertations, and various writing projects. My husband, Ben Johnson, and I are also expecting a little girl in December.”

RICHARD MEADOWS ’01 PhD writes, “Having completed my term as Chair of the Division of English, Theatre, Communication, Music, and Foreign Languages at Berea College, I’m looking forward to returning to full-time teaching. I’m currently enjoying an 8-week visit from my 8-year-old daughter, Margo, who lives outside Paris.”

ARMINE KOTIN MORTIMER ’74 PhD writes, “Since retiring in January 2010, I have continued to be professionally active—though with less drive than before… No teaching, but conference papers and articles, and the 2011 publication of my last word on Balzac, For Love or for Money: Balzac’s Rhetorical Realism. What’s new for me is translating: Philippe Sollers’s Mysterious Mozart, out in 2010 and happily praised by readers including Sollers.

Several alumni are missing from our current contacts, and we would like to be back in touch with them.

If anyone has information about the following lost friends, please let us know (and them!):

CATHERINE DANA
UNITY DIENES
BENJAMIN ELWOOD
LE THUY HOANG
ALLISON TAIT

Please send information to Sonia Bauguil at: sonia.bauguil@yale.edu
(he said it was his favorite), as well as several other books by Sollers all seeking publication and one or two other contemporary novels. American publishers do not put out enough translations.

MARTINE REID ’84 PhD Professor of French at the university of Lille-3, continues her editorial work with Gallimard. She has recently published a short anthology of texts by Olympe de Gouges (Folio, 2014) and given a new complete edition of Maupassant’s short stories (Contes et nouvelles, Quarto, 2014). She has been editor of a series of articles on Stendhal (“Le Rouge et le Noir de Stendhal – Lectures critiques,” Garnier, 2013), on Hélène Cixous (“Relire Le Rire de la méduse,” Honoré Champion, 2014, with Frédéric Regard) and on Madame Du Bocage (“Presses universitaires de Rouen et du Havre,” forthcoming, with François Bessire). She is also responsible for a collection called “Littérature et genre” with Honoré Champion. Her collective project called Femmes et littérature. Une histoire culturelle is in progress and will be published by Gallimard at the end of 2016.

AMY REID ’96 PhD This past spring, Amy Baram Reid’s translation of the novel Far from My Father by the Ivorian writer Véronique Tadjo appeared with UVA/CARAF Press. She is currently working on the translation of Mount Pleasant, by Patrice Nganang, a novel that situates the artistic achievements of the Bamoun Sultan Njoya against the backdrop of the successive waves of colonization in Cameroon by the Germans, English and French; it is due out in early 2016 with Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

RONNIE SCHEIB ’72 PhD has been a film reviewer for Variety magazine since 2002.

Marilyn Schuster ’73 PhD writes, “I completed a five-year term as Provost & Dean of the Faculty at Smith College on June 30 and am enjoying a year-long sabbatical before retiring next year after 44 years on the faculty. I am returning to a project set aside in 2009: to edit fifteen years of correspondence between lesbian novelist Jane Rule and Toronto gay activist Rick Bebout (1981-1995) that tells the story of a long distance friendship between two expats along with a close-up view of Canadian LGBT politics and social history during a turbulent, difficult time.”

Suzanne Toczyński ’94 PhD, from Sonoma State University, recently published an article on contemporary Caribbean author Gisèle Pineau’s novel L’Espérance-macadam in Nouvelles Études Francophones (“Voyage-cyclone: Souvenirs d’Élétée dans L’Espérance-macadam de Gisèle Pineau”), and has another forthcoming in L’Erudit francophone on Patrick Chamoiseau (“O manioc-mil: Community, Commensality, and Communion in Patrick Chamoiseau’s Solilo Magnifique”). Suzanne is now returning to her beloved 17th century with a new project on the work of François de Sales. On a more personal note, her son Jack (who was born while she was a graduate student at Yale) recently graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Economics and Mathematics from UC-San Diego; her husband David (who was fond of trying to sneak into French Department lectures in Harkness Hall when they were in English) is a professor at UCSF.

EMILY WENTWORTH ’93 MPhil has come out of the woods of Maine to return to the secondary school teaching fray again, having accepted a position as the sole French teacher at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, CT in late August. She is happy to be in a relatively small school with a relaxing 4 blocks/day schedule. Emily teaches French 2, 3, 4, and AP French, oversees a Rosetta Stone multi-language course offering, and does her best to sneak in snippets of French in Action wherever appropriate to supplement the required textbook & other materials. Any time free from prep or entering “data” on student progress (it’s all “data-driven” now!) is spent correcting oral production for Yale undergrads. She looks forward to being able to cross paths with Yale colleagues more often now.

HELEN WILLIAMS-GINSBERG ’94 PhD writes, “I am living in Seattle and will be a Visiting Assistant Professor of French at Pacific Lutheran University this fall (2014). Our daughter Camille has just finished her first year at Smith College.”

CHAPMAN WING ’13 PhD has a tenure-track job at CUNY-Staten Island. He started this fall as Assistant Professor of French.

SETH WOLITZ ’65 PhD writes, “I just published a volume at Univ. of Texas Press, Jean-Claude Grumberg, Three Plays, translated and introduced by Seth L. Wolitz. Grumberg is the leading contemporary French-Jewish playwright in France and this volume provides a cross-section of his oeuvre of the last 50 years with an essay by myself about the emergence of French-Jewish theatre.”

BARBARA WOSHINSKY ’68 PhD retired in 2008, after 27 years in the Modern Languages Department of the University of Miami. Her colleagues gave her a cordial send-off at a private wine cellar in Coconut Grove. After retirement, she finished her latest book, The Convent Disclosed: Imagining Women’s Conventual Spaces in France, 1600-1800 (Ashgate, 2011). Her current research concerns social and literary exclusion in seventeenth century France, an interest congruent with her volunteer work with immigrant detainees. She divides her time between St. Paul, MN and Miami and would like to hear from other alumni.

ADIEU TO THE SENIOR MAJORS AND PHDS: THE CLASS OF 2014
PAUL DEGENKOLB ’99 writes, “I am a teacher of French at Malden High School, an urban public high school north of Boston, Massachusetts with students from over eighty countries. I’m currently in my eighth year at the school, where in addition to teaching, I advise the French Club and the Haitian Club. Currently, I’m working on updating units on cultural and linguistic identity around the French-speaking world. I also serve on a district-wide task force that addresses questions around common goals and professional culture.”

ZOË EGELEMAN ’13 BA is living in New York City and working as a paralegal at the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. A version of her senior thesis on Hélène Berr’s Holocaust diary was published in May in Conserveries mémorielles (cm.revues.org). She will be presenting her research on Berr at the Annual Conference of the Western Society for French History in San Antonio, TX in November.

NICOLE FLENDER ’80 BA writes, “I am writing this from Paris, France. I am married to a Frenchman and we live in New York. I am proud to have raised two bilingual children. My daughter will be living in Paris doing the exchange program while I’m currently in my eighth year at the school, where in addition to teaching, I advise the French Club and the Haitian Club. Currently, I’m working on updating units on cultural and linguistic identity around the French-speaking world. I also serve on a district-wide task force that addresses questions around common goals and professional culture.”

HEATHER HENDERSHOT ’89 BA is a professor of film and media at MIT. Her most recent book is What’s Fair on the Air? Cold War Right-Wing Broadcasting and the Public Interest (University of Chicago Press, 2011), and she is currently writing a book on William F. Buckley Jr.’s Firing Line.

KAREN KOSTER BURR ’81 BA writes, “Upon graduating with my French Lit and Theater Studies BA, in Paris then New York, my first few jobs did leverage the fluent French I had honed in a junior year at the Sorbonne, Sciences Po and studying with actors from La Comédie Française. Over time, as I slid South, to Atlanta then settled in Jacksonville, Florida, opportunities to incorporate the language into daily life took more effort. Thank God for XM-Sirius, Le Monde and the Internet! All this to say that I don’t have French-language-related research or accomplishments to report, except that through some effort, I have managed to maintain a decent degree of fluency! Instead, natural interest in creativity and a practical strain drove me to become an IP lawyer, handling everything but patents. Currently I am finishing a stint in-house and about to re-launch into private practice. Two wonderful college-age kids, sculpture, painting, choral singing and community theater are my most creative endeavors; sculling, biking, hiking, kayaking and other outdoor pleasures round out life.”

DEVRA (WOLFE) LEHMANN ’86 BA writes, “For almost thirty years I have worked as a teacher and educational administrator. This fall my first book, a biography of Spinoza for young adults — Spinoza: The Outcast Thinker — is being released by namelos editions.”

VINICIUS LINDOSO ’13 BA writes, “After graduating Yale with a double major in French and Global Affairs, I’ve been keeping busy on both fronts. In the ‘French Studies’ field, I have been in Paris since August 2013 in the context of Yale’s Fox International Fellowship, doing archival research on the French historiography of World War II, particularly on the institutional history of the Comité d’histoire de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. I’ve been working in close partnership with the CNRS’s Institut d’histoire du temps présent, and spent much of last semester traveling all around France to visit departmental archives. I’ll be giving a (and my first ever in French) colloque at the Maison des sciences de l’Homme (Dijon) next week as part of a European conference on ‘collective research methods’ in the Social Sciences.

As for the “Global Affairs” side, as of January, on top of my Fox Fellowship project, I started working at UNESCO, in the field of global ocean policy and governance. In October, I’ll be leaving Paris and moving to Oxford, where I will pursue a one-year Masters in Public Policy at Oxford’s Blavatnik School of Government, with a likely focus on environmental and ocean policy.”

MALI LOCKE ’99 BA writes, “I am the director of the Maverick Capital Foundation where I run our grant making, employee engagement and matching gifts program. Sadly, I have not been to France since 2004 and my French is terrible!”

MARK TAFOYA ’93 BA writes, “I just returned from a 2nd annual trip to Kazakhstan where I was guest of the US Consulate in Almaty as a culinary ambassador. This year, I led a master-cooking class and gave several talks to students and entrepreneurs about starting and running a small business. I was interviewed by Esquire and Cosmopolitan magazines, and featured in local media. The highlight of the trip was a 400 person dinner, which I cooked along with the staff at the Hotel Intercontinental featuring foods of the American West. We got our cowboy on and did classic Western dishes for the hungry crowds. It was a special trip for me because my husband is from Kazakhstan and we got to spend time with his family.”