



Greetings from the Chair –

The academic year of 2006-2007 marked an important turning point for the rebuilding of nineteenth-century studies in the department. Our newest colleague, **Maurice Samuels**, completed his first year of teaching at Yale just as his *The Spectacular Past: Popular History and the Novel in Nineteenth-Century France* (Cornell University Press, 2004) was awarded the prestigious Gaddis Smith International Book Prize by Yale's MacMillan Center. The Center's press release reads in part "In *Spectacular Past*, Professor Samuels examines the realm of an emerging bourgeois culture of spectacle – wax museums, phantasmagoria shows, historical panoramas, Romantic historical writing, dramas about Napoleon – in order to understand new forms of historical representation in post-Revolutionary France. He shows that the rise of a 'spectacular historical consciousness' was not coincidental or gratuitous, but drew upon new markets, technologies, artistic and aesthetic forms, and sprang from a desire to ground Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary identities in a stable vision of the past that would justify the rise of a new class and political regime." This past year also brought the very welcome return from Virginia of **Peter Brooks** whose presence had been much missed over the last few years. It is safe to say that Yale has now regained the pre-eminence in nineteenth-century studies that it once enjoyed.



This last year found several colleagues on leave and able to devote full-time to their research. **Ned Duval**, after his stellar service as chair for an uninterrupted six and a half years, spent the entire year working on his study of Renaissance lyric poetry. Thankfully for me, Ned spent the fall semester in New Haven and was generously available for his always good counsel before heading to the Camargo Foundation in Cassis for the spring semester. **Jean-Jacques Poucel**, promoted to associate professor last year, also spent the year on a leave that followed the publication of his *Jacques Roubaud and the Invention of Memory* (University of North Carolina Press). **Christopher Miller**, after co-teaching the core seminar for African Studies, "Africa and the Disciplines," during the fall semester, was on leave during the spring semester of 2007. His *The French Atlantic Triangle: Literature and Culture of the Slave Trade* will soon appear from Duke University Press and he is now at work on a new project dealing with literary hoaxes.

While so many colleagues were devoting themselves to higher concerns, others saw to it that the department's business moved along smoothly. **Howard Bloch** was not only DGS for the entire year, but found time for appearances associated with the publication of his *A Needle in the Right Hand of God: The Norman Conquest of 1066 and the Making and Meaning of the Bayeux Tapestry* from Random House. Beyond the department, Howard also provided the guiding impetus for an important initiative intended to strengthen the humanities and interdisciplinary studies at Yale. The newly created Humanities Program, housed within the Whitney Humanities Center and administered by an Executive Committee of which Howard is the chair, has been given a number of faculty positions by the Provost for the specific purpose of fostering senior appointments which will be made jointly by the Humanities Program and by an existing department. The

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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:

Saturday, 29 December
5:15–6:30 p.m.
Parlor C, Sheraton Chicago
Hotels and Towers
301 East North Water St.
Chicago

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

Friday, December 28
5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
Regency Ballroom A
Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 East Wacker Dr.
Chicago



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goal of this initiative is to bring to Yale truly distinguished interdisciplinary scholars whose work is of importance to the humanities in their broadest sense.

Julia Prest served as DUS this past year and did a spectacular job in drawing an increasing number of undergraduates to the French major. This past year also saw the publication of her *Theatre under Louis XIV: Cross-Casting and the Performance of Gender in Drama, Ballet and Opera* (Palgrave). Next fall, in addition to her duties as DUS, Julia will also be hosting the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies which will be held at Yale in early November. As part of that conference, Julia and sixth-year graduate student **Jeffrey Leichman** will be staging a production of Molière's *Le Mariage forcé*.

It has been a rich year for lectures and cultural events sponsored by the department. Among our visitors were: Caroline Weber of Barnard College, Tom Conley of Harvard (for a GAFS lecture postponed from 2005-2006), Patrick Wald Lasowski of Paris VIII, Marielle Macé of Paris IV, Bernard Cerquiglini of Louisiana State University, Soraya Tlatli of Berkeley, Andrea Goulet of Illinois-Urbana, Noel Peacock of the University of Glasgow, Philip Mosley of Pennsylvania State University, Peggy McCracken of the University of Michigan, and Dominique Rabaté of the Université Michel de Montaigne – Bordeaux III. Again this year, the Chocolate Lectures, organized by **Susannah Carson**, offered a large number of informal and formal presentations. The speakers included **Peter Brooks, Julia Prest, Robert Harms, Anders Winroth, Pierre Capretz, Catherine Labio**, along with many other faculty and graduate students.

Many of the senior alumni will remember Professor **William Kenneth Cornell** who completed his Ph.D. at Yale in 1940 and, after an interruption for war-time service, taught French here until 1973. Professor Cornell died some twenty years ago and, upon the death of his widow, Sally, in 2004, Yale and the French Department became beneficiaries of a generous bequest establishing the Kenneth Cornell Charitable Foundation. Carefully

counseled in its work by emeritus professor **Charles Porter**, that foundation will provide Yale with approximately \$60,000 each year which is specifically earmarked for supporting the work of graduate and undergraduate students doing research and/or study in France or a French-speaking country on French language and culture. The department is also devoting a substantial part of those funds to helping undergraduates who wish to undertake language and literature study in the context of Yale's (and other) summer programs in French-speaking countries. This year seven undergraduates at all levels of language study benefited from Professor Cornell's generosity and will return to Yale better prepared to continue their work in areas that involve French. Special thanks for the success of that effort for the undergraduates must go to **Ruth Koizim** who fashioned and oversaw what was a complex selection process. The Cornell funds will be of particular help for the growing number of graduate students whose research focus on Francophone countries makes it important that we have support structures that complement our traditional exchange with the École Normale Supérieure. This year, for instance, **Alexandra Gueydan** spent the fall semester doing research on the evolution of francophone publication practices in post-independence Algeria.

At the undergraduate language-teaching level, **Ruth Koizim, Françoise Schneider**, and **Soumia Koundi** have received support from Yale's Center for Language Study for a thorough revamping of our second-year French course, the course that follows directly from our first-year French in Action module developed by **Pierre Capretz**.

I want also to mention an important and long overdue change in Yale's policy governing the promotion and tenuring of qualified junior faculty in all departments. As of July 2007, the University has adopted a restructured "career path" for junior faculty. It includes a first full-year of paid leave in the second, third, or fourth year of the initial appointment as well as a second full-year of paid leave to follow the successful promotion, in either the fifth or sixth year, to the rank of associate professor on term.

Furthermore, promotions to tenure will now be done on a purely qualitative basis, as the administration will no longer demand that all conversions of a term to a tenured appointment involve the combining of two term appointments into one tenured appointment. Finally, the review for tenure, normally taking place in the eighth year, will no longer involve an open search but will be carried out on the person-specific basis used by the vast majority of American universities. All junior faculty currently at Yale had the option of moving to the new system or remaining on the old system.

Change, however, should not be thought of as a sure thing at Yale. Curiously, this past year a proposal by the Graduate School to change Yale's idiosyncratic grading system for seminars from the Honors / High Pass / Pass / Fail scale we know so well to the standard A through F system was defeated, but only by a margin of eight votes! The Dean of the Graduate School recently announced that he intends to revisit the issue in the somewhat less radical form of adding plus and minus designations to the existing grading scale.

Let me end these reflections by thanking a number of people: this year's four exchange students from the École Normale – **Vincent Billerey, Masha Cerovic, Raphaële Moatti** and **Julien Nègre** for their excellent teaching; **Sasha Santee** and **Madison Moore** for their efforts as the co-chairs of the Graduate Association of French Students; **Agnès Bolton** and **Brenda Crocker** for keeping things running not only smoothly but doing so with a smile.

Finally, a special thanks to the many alumni who generously contributed their financial support to the department's work. That help made it possible for the department to support things for which there is otherwise no funding. Those included defraying the expenses of our finishing graduate students for their travel to the MLA convention and its interviews, supporting travel by graduate students to give professional presentations, and underwriting visits to the Yale campus by prospective students being recruited to the graduate program.

– **Thomas Kavanagh**



From the DGS –

Special thanks are due Brenda Crocker who took over as departmental Registrar from Shirley Gaddy. Shirley has checked in from time to time, and we continue to think of her fondly in the blessed state of retirement from some of the worldly cares that now fall to Brenda, who keeps the Graduate Program up and running in the everyday.



In terms of the evolution of the program, the faculty, working together with graduate student representatives, completed a review of years two to four as part of the Graduate School review of these vulnerable years in a student's career.

As always, the core of our graduate program this year was the array of seminars offered. We were graced this fall by the visit of Patrick Wald Lasowski, Professor at the Université de Paris VIII, who offered a seminar on "The Guillotine and the Nineteenth-Century Novel." Other seminars included: Catherine Labio's "Fiction and Industry in the Nineteenth Century" and "Literature and the Arts," Julia Prest's "Sex and Gender in Seventeenth-Century Theater," Peter Brooks's "Henry James & Gustave Flaubert: The Project of the Novel" and "Questions of Identity," Christopher Miller's "The French Atlantic Triangle: Literature and Culture of the Slave Trade," Ora Avni's "Experiments in Twentieth-Century Fiction" and "The Modern Short Story," Farid Laroussi's "Maghreb Distinctions," Thomas Kavanagh's "Rousseau," and my own yearly offering of "Old French" along with a seminar on "The Arthurian Illustrated Manuscript." Professor Dudley Andrew of Comparative Literature and Film Studies offered a seminar entitled "The Image After Bergson."

The Graduate Association of French Students (GAFS) was co-chaired this year by Madison Moore and Sasha Santee. GAFS organized a spectacular conference chaired by Tara Golba and John Lytle – "La volonté de paraître: The Cult and Cultivation of Appearances in French and Francophone Literature and Culture." NYU's Emily Apter was the keynote speaker. Madison Moore read a paper entitled, "Tu kiffes la racaille? The invention of the Arab in French gay culture"; Anne Linton presented on "Miriam Rooth and Madame Arnoux: Appearance and the novel project of Henry James and Gustave Flaubert"; Larysa Smirnova, on "L'être et le paraître d'Amélie Poulain"; and Scott Hiley, on "The Ornament of Chivalry: Inconspicuous Consumption in Erec et Enide." GAFS sponsored two highly successful free-standing lectures. Harvard's Tom Conley spoke on "Cartography and its Relation to 'Le cinéma d'auteur.'" Peggy McCracken (Yale PhD 1989 and currently Chair of the French Department and Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Michigan) spoke on "The Love of the Dead in the Prose Lancelot." Special thanks are due Madison and Sasha and all the graduate students for their efforts in coordinating the activities of visiting potential graduate students during the spring recruiting season.

Departmental intellectual life was sustained and enhanced by Susannah Carson's organizing of the Chocolate Lectures, a series of Monday talks sweetened with all manner of calorific goodies. This year's graduate student speakers included Scott Hiley, who presented on "Dante, Aquinas, Aristotle: The Physics and Politics

of Usury in *Inferno* XVII," Laure Marcellesi, who presented on "Rousseau's Reality Check," Alexandre Gueydan, who spoke on "Visions contemporaines de l'Algérie: un carnet de voyage," and John Lytle, who presented a talk entitled "Romantic Anecdotes and the Construction of the Past in Aloysius Bertrand's *Gaspard de la Nuit*."

Our exchange with the Ecole Normale Supérieure continues with much benefit to both institutions. During the 2006-7 academic year three students from French spent the year at the ENS: Roxanna Curto, working on "Colonialism and the Question of Technology in French and Francophone Literature"; Jeffrey Leichman, writing a thesis entitled "Acting Up: Performing Social Mobility in the 18th Century Theatre"; and Shira Weidenbaum, "Beyond Discussion: Constructive Tensions in the Sixteenth-Century Dialogue." Next year we will be represented by Irina Iakounina, working on "Spiritual Poetry of the Renaissance: The Question of The Self in the Works of Marguerite de Navarre and Clément Marot"; Rachael Sterner, working on "Broken Walls: Saints Jeanne de Chantal and Louise de Marillac: Writing Faith and Independence Outside the Convent"; and Tara Golba, writing a thesis entitled "Knowledge and the Narrative Trail: The Questioning of Post/Colonial Epistemologies in Francophone Narratives of Investigation." This year we welcomed to Yale Vincent Billerey, Masha Cerovic, Raphaële Moatti, and Julien Nègre.

Two graduate students were awarded prestigious Graduate School fellowships for the 2007-8 academic year: Jeffrey Leichman, a Leylan Fellowship; and Alexandra Gueydan, a Whiting. Roxanna Curto received an Enders Fellowship, and both Jessica DeVos and Rachel Sterner received Beinecke Fellowships for summer 2007. Roxanna Curto was awarded a grant from the Kenneth Cornell Fund for a research trip to Senegal and Mali. Erin Tremblay Ponnou-Delaffon was awarded a Cornell grant for study of the contemporary writer Sylvie Germain and attendance at this summer's "décade" on Sylvie Germain at Cérisy-la-Salle.

Four students completed their dissertation this year: Michael Call, "The Poet, the Playwright, and the Pirate: Molière and Seventeenth-Century Authorship"; Brooke Donaldson, "Les mortz qu'en moy tu renouvelles: Eros and Thanatos in Maurice Scève's *Délie*"; Jessica Nyamugusha, "Fictions of Servitude: Early Modern French Literary Representations of Europeans Enslaved in North Africa"; and Agnieszka Tworek, "Theatricality and Prison." Michael Call, who currently teaches at Brigham Young University, won this year's Marguerite A. Peyre Prize.

Three new graduate students will join us next year: Grey Anderson, who comes from Reed College with a BA in English, Aaron Schlosser, who comes from Dartmouth College with a BA in Comparative Literature, and Raisa Rexer, who did her BA in the Humanities at Yale and who has completed a MA at the University of Pennsylvania.

Next year Laure Marcellesi will begin teaching at Dartmouth College; Scott Hiley, at Reed; Caroline Hatton, at Williams; John Lytle, at Hamilton; Ronan Chalmin, at Tulane; and Agnieszka Tworek at the University of Vermont. Jessica Nyamugusha will teach at the Park School in Baltimore, Maryland. My colleagues join me in congratulating Laure, Scott, Caroline, John, Ronan, Agnieszka, and Jessica and in wishing them success in all they undertake in the years to come.

– R. Howard Bloch

From the DUS –

One of the great pleasures of teaching an undergraduate class in French at Yale is the variety of students present in that class. In an advanced literature seminar of fourteen people, one might have, for instance, three students whose major is still undeclared, two French majors, one Literature major, three History majors, two English majors, a Psychology major, a Music major and a Biology major (any scientists in the class are invariably among the best students). The very fact that specialists in other areas enjoy a level of French that enables them to participate fully in the course is impressive. Moreover, this diversity of specialization brings a wealth of interesting perspectives to the classroom discussion from which the study of French undoubtedly benefits.

Conversely, one of the great pleasures of being DUS is an increased level of contact with those students who have chosen to specialize in French, particularly those who are in their final year. In 2006-07, we saw eleven seniors through to the successful completion of the French major: Michelle Bulger, Ming-Qi Chu (with History), Emily Cleveland (with Art History),



Katie Connolly (with History), Rachel Dickens, Emily Gruen, Regina Kim, Jaclyn Myers, Jaclyn Opritza, Kristen Schmits (with Psychology), and Laura Young (with English). Of these, seven graduated with a Distinction in the Major, including one (of whom I am especially proud) who only began to learn French in her sophomore year at Yale. It is a particular tribute to our language program (and to the student in question) that she was able to do this. Our congratulations to them all!

A requirement of the French major is to write an extended essay on a subject chosen by the student. This year's topics represent a variety of interests and approaches to the study of French. Special congratulations are due to Jaclyn Opritza whose work on Emmanuel Dongala won the senior essay section of the departmental Scott Prize for essays in French.

The other winners of the Scott prize were Monica Wood (best 200/300-level essay) and Alex Sobel (best 100-level essay). The Montaigne Prize for proficiency in spoken and written French was shared by Paul Spera and Nicholas Chong (first prize) and Charles Cardinaux, Tess Borden and Regina Kim (second prize). Paul Spera and Tess Borden are two of our rising seniors whom, along with their classmates, we look forward to welcoming back to the department in September.

– Julia Prest

Faculty News –

Howard Bloch's Bayeux Tapestry book has now appeared on CD at Tantor Audio Books.

Ned Duval was on leave for the academic year 2006-2007. In the fall he wrote a 6,000-word article titled "Putting Religion in its Place" for the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Rabelais*, saw the publication of his article on "Rabelais and French Renaissance Satire" in the *Blackwell Companion to Satire from the Biblical World to the Present*, delivered the opening conference magistrale at a five-day international conference on Rabelais and hybridity held in Montréal, and offered a lecture on Maurice Scève and a workshop on female voices in Renaissance poetry as a guest of the Renaissances Consortium at Stanford. In the spring he was a fellow at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France, where he wrote three chapters of his new book on musical structures and lyric forms in medieval and Renaissance poetry. He also participated in a journée d'étude on Rabelais held at the Université de Provence in Aix and gave four lectures as the faculty affiliate on a Yale alumni tour of the châteaux de la Loire.

Catherine Labio has published "The Solution Is in the Text: A Survey of the Recent Literary Turn in Adam Smith Studies" in *The Adam Smith Review* (vol. 2, October 2006). She has lectured on visual and verbal representations of financial speculation in early eighteenth-century Europe at the annual meeting of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, a colloquium on The Netherlandish Seventeenth Century and Its Afterlives at Duke, a conference on The Language of Images held at Central Connecticut State University, and Yale's Transitions to Modernity colloquium. She has also lectured on architecture and comics at a conference organized by the International Bande Dessinée Society and held at the French Institute, South Kensington, London, and in the context of the Chocolate Lectures series run by the graduate students of Yale's Department of French. She has given a guest lecture on the state of comics scholarship in Recharging the Sensorium, another conference organized by Central Connecticut State.

In June, **Farid Laroussi** was appointed to the chairing board of the newly established Institut d'Etudes Francophones du Maghreb,

at the University of Leipzig, Germany. In the spring of 2008, he will give a series of three talks (French Postcolonial Studies; France and Islam; What is Beur literature?) at the University of Haifa, Israel.

Christopher Miller spent a month in Paris this spring during his leave. As a directeur d'études associé at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, he gave three seminars related to his past and present work. In 2008 he will be a plenary speaker at the conference of the Society for French Studies, to be held in Liverpool.

Jean-Jacques Poucel is currently working on a book entitled *The Literal Lyric*, about the dialogue between French and American poetry from the 1980s to the present. He has also edited a special dossier on the Oulipo for the online journal *Drunken Boat* and is compiling a series of essays on the notion of constraint for *Poetics Today*. His most recent articles appeared in *Verse* and *La Licorne*. In the fall of 2007, working closely with the French department, the Beinecke Library, and the Whitney Humanities Center's Working Group in Contemporary Poetics (a group he co-founded four years ago), Poucel will host Christian Bök and Jérôme

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Game. In 2008 he will edit a special edition of bilingual poetry for the journal *Double Change*.

Julia Prest has continued to work on her book on theatrical controversy. She has also been working on the smash hit comedy *La Devineresse* (1679) and the *Affair of the Poisons*, presenting a paper called “Silencing the Supernatural” at the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference

in April. A longer version of the paper will be published in article form in the *Forum for Modern Language Studies* in November, and the Modern Humanities Research Association is publishing her critical edition of the play. She continues to sing regularly with the Yale Camerata, Yale Pro Musica, and Yale Recital Chorus, and she is president of the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen of New Haven.

Maurice Samuels has published articles on Balzac, Stendhal, and visual representations of the Crimean War, and he continues to work on his new book on the first Jewish fiction writers in nineteenth-century France.

Alyson Waters was awarded a PEN Translation Fund grant in May to complete her translation of Albert Cossery’s novel *Les couleurs de l’infamie*.

News from Alumni —

Joseph Acquisto ’03 PhD is Assistant Professor at the University of Vermont. He participated in an NEH Faculty Seminar on modernism, held in summer 2006 in Paris. He is at work on two book-length projects, including a study of the intersection between urban space, walking, and theories of the imagination in modernist poetry.

Victor Brombert ’53 PhD gave the inaugural lecture of the new Henri Peyre Lecture series at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York on May 9, 2007. His subject was “Victor Hugo and the Grand Century.”

Susie Brubaker-Cole ’00 PhD writes, “I am now the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Stanford University, where I oversee academic advising, academic standing, undergraduate research, pre-professional advising, and university nominations for national merit awards. I live on the Stanford campus with my husband, Kyle Cole, and children, Evan 5 and Eleanor 3.”

Mathilda Bruckner ’74 PhD is Professor at Boston College. She writes, “Finally finished my book on the dialogue between Chrétien de Troyes’s unfinished Grail romance and the four verse continuations... in search of a publisher... In addition to my usual at BC I’ll be teaching half-time at Harvard in the coming year, a medieval French course each semester – looking forward to experiencing the effects of the new President who was a class mate at Bryn Mawr!”

Kathryn Bush ’76 MA writes that she has “nothing new to report professionally”. On a personal level she says, “My daughters, Danielle (23) and Jessica (20), are becoming independent and making me feel old. Jessica transferred from Smith to Claremont

Mckenna to study economics. She may spend a semester at Oxford next year. Danielle, who spent her junior year in Paris, graduated from Georgetown University in 2005 and is currently at USC studying film. My husband Steve and I look forward to a time when tuition payments are not the focus of our lives!”

Edmund Campion ’76 PhD continues to serve as Professor of French at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is currently working on a book on Leopold Sedar Senghor as Catholic poet. He writes, “My health is declining due to kidney disease and an autoimmune disease. I am not sure how much longer I can continue teaching. I have fond memories of my years at Yale and I was very fortunate to have had Georges May as my dissertation director and Jacques Guicharnaud as a member of my dissertation committee. I miss them both very much. I am blessed to have the moral support of my wife Mary Ellen and of our two children Christie (a 2007 graduate of Rhodes College) and Scott (an undergraduate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville).”

William R. Carlson ’73 PhD retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in August of 2004. He and his wife **Lonni Briggs** ’72 MPhil (French) are living on Cape Cod, where he is currently organist at a small local church and she has branched out from painting into working in stained glass. He sends his regards to everyone.

Mary Ann Caws ’56 MA published three books in 2006: *Henry James: Illustrated Life* (Overlook Duckworth), *Glorious Eccentrics: Modernist Women Painting and Writing* (Palgrave Macmillan), *Surprised in Translation* (Univ. of Chicago). She will be marrying Dr. Boyce Bennett next fall.

Carrol F. Coates ’64 PhD published “A Fictive History of Côte d’Ivoire: Kourouma and ‘Fouphouai,’” *Research In African Literatures* 38:2 (Summer 2007).

Erica M. Eisinger ’72 PhD, University of Wisconsin J.D. 1982, teaches at Wayne State University Law School. In Spring 2006, she was a visiting faculty member at the Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid in Maastricht, the Netherlands, where she taught a course on Civil Rights Litigation in the United States.

Irene Finel-Honigman ’73 PhD says, “Since my return to New York in 2001 after serving in the Clinton Administration, I continue teaching at Columbia University as Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at SIPA (School of International and Public Affairs), lecturing and writing on US-EU and especially US-French political, financial and cultural issues. I am presently writing a book: *A Cultural History of Finance* (to appear, Routledge, 2009). I would be very interested to hear from colleagues working on matters related to French art and commerce.” My daughter Ana is reading for her DPhil in History of Art at Oxford University and is Senior London editor for the Saatchi web site as well as contributor to numerous art publications.

Julia Frey ’77 PhD writes, “For the first time in my life I’m writing a book that has nothing to do with French. It comes from the diary I kept living at Ground Zero in the months following 9/11/2001. My husband, a professor of geophysics at Princeton, has accepted a job at the Université de Nice, Sophia-Antipolis, beginning January 2008. We’re looking for a place to live, if anybody knows of one. We leave the United States in December, and will divide our time between Paris and the Midi.”

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Rhonda Garelick '91 PhD writes, "My book, *Electric Salome: Loie Fuller's Performance of Modernism*, is being published this August by Princeton University Press – essentially, it uses the work of American dancer, inventor, and film maker (likely the world's 'first' woman film maker), Loie Fuller, to argue for the centrality of dance to all of modernist studies."

Andrea Goulet '99 PhD is an associate professor of French and faculty affiliate at the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign. Her book, *Optiques: the Science of the Eye and the Birth of French Fiction*, came out in June 2006 with the University of Pennsylvania Press and she has co-edited with Susanna Lee '99 PhD (French) a special issue of *Yale French Studies* on "Crime Fictions." She is currently working on a second book to be titled "Mapping Murder: Geographies of Violence in Modern French Crime Fiction." She and her husband Jed Esty live in Champaign with their two children, ages 7 and 4.

Ross Guberman '96 MA has been busy running his company, Legal Writing Pro,

which provides writing training for lawyers in major law firms in the United States and around the world. In August, he will spend a month in Europe with his wife and two children (ages 4 and 6).

Gaston Hall '59 PhD writes that his translation of *Sir Politic Would-be*, a comedy mostly by La Fontaine's contemporary, Saint-Evremond, was published with the French text in November 2006 in the *Plays, Poems, and Miscellaneous Writings associated with George Villiers, Second Duke of Buckingham*, ed. in two volumes by Robert D. Hume and Harold Love.

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IN MEMORIAM: ALUMNI

Frank Paul Bowman, '52 MA, '55 PhD, died on November 14, 2006, at the age of 79. For 30 years a faculty member of the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Pennsylvania, he had won Penn's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. He wrote extensively on French religious culture in the romantic period and was made an *Officier des Palmes Académiques* for his outstanding contribution to French studies. Bowman never learned to drive, didn't like to fly, but traveled extensively by train and ocean liner. He attended Yale's 2003 French Alumni Conference.

Robert L. Dawson '72 PhD, died in Paris on June 4, 2007, at the age of 63. He was a professor of French and Italian at the University of Texas at Austin for 32 years. An internationally respected authority on 18th century French literature, culture and bibliography, he also enjoyed teaching all levels of French language. A prolific writer with a passion for antique and rare books, he had been awarded a research fellowship for his work in progress on French and British booktrading during the 18th century. (See *Reno* entry in *Alumni News*.)

Robert F. DelVecchio '52 Grd, died on February 3, 2007, at the age of 81. Fluent in eleven languages and a Fulbright scholar, he had taught at Yale and Williams before becoming Director of Medical Education for Sandoz Pharmaceuticals (now Novartis).

Richard B. Donovan, C.S.B. '56 PhD, died on July 11, 2007, at the age of 84. He attended graduate school as an ordained Roman Catholic priest. After

receiving his PhD, Father Donovan was appointed to the faculty of the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, where he had been an undergraduate. He taught French there for 30 years and was admired as an inspirational teacher and scholar. While serving as superior at Lake Simco, a summer retreat for the Basilian Fathers, he managed to do "a bit of fishing," which was much appreciated by the retreat's hungry guests.

Stanford Luce, Jr. '48 MA, '53 PhD, died on March 26, 2007, at the age of 84. Drafted into the US Army during his sophomore year at Dartmouth, he served in Europe until his discharge in 1946. After completing his BA he pursued graduate study at Yale. He was a faculty member of Miami University, from 1952 to 1988. A specialist on the works of accused Nazi collaborator Louis Ferdinand Celine, during his retirement Luce translated and published three novels of Jules Verne. A long-time political activist in the community of Oxford, Ohio, he was named its citizen of the year in 1992.

Howard M. Preston '43 BA, '48 MA, died on March 5, 2007, at the age of 86. He served as a communications officer in the US Navy during both WWII and the Korean War. In the intervening years he returned to Yale to study French literature and then to teach French and Spanish at Randolph-Macon College. He resumed teaching French, first at Wilton High and then at Hopkins, where he coached the debate team to 11 regional victories. After earning a second master's degree, he also taught

US history. In retirement he and his wife enjoyed traveling back roads in an RV.

Alex Szogyi '54 MA, '59 PhD, died on April 23, 2007, at the age of 77. He taught at many universities during his long academic career and served as chair of Hunter College's Romance Language Department from 1970 to 1977. An expert in seventeenth century French literature, he was also a novelist, a food critic, a graphologist and an astrologer. He wrote a book on the pleasures of chocolate, cofounded the APA Repertory Theater, acted in the French film, "Balzac," and translated every one of Chekhov's plays from Russian to English.

Charles G. Whiting '43 BA, '51 PhD, died on October 23, 2006, at the age of 84. He was a professor of French literature at Northwestern University from 1963 to 1993.

Richard Colt Williamson '66 BA, '67 MAT, died on June 19, 2007, at the age of 62. He and his wife were en route to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in bicycling events at the National Senior Games. He was Dana Professor Emeritus of French at Bates College. During his 30 years at Bates, he taught all levels of French language and literature, chaired the department for 17 years, and coached the men's hockey team for 10. He was named outstanding teacher of French in Maine and *Chevalier* in the *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*. A former captain of the Yale hockey team, he still holds the Yale record for most points for a first-year defenseman. (See *Rice-DeFosse* entry in *Alumni News*.)

Dorothy Kelly '80 PhD is Professor of French at Boston University. She will publish her next book, *Reconstructing Woman: Fiction and Reality in Nineteenth-Century French Narrative*, in the renewed Penn State Romance Studies Series. Publication is scheduled for November 2007, and it will be available in print and electronic formats.

John W. Kneller '50 PhD is Commandeur, Palmes Académiques, 1999; President Emeritus, Brooklyn College; Professor of French Emeritus, Graduate Center, CUNY; General Editor, *Henri Peyre: His Life in Letters*, Yale UP, 2005; Member of the Steering Committee of the Henri Peyre Institute of the CUNY Graduate Center. He continues to play acoustic bass in a small combo and works out regularly at the Southport Racquet Club.

Erec R. Koch '88 PhD writes, "Two noteworthy developments: beginning this academic year I will be head and professor of French, Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, joining fellow Yale French PhD and colleague Ed Champion. My new book, *The Aesthetic Body: Sensibility, Passion, and Corporeality in Seventeenth-Century France*, University of Delaware Press will come out early next year."

Deborah Lesko Baker '82 PhD is Professor of French at Georgetown University, where

she has been the Chair of the French Department since 1997. In 2006, she edited and co-translated the first critical bilingual edition of Louise Labé's *Complete Poetry and Prose*, published by the University of Chicago Press. She was recently named a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* by the French Government. She lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, Peter Baker, a Professor of English and Cultural Studies at Towson University.

Philip Lewis '69 PhD is vice-president of the Liberal Arts Colleges Program of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Alexandre Limoges '06 PhD is currently teaching a class at Concordia University in the in the "Département d'Etudes Françaises". The class is "Traduction générale II". In September, he will be returning full-time at John Abbott College also in Montreal as a Literature professor.

Marie-Rose Logan '74 PhD writes, "My critical edition with introduction and notes of Balzac's *Lost Illusions* appeared in the Barnes & Noble Classics Series in April 2007. In a different vein I had the opportunity to spend a week in Algiers as a guest of the Ministère Algérien de la Culture. While in Algeria I also participated in a colloquium on Sufism with a paper on the thirteenth-century scholar, Sidi Taouti. The paper will be published in the Acts of the Colloquium. It was a fabulous experience. I continue to

be General Editor of *Annals of Scholarship*. Our new issue on Imagination, Influence & Modernity just came out. I'm enjoying tremendously my position as Professor of European & Comparative Literature as Soka University [in Southern California].

Yuliy Masinovsky '02 MPhil writes, "I was recently promoted to agent in the book department at United Talent Agency, one of Hollywood's leading talent agencies (some of our clients include the Coen Brothers, Johnny Depp, Charlie Kaufman, Wes Anderson, etc). I will be representing novelists, screenwriters and directors both in the States and abroad. If there's anyone in the department who wishes to explore the world of cinema or has questions about the publishing world, I'd be more than happy to speak to him or her." He adds that he finds that the strong preparation that the department gave him has served him well in his professional life thus far, and that the Yale degree in literature remains a valuable commodity in the creative community.

Mario Maurin '51 PhD writes regarding the publication of *Henry Peyre: a Life in Letters*: "Jack Kneller, with Georges May and Mary Ann Caws persuaded Yale UP to publish the volume, compiled the index and edited the introduction. I conceived the project and carried it out over many years, finding, collecting and transcribing HP's correspondence, editing it when necessary."

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Yale French Studies Update

I am pleased to announce that the first lecture sponsored by Yale French Studies will be held in the Fall of 2007. Our speaker will be Bettina Lerner '97 BA, '04 PhD, an alumna of the Yale French Department. The lecture follows the publication of her volume, co-edited with Dan Edelstein of Stanford University, on "Myth and Modernity" that appeared in the Spring of 2007. Dr. Lerner, who is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at the City College of New York, will first host a lunch-time informal session for Department graduate students about the nitty-gritty of what is involved in editing a volume of critical essays; then, in the afternoon, she will give a paper to faculty and grad students on her current research. The topic of her talk will be: "Michelet and the Invention of Popular Culture." Please consult the French Department website for the date and time of Professor Lerner's lecture, and join us for this very special event if you are in the New Haven area.

The Yale French Studies website is currently undergoing some "renovations," but by the time you receive this newsletter, it should be up and running again, and you will be able to consult it for news of recent and upcoming volumes. — **Alyson Waters**

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Your comments, suggestions and news are most welcome!

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Julia McNamara '80 PhD continues as president of Albertus Magnus College.

Matilde Mésavage '79 PhD sends news of her recent publications: "Au-delà du temps chronologique: la temporalité dans *Tu arrêtes le temps* d'Olga Boutenko" in *Fréquences francophones*, Sofia, Bulgarie, N° 7/ 2006; "Souâd Guellouz et la genèse d'une œuvre", Ottawa, Canada. Conseil International d'Études Francophones, June 2005, in *Nouvelles Études Francophones*, Vol. 21 no 1 Printemps 2006; "Espace, temps et création dans l'œuvre d'Olga Boutenko", Québec. American Council for Québec Studies, November 2004 in *Francographies* N° 13, 2004-2005. She adds, "Further, I shall be chairing the session entitled 'Écritures maghrébines' for the Conseil International d'Études Francophones to be held in Cayenne, La Guyane, July 1-9, 2007. Last week I returned from the Baltic countries and may have discovered some relatives in Lithuania, a very exciting prospect. Since they speak no English, I am delighted that there is some possibility of communication in Russian which I have been studying since my trip with the Yale Alumni Association in 1999. In September, I shall begin my second year of Japanese study."

Mária Minich Brewer '77 PhD writes "I continue to be a faculty member in French at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Recently, I have published in *La Revue des Lettres Modernes* and the *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*. My current work analyzes crises of common measure in modernity and theaters of encounter in contemporary dramaturgy in France. In another area of research, I am working on the invention and symbolic status of childhood in literature, culture, and critical thought. Daniel Brewer and I are editors of *L'Esprit Créateur*, a journal devoted to French and Francophone Studies, and have been named *Chevaliers* in the *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*. In personal news, our older son has married and our younger son is heading off to college."

Jane Moss '76 PhD, Robert E. Diamond Professor of French and Women's Studies at Colby College, has accepted a position at Duke University. For the next two years, she will teach at Colby in the fall and Duke in the Spring. At Duke, she will be visiting professor and co-director of the Canadian Studies Program.

Jacqueline Paskow '83 PhD writes "I retired in 2005 from St. Mary's College of Maryland in southern Maryland after teaching French and German there since 1981. Before that I had taught at Deep Springs College in California and at Haverford College. During 2005-6 I returned to teach American Literature at the University of Constance in Southern Germany, as I had done on all of my sabbatical leaves during the last three decades. During the past fall semester my husband, Alan, and I inaugurated for St. Mary's College a study abroad program in Alba, northern Italy, which gave me the opportunity to return to the Italian studies that I began in the 1960s as a graduate student at Yale. Having returned to southern Maryland this past February to begin this thing called "retirement," I am now cultivating a garden, doing some experimental writing, and savoring for the first time in my adult life an existence with no deadlines—so far. I recently saw **Eve Katz** '66 PhD (French) at a Jonathan Spence lecture given in Washington for Yale Graduate School alumni."

Christine Reno '72 PhD will be directing the Vassar-Wesleyan Program in Paris next year and continuing work on a four-year research project headed by James C. Laidlaw of the University of Edinburgh and funded by the British Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project involves the study of the last and most elaborate manuscript of Christine de Pizan's collected works that the author prepared and presented to the French queen Isabeau of Bavaria ca. 1414. She writes, "I have a sad piece of news that has perhaps already been reported: the death of Bob Dawson ('72 PhD, Prof. of French at the University of Texas at Austin) in Paris on June 3 of this year. (He died a few days after suffering a brain hemorrhage.) An eminent scholar of the 18th-century book trade and a world-class friend known for his generosity and joie de vivre, Bob will be deeply missed by a wide circle of people." (*See In Memoriam.*)

Mary Rice-DeFosse '84 PhD, professor of French at Bates College, sends this sad announcement, "I write to inform you of the decease of an alumnus of the department, but not the graduate program, my colleague Richard Colt Williamson '66 BA, '67 MAT, Professor Emeritus of Bates College, who before his retirement was Charles Dana Professor of French here, as well as an active member of our profession and who held

many leadership roles (MLA, ADFL, AATF, Northeast Conference, Advanced Placement Exam, Palmes Académiques—Chair of several). He was a fine representative of the department and of Yale, and I'm certain many grads knew him because of his enormous presence." (*See In Memoriam.*)

William Roberts '55 PhD says that he "has been so busy—or else things take much longer than they used to" that he hasn't sent any information since 2004. Since then he has published an article on poetry and architecture, "Saint-Amant, Holland House, and the Queen of England" (*Analecta Husserliana*, 2004; on 17th C. engravings, "Perelle's Topographical Albums: Problems and Solutions" (*Actes de Portland*, 2006); and "Perelle's *Plus beaux endroits de Versailles*" (*Cahiers du 17e* 2004); and on the 17th C., "North American Theses 2003-04" (*PFSCS* 2005). Last year he presented a paper, "Political Symbolism in the Porte St. Antoine," at the Phenomenology Conference at Harvard. As Bibliographer of NASSCFL he annually edits "Research in Progress" in *French 17*. He hopes to get back to Yale for the SE17 Conference in 2007.

Philip Stewart '67 PhD writes, "Since Prévost's *Le Philosophe anglais* (Desjonquères, 2003) was on the programme de l'agrégation this year, there were numerous colloquia and journées d'étude on the subject. On short order, I produced for Atlante (with Stéphanie Genand pour la partie linguistique): "*Cleveland*" d'Antoine Prévost d'Exiles (coll. "Clefs Concours"), 2006."

Richard Watts '98 PhD was appointed executive director of the Center for International Studies at Tulane University in July 2006. His latest article is "Contested Sources: Water as Commodity/Sign in the French Caribbean." *Atlantic Studies*. Vol. 4, no. 1 (April 2007).

Caroline Weber '98 PhD writes that her latest book, *Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore To The Revolution* (Henry Holt, 2006), will appear in a Picador paperback edition in October. This work was named one of the best books of the year by the New York Times Book Review, the Washington Post Book World, and Borders. Carrie recently received tenure at Barnard College, Columbia University, where she teaches in the French and Comparative Literature programs.

