

Yale Department of French

Fall 2011

Greetings from the Chair —

The 2010-2011 academic year saw an initiative led by Sterling Professor of French **Howard Bloch** for the formation of a “French Graduate Working Group,” which met regularly throughout the year. Borrowing the model of the “Lab Groups” found in the science departments, the French Working Group brought interested faculty and graduate students together in an informal discussion forum. The topics dealt with ranged from overviews of new developments in our individual research areas, the shape of on-going individual research projects, the implication for our fields of various digital initiatives both at Yale and elsewhere, reports on professional meetings, and discussion of seminal publications in the field. Entirely voluntary, the Working Group, with its effect on the department’s *esprit de corps*, has made it a model visited and copied by graduate students from a number of other humanities departments.



During 2011-2012 the department will be sponsoring the new Visiting Faculty Initiative developed by **Alice Kaplan**. Intended to bring to Yale eminent Francophone scholars for two-week visits, this initiative will allow our department to establish frequent interactions and extensive links with university colleagues from France and other francophone countries. These visits will be of particular benefit to our graduate students, who, thanks to the introduction to new subjects and perspectives these visitors will bring with them, will have the opportunity to develop career-enhancing research relations and contacts. The pilot visit for this program will take place in April of 2012 with visits by Professors Nancy Green, Directrice d’études in History at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, and Pierre Bouvier, a research fellow at the Laboratoire d’anthropologie des institutions et des organisations sociales and emeritus professor at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre.

President Levin has recently appointed **Maurie Samuels** as the Director of the newly constituted Yale Program for the Study of Anti-Semitism, an interdisciplinary initiative that will serve as a point of focus for the efforts of colleagues from many different departments at Yale, as well as for invited specialists from other institutions. The Program will be housed within the Whitney Humanities Center.



Maurie Samuels with Peter Brooks at the NCFS Colloquium.

The fall semester brought two major events involving the department. On October 14 and 15, under the careful direction of Maurie Samuels, Yale hosted the 36th annual meeting of the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium. Organized around the theme “Theories and Methods,” a large number of Yale faculty and graduate students (present and past) participated in this event (see description on page 6) both as presenters and as helpers for the panels held at the New Haven Omni Hotel. Our own finishing PhD student, **Anne Linton**, was the co-winner of this year’s Naomi Schor Memorial Award, delivered for the best paper presented at the Colloquium.

Later in October, on October 29-31, the department participated in a three-day gala reunion organized by the Yale University Press to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the publication of *French in Action*, the multimedia French



“Mireille” and “Robert” with Pierre Capretz at the FiA Reunion

language course developed here at Yale and long a staple on Public Television. The event opened with a fascinating “then and now” talk, which brought together graduate students who used *French in Action* from its earliest days (represented by **Barry Lydgate**, ’75 PhD) to recent times (**John Lytle**, ’07 PhD). Also on hand were numerous current undergraduates who discovered FiA this year, as well as various key figures in the production of the PBS series. High points of the event were the panels moderated by **Brian Reilly**, ’08 PhD: a Q&A session that brought together **Pierre Capretz**, **Valérie Allain** (Mireille) and **Charles Meyer** (Robert), and a discussion devoted to “Teaching and Learning with *French in Action* in 2010” with **Ruth Koizim**. Everyone was delighted by an improvised performance by the actors who portrayed Mireille and Robert staging their meeting by chance at Yale 25 years after their adventures in Paris. Things came to a close with a provocative presentation entitled “Is *French in Action* a Cult?” To mark this milestone, **President Richard Levin** issued a Presidential Commendation to Pierre Capretz. It read: “The President and Fellows of Yale University salute our extraordinary colleague Pierre Jean Capretz for fifty years of distinguished service to the University and in recognition of his innovative contributions to language teaching worldwide

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on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the *French in Action* program." The program for this event, as well as pictures, can be found at the website <http://fiareunion.wordpress.com/>.

The life of the department was also enriched by two new endeavors led by our graduate students. Second-year PhD student **Elizabeth Hebbard** organized a series of *Soirées Cinéphiles* devoted to the screening of recent Francophone films. First-year student **Nathalie Batrville** initiated a joint French and Comparative Literature poetry reading group called "Coffee+Poésie." This spring was also marked by the publication of the second novel by first-year graduate student **Benjamin Hoffmann**: *Père et fils* (Éditions Gallimard).

The working library in the department's James T. King Graduate Reading Room grew richer thanks to substantial purchases of volumes in the Gallimard Pléiade collection made possible by the Jacques Ehrman Memorial Book Fund. Our holdings in the nineteenth-century were also augmented by a generous gift of books from **Joseph Lowin**, '69 PhD, which included a number of rare editions of works by Théophile Gautier.

An unusually large number of colleagues were on research leaves this past year. **Chris Miller** was able to devote the fall semester entirely to his research work, while **Alice Kaplan** and **Ned Duval** were on leave in the spring semester. **Yue Zhuo** was the first of our assistant professors to profit from the newly-structured Morse Fellowships by being able to spend the entire academic year in Paris working on her research.

This year brought the first full year of teaching by our new junior colleague, **Chris Semk**. In the fall semester, Chris's teaching included a much-appreciated undergraduate seminar on seventeenth-century literature titled "Courtiers, Conspirators and Con Artists." During the spring semester he led a seminar on "Theater Controversies" in seventeenth-century France and also taught in the Directed Studies Program. On the other side of the ledger, this year brought the retirement of **Ora Avni** after having



Elizabeth Hebbard



Nathalie Batrville

taught at Yale for 25 years. The conclusion of her last two classes at Yale during the fall semester was marked by a *vin d'honneur* held in the department on December 2. This bittersweet event superbly organized by **Chris Miller** was marked by his thank you to the many colleagues and students who contributed in Ora's name to the Haiti Relief Fund. The event was attended by a number of Ora's present and former students as well as by her husband, Professor Emeritus Josué Harari of Emory University. This spring was also marked by the departure from the department of Lector **Katrien Wynant** who will be accompanying her husband in their permanent move to France. Senior Lectors **Matuke Ngame** and **Soumia Koundi** were reviewed and reappointed this past year.

Once again the department sponsored a rich array of lectures and cultural events. Among our visitors were Julia Prest of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland; Francis Yaiche of the Université René Descartes Paris V; James Austin of Connecticut College, who was invited for the Yale French Studies lecture; Patrick Weil of the CNRS, who gave the Naomi Schor Memorial Lecture; Jacob Soll of Rutgers University; Joanna Stalnaker of Columbia University; Dorian Bell of the University of California, Santa Cruz; Alain Mabanckou of UCLA; Mamadou Diawara of the Johan Wolfgang Goethe University; and Mireille Rosello of the University of Amsterdam.

For the fourth successive year the Kenneth Cornell Memorial Fund made it possible for the department to provide financial assistance for study and research carried out by our students in French-speaking countries. Due to the severe budget cuts of the last two years, the department was unable to use Cornell Funds to provide assistance for undergraduate language study during the summer months. Instead, all of the monies available this year (approximately \$9000) were used either to fund research projects for undergraduate majors working on their senior theses or to finance the study and research of those of our graduate students spending the year in Paris through our exchange program with the École Normale Supérieure.

On a sad note, **Liliane Grene** passed away on December 24, 2010 at the age of 82. Many of us remember Liliane either from her time here as a PhD student, with the degree completed in 1969, or from the decades after, when she served as Managing Director of *Yale French Studies*, a position she left in 1994 while continuing until the recent past to grace our lectures and social events.

Let me once again express my heartfelt thanks to the many people whose devoted work and firm sense of our academic mission were particularly important for the smooth functioning of the department this past year: to **Maurie Samuels**, who once again provided superb guidance for the graduate program as DGS; to **Ned Duval**, who continued his work as DUS during the fall semester while also chairing our (alas unsuccessful) search for a Language Program Director; to **Edwige Tamalet Talbayev**, who



Edwige Tamalet Talbayev with guest speaker Mireille Rosello



Ora Avni with her husband Josué Harari and Ronnie Scharfman at her retirement party.

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served during the spring semester as Acting DUS while Ned was on leave; to the four exchange students from the *École Normale Supérieure*, who enriched our teaching program — **Marie-Nil Chounet**, **Jean-Baptiste Frossard**, **François Gérardin**, and **Romain Enriquez**; to **Annie De Saussure** and **Dustin Hooten**, who served so ably as co-chairs of the Graduate Association of French Students; to **Agnès Bolton** and **Brenda Crocker** for their countless contributions to the seamless everyday functioning of the department in its many activities.

I would like to close this report by expressing the sincere thanks of the entire department — students as well as faculty — to those loyal alumni and friends who have generously provided financial support in the form of gifts to the department. Never have these gifts been more keenly appreciated. The administration has drastically cut back its support for the department. It has forced us, whenever the terms of an endowment allow it, to use those funds to meet normal and recurring expenses, which in the past were covered by the central budget. Because, for instance, the Henri Peyre fund has been re-purposed to other uses, our exchange program with the ENS can now only be financed by entirely consuming (and more) the recent Kenneth Cornell Memorial Fund, and we can no longer fund undergraduate language study abroad. These changes mean that the department now runs an annual deficit with income from endowment and gifts meeting barely half of our normal expenses. As a result, the cushion of accumulated endowment income from past years must make up the difference — and that cushion is all



Left to right: “Normaliens” Jean-Baptiste Frossard, Romain Enriquez, Marie-Nil Chounet, and François Gérardin, the four exchange students from the *École Normale Supérieure*

too rapidly disappearing. It is only thanks to your generous help that we will be able to continue our graduate exchange program, to invite prospective graduate students to campus, to fund travel by graduate students giving professional presentations, and to defray the expenses of finishing graduate students seeking employment at the annual MLA Convention. All of these worthy endeavors now depend more directly than ever on your generosity.

— **Thomas Kavanagh**

Faculty News —

Kathleen Burton gave a presentation on November 23, 2010 on her book, *Nazisme comme religion, quatre théologiens déchiffrent le code religieux nazi (1932-1945)* at a conference on “Germany: Its Culture and Identity” at the Université de Sherbrooke, Longueuil Campus, Montréal, Canada.

Diane Charney’s article, “Another look at the 2010 ARCA Conference on the Study of Art Crime: Something for Everyone!” which appears in the summer issue of the *Journal of Art Crime*, uses Romain Gary’s “Le Faux” as a lens through which to review the 2010 conference of l’Association pour la Recherche sur les Crimes contre L’art. Gary’s multi-layered, intriguing story, for many years a staple in our French 151 classes, has unexpected relevancy for students of art crime. Diane is currently working on Denon, reviewing *The Discovery of Egypt: Vivant Denon’s Travels with Napoleon’s Army* by Terence M. Russell, and Denon’s own *No Tomorrow* translated by Lydia Davis, with an introduction by Peter Brooks. Brooks begins his introduction by stating that “*No Tomorrow* may be the most stylish erotic tale ever written.” According to Catherine Cusset, “this brief story of a one-night seduction captures the essence of the art and spirit of the eighteenth century.”

In the fall **Ned Duval** served his last term as DUS, taught a new undergraduate course on religion and literature in the Renaissance and a new graduate seminar on Montaigne and d’Aubigné, delivered two papers at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference in Montréal. While on leave in the spring he made progress on

his book on lyric genres and musical forms in the Renaissance. He spent the summer in Avignon, teaching a graduate seminar at Bryn Mawr’s Institut d’Etudes Françaises.

Marie-Hélène Girard has recently published a new French edition of Théophile Gautier’s *Musée du Louvre*, at Citadelles & Mazenod. She has also curated the first critical edition of Gautier’s *Les Beaux-Arts en Europe*, which will be released by the Éditions Honoré Champion at the end of October.

Alice Kaplan taught two undergraduate courses in fall 2010: a gateway course in French on “National Identity” and a Literature/Humanities seminar on “The Literary Analysis of Trials.” During a spring 2011 leave, she completed her new book, *Dreaming in French: the Paris Years of Jacqueline Bowvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis*, to be published by the University of Chicago Press in spring 2012. She translated Roger Grenier’s *Dans le secret d’une photo* for Chicago and began work on a new American edition of Camus’s *Chroniques algériennes*. Summer found her reading for her work as panel chair for the 2011 National Book Award in non-fiction. In fall 2011 she’ll be teaching a graduate seminar, “National Identity: Theories, Polemics, Foundational Texts” as well as an undergraduate lecture course with Maurice Samuels on the Modern French Novel. She has enjoyed recent get togethers with many Yale friends from the 1980s: Dottie Kelly, Monique Middleton, Clay Howe, Janet Beizer, Martine Reid, and Laurence Frablot.

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Thomas M. Kavanagh was honored to deliver the plenary Clifford Lecture at this year's annual three-day convention of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies held in Vancouver, Canada. His subject was "Brillat-Savarin and Post-Revolutionary Pleasure," a part of his current research on the literature and culture of post-revolutionary civility.

Chris Miller, on leave in the fall of 2010, co-authored with his partner Chris Rivers an article on the writer René Maran and the boxer Battling Siki. *René Maran, Battling Siki and the Triumph of the Black Man in France, 1922* is forthcoming in *Contemporary French Civilization*. The French translation of *The French Atlantic Triangle* will be published by Editions les Perséides in 2011. The book was a finalist for the Melville Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association last fall. Chris also published a piece in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*: "Yale in Singapore: Lost in Translation" (May 1, 2011).



Chris Miller with guest speaker Alain Mabankou.

Lauren Pinzka presented a paper entitled "Beyond Freud? Psychoanalytic Theory A Century Later," at the Nineteenth Century French Studies conference as well as moderating "Insiders/Outsiders: A Literary Salon," for the Center for Independent Study. She is currently completing "Teaching Myth and Memory in *Indiana*," for the upcoming *MLA Approaches to Teaching "Indiana"*. She looks forward to presenting a talk on Gautier and Flaubert this fall at the Gautier bicentennial conference and to teaching a new course next spring entitled "The French Intellectual and America."

Maurice Samuels won the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize given by the MLA for the best book in French and Francophone studies for *Inventing the Israelite: Jewish Fiction in Nineteenth-Century France* (Stanford UP, 2009). In the fall, he hosted the 36th annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium at Yale and gave the Mytelka Memorial Lecture on Jewish Civilization at Princeton. In the spring, he co-organized a conference at the National Humanities Center on the Virtual Nineteenth Century. He is currently co-editing a *Nineteenth-Century Jewish Literature Reader*, which will feature his original translations of texts he discusses in *Inventing the Israelite*, and working on his new book on French Philosemitism. He recently became the director of the newly created Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism (YPSA), which will be housed at the Whitney Humanities Center. He is happy to continue serving as DGS of French in 2011-2012.

Christopher Semk got acquainted with Yale and New Haven. His courses included an undergraduate seminar on the theme of lying and dissimulation and a graduate seminar on theater controversies in seventeenth-century France. His article on Puget de la Serre's 17th-century tragedy about the martyrdom of Saint

Catherine appeared in the fall 2010 issue of *Dalhousie French Studies*. He presented a paper on idolatry at the 29th Annual Conference of the SE17 (Society for Interdisciplinary 17th-century French Studies) in Charlotte, NC and discussed his work on Corneille's *Polyeucte* at the Columbia University Seminar on Early Modern France. This summer he participated at a joint SSCFS-NASSCFL (Society for Seventeenth-Century French Studies-North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature) conference and spoke about "the separation of church and stage," or theater's role in the process of secularization. At Yale he spoke at a Graduate Teaching Center workshop on writing syllabi, with emphasis on the transition from graduate student to faculty member. In terms of community service, he participated in the New Haven AIDS Walk this past April and was awarded top individual fundraiser for the event.

Edwige Tamalet Talbayev developed and taught three new courses this year: Postcolonial Theory and its Literature (in English), The Algerian War and its Literature (in French), both at the undergraduate level, and a graduate seminar, Colonial Francophone Literature of the Maghreb. She completed two papers on Mediterranean performance in Malika Mokeddem's *N'Zid* and national melancholia in the contemporary Algerian novel, which she presented respectively in the Women in French/Francophone Division panel at the MLA in Los Angeles and at the Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies Conference in London. She also gave a lecture on illegal immigration in Maghrebi fiction as part of the CMES colloquium series at the MacMillan Center.



Alyson Waters and Edwige Tamalet Talbayev at Ora Avni's retirement party.

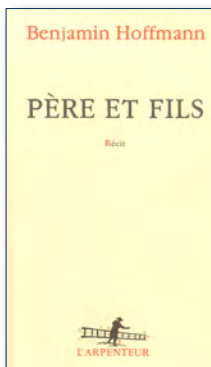
Alyson Waters was named *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Ministry of Culture in April 2011. She was also awarded a scholarship to spend three weeks in June 2011 as a translator in residence at the Banff International Literary Translators Centre in Banff, Alberta, Canada, presenting her work to an international group of writers and translators and completing her translation of Eric Chevillard's novel *Préhistoire*, to be published by Archipelago Books in the spring of 2012.

Yue Zhuo published "The 'Political' Barthes: From Theater to Idiorrhhythmy" in *French Forum* and "Bataille's Nietzsche," in *Interpreting Nietzsche: Reception and Influence* (Ed. A. Woodward). She participated in the "Blanchot: romans et récits" colloquium at Université de Paris Ouest Nanterre, held a panel and gave a paper at the annual 20th/21st century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium in San Francisco (on the theme of Human-Animal this year), and was invited to present her work at the Barthes Seminar (ITEM/CNRS) at l'ENS, co-organized by Claude Coste and Éric Marty. The rest of the time she spent writing her book on Bataille and enjoying living in Paris.

From the DGS –

This past year the graduate program welcomed a small and select group of new students: Nathalie Batraverse, who is primarily interested in poetry and Haitian literature; Colin Foss, who plans to focus on nineteenth-century literature and culture; and Benjamin Hoffmann, who wants to specialize in eighteenth-century literature and philosophy. As always, our current graduate students – under the able leadership of GAFS co-chairs Dustin Hooten and Annie De Saussure – did a great job welcoming them into the department.

Two of our students deserve our warmest congratulations for completing their dissertations this year. In the fall, Susannah Carson submitted her dissertation entitled, “Les Dangers du Roman: The Evolution of the Dangerous Novel in Early Modern France, 1667-1736.” And in the spring, Anne Linton submitted her dissertation entitled, “Prescribed Fictions: Literary and medical Representations of Hermaphroditism in Nineteenth-Century France,” which won the Marguerite Peyre Prize. Let me also single out the extraordinary achievement of Benjamin Hoffmann, whose very moving memoir of loss, entitled *Père et fils*, was published by Gallimard this spring.



Several of our students landed jobs – not easy in this extremely difficult market! Anne Linton will be a Visiting Assistant Professor next year at Boston College and Erin Tremblay Ponnou-Delaffon will be a Visiting Assistant Professor at Colby College. Congratulations and best wishes to them as they make the transition to the other side of the seminar table.

The department continued its exchange with the École Normale Supérieure. This year, we sent three of our graduate students to Paris: Jonathan Cayer, Raisa Rexer, and Maryn Santos. Both Raisa and Maryn were the recipients of the prestigious

Below: *The Yale Department of French, Fall 2011*



Left to right:
Benjamin Hoffmann,
Maurie Samuels,
and Anne Linton
celebrate a book
release and a
dissertation.

Bourse Chateaubriand, a highly competitive fellowship offered by the French Government to graduate students in all fields, which partially covered their travel and living expenses. Julia Elsky has continued the tradition by winning the Chateaubriand this year.

Other students who won fellowships include: Nathalie Batraverse (SSHRC Fellowship); Elizabeth Hebbard, Colin Foss, and Raisa Rexer (Harry Baltz and Joseph Seronde Fellowship); Kristin Graves and Maren Baudet-Lackner (Connor Scholarship Fund); Benjamin Hoffmann (Berthe Corr and James Corr Memorial Fellowship); Awendela Grantham (Robert E. Darling Fellowship); Julia Elsky (Albert G. Feuillerat Fellowship, Fox Fellowship, Claire Levilain Fellowship); and Mary Anne Lewis (John F. Enders Fellowship).

Because of university belt-tightening, we were unable to pay for travel and research trips to France with the Kenneth Cornell Fund this year, although we were able to support the project of Elizabeth Hebbard, who won a grant last year but was unable to take it. Thanks to alumni support, however, we were able to support a number of graduate students who attended conferences. These included: Jonathan Cayer, who attended a conference at Penn; Jessica DeVos, who attended the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference in Dallas; Catherine Fox, who attended conferences

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at Stanford and Berkeley, as well as a Haitian Studies conference at Brown; Liz Hebbard, who attended a conference at Indiana; Benjamin Hoffmann, who attended conferences at NYU and McGill; Dustin Hooten, who attended a conference at Brown; Annabel Kim, who attended the NeMLA convention at Rutgers; and Erin Ponnou-Delaffon, who attended the Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Conference in San Francisco. All of these students received \$1,000 each from the Alumni Fund.

In addition, several of our students participated in the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, hosted right here at Yale. Maren Baudet-Lackner delivered a paper on Balzac and natural history. Anne Linton's paper on hermaphroditism in nineteenth-century French literature was the co-winner of the Naomi Schor Prize for the best paper by a graduate student. Anne is the only person to have won this prize twice.

Mary Anne Lewis also took the initiative to co-organize, with a graduate student in the Italian Department, a panel dedicated to professionalization. Supported with funds from the Graduate School and very well attended, this panel was devoted to "Scholarly Publishing" and featured Professor Millicent Marcus (Italian), Professor Kevin Poole (Spanish), and me. We are happy to see this collaboration across the Romance Languages continue. I am also pleased to announce that Nathalie Batrville began a very successful Coffee and Poetry discussion group, which drew interested students from several different departments.

The department once again offered a wide range of graduate seminars in all periods of French literature. In the fall, these included: Old French (Bloch); French New Wave (Andrew); Montaigne et D'Aubigné (Duval); Libertins et philosophes



Left to right: *New graduate students Jennifer Brown, Ryan Max Riley, and Laura Jensen.*

(Kavanagh); Experiments in 20th-Century Fiction (Avni); Francophone Colonial Literature of the Maghreb (Tamalet-Talbayer). In the spring, these included: The Old French Fable and Fabliaux (Bloch); Theater Controversy (Semk); Modernity (Samuels); Postcolonial Theory and its Literature (Miller).

The department sponsored a festive recruitment event to welcome prospective graduate students. In addition to a campus tour, lunches with faculty and students, visits to seminars, and a panel in which faculty presented their research, the two-day event culminated in a festive dinner at Thali – which has become a department tradition. I am happy to report that we will welcome three very promising students next year: Jennifer Brown (BA, Columbia); Laura Jensen (BA, Washington University); and Ryan Riley (AB, Harvard; MA, Oxford). — **Maurie Samuels**

Yale Hosts Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium

Yale was the proud host of the 36th annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, October 14-16, 2010. Organized by Maurie Samuels, the conference drew 200 speakers and over 300 participants from around the world. Our former colleague Peter Brooks gave the keynote lecture, titled "Egotisms," to a packed house at the Whitney Humanities Center. Receptions were held at the Whitney and the Beinecke Library and the



final banquet took place at Commons. Howard Bloch presented our own Anne Linton with the Naomi Schor Prize for the best graduate student paper at the conference, a fitting end to an event that reminded everyone how central Yale has always been, and remains, to 19th century studies.

Clockwise, from right: *Larry Schehr; Alice Kaplan and Chuck Porter; Maurie Samuels and Susan Suleiman; Jacques Neefs, Dorothy Kelly '80 PhD, and Michal Ginsburg '77 PhD, Comp. Lit.; Lauren Pinzka and Marina van Zuylen; Howard Bloch.*



From the DUS –

It was my distinct pleasure to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies this spring while Ned Duval had a well-deserved semester of leave. Ned’s inspiring leadership and impressive mastery over the complexities of the undergraduate major have made the task of succeeding him both a daunting prospect and a tremendously enriching experience. I thank him for his collegial support and gracious advice throughout the term.

In 2011, five outstanding seniors graduated with a major in French: Sijia Cai, with a senior essay on time and otherness in Loti and Segalen’s works on China (directed by Marie-Hélène Girard); Natalie Kotkin, with an essay on theater production and the impact of adapted education at the École William Ponty in colonial Senegal (directed by Christopher Miller); Kwaku Osei, with an essay on the politics and literature of Cameroonian writer and statesman Ferdinand Oyono (directed by Christopher Miller); Jordan Sharpe, with an essay on remembrance and resistance in the writings of Charlotte Delbo (directed by our colleague from the History Department, John Merriman); and Isaac Wilson, with a year-long essay for the intensive major on the evolution of “Le Bal des Quat’z Arts,” the famous annual ball given by the students at the École des Beaux Arts from 1892 to 1929 (directed by Maurice Samuels). Congratulations to all five on their fine work! We particularly congratulate Sijia, Natalie, Kwaku, and Isaac who graduated with Distinction in the Major.

Each year, the Department is pleased to grant a number of awards to accomplished students across the university. The Scott Prize “for the best essay in French” was awarded this year, at the upper level, to Robert Barton ’11 (1st place) for his essay on the

figure of the Sphinx in Zola’s *La Curée* and to Gabriel Ellsworth ’11 (2nd place), for his essay on maternal figures in d’Aubigné’s *Les Misères*; and at the Gateway level, to Elizabeth Chrystal ’13 for her essay on human nature in Marguerite de Navarre’s *Heptaméron* and Montaigne’s *Essais*. The Montaigne Prize “for proficiency in speaking and writing French” was awarded to Jingying Yang ’11 (1st place), Jordan Rogers ’12 and Meng Jia Yang ’12 (2nd place *ex aequo*), and David Washer ’11 (3rd place). As well, the Department awarded three Kenneth Cornell Memorial Fund fellowships to support research in French and Francophone Studies. This year, successful proposals included studies of urbanism in postcolonial Algeria, African American intellectuals in post-World War II Paris, and collaboration and resistance in Vichy France.

This year’s course offerings at the undergraduate level spanned all periods, literary genres, and areas of the French-speaking world. In addition to language and “gateway” courses preparing students for the study of literature and culture in the language, the Department offered eight advanced courses in French literature and culture taught in French: Medieval French Literature and Culture (Bloch); Religion and Literature in the Renaissance (Duval); Courtiers, Conspirators and Con Artists (Semk); Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century (Samuels); German Occupation in Film and Fiction (Avni); The French Enlightenment (Kavanagh); Art and Literature in Modern France (Girard); and The Algerian War of Independence and its Literature (Tamalet Talbayev). In addition, three courses were offered in English: Money and the Novel (Freshman seminar; Samuels), The Two Congos (Miller), and Postcolonial Theory and its Literature (Tamalet Talbayev).

– Edwige Tamalet Talbayev

News from Alumni –



Ann Alderman ’76 PhD writes, “Still teaching French and Linguistics at Holy Names University in Oakland, CA, and chairing the Division of Arts and Humanities. I’m getting interested in the Paris Commune. If any of you are working on this topic, I’d love to hear from you.”

Diana Alstad ’71 PhD writes, “Joel Kramer and I co-authored our second book together recently – *The Passionate Mind Revisited: Expanding Personal and Social Awareness*. (Our first was *The Guru Papers: Masks of Authoritarian Power on Cultural and Mental Authoritarianism*.) They’ll be e-books later this fall. Lately we’ve been giving talks and seminars on world views, social evolution, values, relationships, and spirituality. Our new website is joeldiana.com; Joel Kramer & Diana Alstad is our Facebook Page. We still live on the coast

north of Sausalito in Bolinas, California – visitors welcome!”

Paul J. Archambault, ’63 PhD writes, “I retired as Professor Emeritus from Syracuse University in 2004, having been Full Professor of French there since 1973. From 2004 to 2006, I held the Emmanuel d’Alzon Chair of Liberal Studies at Assumption College (Worcester, MA), after which I retired to Lewisburg (PA) with my wife, Marianna Archambault, who was Professor of Modern Languages at Bucknell University from 1969 until 2002. Marianna and I are living a busy and happy retirement, much of it still active on the Bucknell campus. I continue to serve as Associate Editor of Syracuse University’s quarterly journal *Symposium*, of which I was Editor from 1987 to 1994, serving now as reader, book reviewer, and occasional contributor. I continue to research and occasionally publish as my spirit bloweth

Please share with us your latest news, personal and professional – but no CVs please! Send your contributions to Agnès Bolton, P.O. Box 208251, New Haven, CT 06520-8251, or email french.department@yale.edu.

and listeth: at present I am working on modern representations of Aeschylus’s *Oresteia* in Claudel, Robert Lowell, and T.S. Eliot. Right now my main focus is on Claudel’s translation of the trilogy, with accompanying music by Darius Milhaud.”

Jean-Vincent Blanchard ’97 PhD, Associate Professor of French Studies and Chair of the Humanities Division at Swarthmore College, announces the publication of a biography titled *Éminence: Cardinal Richelieu and the Rise of France*.

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Karin (Harman) Bohleke '96 PhD continues as the director of the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA where she is also an assistant professor of French in the Modern Languages Department. She presented a paper on "The Mutual Interplay of Dance Fashions and Fashionable Dances in the Nineteenth Century" in Boston in June. Her article "Une dame européenne qui voyage en homme: Ida Saint-Elme and Dress across Borders, Cultures and Religion" is forthcoming in the *Shippensburg Journal of Modern Languages*. She will also co-teach Nineteenth-Century Egyptomania and Orientalism for the Art Department and Honors Program at Hood College in Frederick, MD, during the fall 2011 semester. In her free time, she practices yoga and grows organic herbs, berries and vegetables in her garden.

Victor Brombert '48 BA, '53 PhD led a seminar for the American Psychoanalytic Association in January 2011 around the general theme of memoir writing and nostalgia. He is currently completing a book on survival and mortality from Tolstoy to Primo Levi.

Edmund J. Champion '76 PhD continues working as a French translator and interpreter for an agency of the federal government in Knoxville, TN.

Patrick Coleman '76 PhD writes, "I recently published a book on *Anger, Gratitude, and the Enlightenment Writer* (Oxford UP, 2011). I am also contributing a critical edition of the *Lettre à d'Alembert* to a new collected *Oeuvres et lettres* of Rousseau being published by Slatkine to mark the tricentennial of Rousseau's birth in 2012. I'm now looking forward to working on a new, more personal study of contemporary Quebec novels in French and English written about my home town of Montreal. Teaching at UCLA is still a pleasure, but the financial future of California's public universities is becoming a serious concern. Retirement may soon be a welcome prospect!"

J.R. (Ray) Dugan '67 PhD writes, "I have been retired from the Department of French Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada since 1996. In retirement I have travelled to numerous universities and art galleries in Canada and the USA lecturing

on the Bayeux Tapestry. I completed a hand-stitched replica of the famous work in 1996 and it has been shown in numerous venues – art galleries, universities for the most part – ever since."

Irene Finel-Honigman '73 PhD writes, "I am still teaching at SIPA, Columbia University, on European Banks and International Banking. I also have a contract to co-author a new book: *International Banking for a New Century* (Routledge, projected date 2013). I have also done a lot of media interviews on US-French responses to Bin Laden (Radio France Info), on the Greek crisis, French politics (Bloomberg Radio) and recently on the "DSK scandal" and impact on the IMF (WNYC, CNN, Bloomberg). I would love to hear from colleagues and friends."

Julia Frey PhD '77 (now Julia Nolet) writes "My news is that on September 11, 2011 I published *Balcony View – a 9/11 Diary*, with 25 illustrations. It's the first six months from my journal of living at Ground Zero. People can read it online at <http://juliafrey.blogspot.com/>. It's also out on Kindle, and in a few weeks the Amazon print version will be ready. My first editor at Viking, Elisabeth Sifton, once said that she thought the number of readers for any book was the total number of the author's friends x 10. If you read it (and if you like it), please tell ten friends ... and tell me! In the meantime I'm getting back to my monthly 'Amuse- Bouche' column."

Kathryn M. Grossman '73 PhD writes, "I continue to teach very cheerfully at Penn State and to promote majoring in French Studies as the department's DUS. OUP will publish my book, *The Later Novels of Victor Hugo: Variations on the Politics and Poetics of Transcendence*, next spring, and I am currently working on a major project for the 150th anniversary of *Les Misérables* in 2012. We have a two-year-old granddaughter who lives in Saratoga Springs and a new German Shepherd puppy, born on St. Patrick's Day, both of whom bring special joys to our lives. It was a huge pleasure to return to campus for the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Conference last October and to see so many Yale friends and colleagues while I was there. I look forward to being a much better correspondent once I retire – one of these days!"

Sally Hess '91 MPhil writes from Pune, India, "I am in the RIMYI month-long intensive yoga course under the tutelage of Mr. BKS Iyengar, Geeta, and Prashant Iyengar. I am publishing articles on yoga and dance and have stopped, at least for the year, teaching at Swarthmore College. *Et pourtant*, my heart is also *en France*."

Ann Ladd '73 PhD writes, "I am pretty much retired, doing a little tutoring in SATs and French, living near Boston. I enjoy getting news from the Yale Department of French."

Mary Anne Lewis '11 MPhil organized a "Future of the Fields" panel on publication in the fall 2010. The discussion included Professors Maurice Samuels, Kevin Poole, and Pennie Marcus. She published a translation of an interview between Professor Dudley Andrew and Emmanuel Burdeau (Editor in Chief of *Cahiers du Cinéma*, 2003-2009) entitled "Writing on the Screen": An Interview with Emmanuel Burdeau" in *Framework: The Journal of Cinema and Media*. She was also awarded the John F. Enders Fellowship for summer dissertation research in Paris. Finally, Mary Anne worked as Editorial Assistant for *Yale French Studies* and with Managing Editor Alyson Waters oversaw the editing and publication of "Francophone Sub-Saharan African Literature in Global Contexts," forthcoming Nov. 11. *continued on page 9*

Newsletter published annually by the Department of French.

Your comments, suggestions and news are most welcome!

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Alumni news *continued from page 8*

Vera Lee '49 MA, Prof. Emerita Boston College, was invited to speak at the Leaky Cauldron Harry Potter Convention in Orlando, July 15, 2011, on her recent book, *On the Trail of Harry Potter*, a critical analysis published by Pitapat Press. She will also speak at the Potter Watch convention at the University of North Carolina on October 1 and locally at Boston College and various bookstores. So far her book has been reviewed in the *Boston Sunday Globe* and *MetroWest* newspapers, the *Boston College Chronicle* and its online news source, *Update*.

Anne Linton '11PhD will be a Visiting Assistant Professor at Boston College starting in the fall. During her last year at Yale, she published an article in *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*, won the Naomi Schor Memorial Award, and her dissertation was awarded the Marguerite A. Peyre Prize.

Marie-Rose Logan '74 PhD published articles on Zarathustra and Philology and on "Le statut de la femme en Europe entre 1520 et 1560." She also presented a paper on Teresa of Avila and Julia Kristeva at the 2011 MLA in Los Angeles. As General Editor of *Annals of Scholarship: Art Practices and the Human Sciences in a Global Culture*, Logan brought out three volumes: *Tropologies for the 21st Century and Don Quixote's Racial Other*, volume 19 # 1, 2 & 3. She is Professor of European and Comparative Literature at Soka University in Orange County, CA

Joyce O. Lowrie '65 PhD has recently published *Sightings: Mirrors in Texts – Texts in Mirrors* (Rodopi) and a translation of Arthur Rimbaud's *Illuminations* (XLibris). She is Professor Emerita at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT,



Barry Lydgate, '75 PhD at the FiA Reunion

and occupies an office in The Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center for Retired Professors.

James Magruder '84 MA, '92 DFA is currently working on two French-related theatre projects: a new translation/adaptation of a Giraudoux play for American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, and the English-language premiere of *Der Buerger als Edelmann*, a 1917 Richard Strauss/Hugo von Hofmannsthal musical comedy version of Molière's *Bourgeois gentilhomme* that will debut at Princeton in the fall of 2012. His second novel, tentatively entitled *You've Really Learned How*, will be published in the spring of 2012 by Magnus Books.

Mario Maurin '51PhD posted on the Bryn Mawr French Department web site his original unedited preface to *Henri Peyre: His Life in Letters* to be made available to interested alumni of the department.

R. Matilde Mésavage '79 PhD continues her research and publication in Francophone literature, and has published *Surveiller et punir: stigmates des valeurs traditionnelles islamiques dans l'écriture d'une beurette* to appear at the end of 2011. She also had several articles on Francophone studies published by L'Harmattan, Paris. She presented papers in Limoges and Aix-en-Provence, France; New Orleans; and Sinaïa, Romania. She will be spending about 6 weeks in Kanazawa, Japan to continue her Japanese studies.

Armine Kotin Mortimer '74 PhD writes, "My most important news is that I will have a book on Balzac published this fall by The Ohio State UP. The title is *For Love or for Money: Balzac's Rhetorical Realism*."

Barbara Pilvin '76 MA celebrated 25 years at the Free Library of Philadelphia on August 4, 2011. She writes, "Those who haven't seen me in a long time might wonder if I'm creaking around yet... The answer is no, at least not most of the time... though I'm starting to plan for retirement. What does a reference, instruction and collection-development librarian, who specializes in languages and literature, history and genealogy, medicine and consumer-health information, and music, do after retirement? Well, I know what I have no intention of doing: fading into the sunset...so last fall I started getting



Sylvie Mathé and Pierre Capretz at the FiA Reunion

additional exercise by studying classical Hebrew, which has to be one of toughest things I've ever tackled! I have a neighbor in her early 70s who took up this language in her 40s or 50s and eventually started teaching it; she knows it's hard to start studying a language as an adult, and her own experience is one reason she's such a good teacher. It's a lot of fun even though (or perhaps because) it's so challenging! (The alphabet is the easiest part, as is the case with most languages. You just memorize a bunch of characters. Of course, it helps if you studied Yiddish as a kid and didn't forget absolutely everything.) I like to go to services sometimes, but having to rely on translations and transliterations has meant missing a lot. This fall I'll be able to follow the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at least somewhat better and enjoy them a lot more!"

Ryan Poynter '06 PhD is happy to report that he was just appointed Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs at New York University, starting in September 2011.

Michael Pretina '67 PhD writes, "After leaving Yale in 1967, I taught in the Romance Languages Department at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. In 1977 I began working at the Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France, as Associate Director and in 2005, I retired from the Foundation after having served as Executive Director for 20 years. At present I am living in Cassis."

Roddey Reid '84PhD who is vice-chair of the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego, has been working for the last five years on a new research project on the culture of public intimidation in the U.S. from a transnational perspective. He has recently published articles in *Esprit*, *Black Renaissance*, *Noire*, and *TOPIA: Canadian*

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Alumni news *continued from page 9*

Journal of Cultural Studies. A follow-up article will appear this fall in *Esprit*.

David Sices '62 PhD writes, "With my long-time colleague, Jim Atkinson, I am completing publication arrangements for a new translation of selected Essays of Montaigne and La Boétie's *Contr'un*."

Philip Stewart '67 PhD published a critical edition of Rousseau's *Rousseau juge de Jean-Jacques* with Champion Classiques as well as "Can Woman be Free?" in Christie McDonald and Stanley Hoffman's *Rousseau and Freedom*, "Critiquer la politique" in Christophe Cave's *Le Règne de la critique: L'imaginaire culturel des "Mémoires secrets,"* and "Stratégies proleptiques: l'exemple du Roman comique et du Philosophe anglais" in Marc Escola's *La Partie et le tout: La composition du roman, de l'âge baroque au tournant des Lumières*.

Dominic Thomas '96 PhD writes, "I have just completed a six-year term as department chair at UCLA and will be in Berlin in 2011-2012 as a research professor at Humboldt Universität. I also received a German-American Fulbright Commission Award to study Ethnic Diversity and National Identity in Belgium and Germany. I had the chance to work closely with Alyson Waters on *Yale French Studies* 120 (Francophone Sub-Saharan African

Literature in Global Contexts), a volume I guest-edited with the novelist Alain Mabanckou, and to which Christopher Miller contributed an article. *A Companion to Comparative Literature*, co-edited with Ali Behdad was published by Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, and a new co-written book (with historian Pascal Blanchard et al), *La France noire. Trois siècles de présences des Afriques, des Caraïbes, de l'océan Indien, et d'Océanie*, that includes over 800 images, was published by the Editions de la Découverte. I have also worked closely with the organizers of *Exhitions. L'invention Du Sauvage*, a new exhibit at the Musée du Quai Branly (that will open to the public November 29, 2011 and run until June 3, 2012), and helped co-organize a major international colloquium (January 24-25, 2012), 'Autour des Zoos Humains.'

Camelia Tumminello '01 MA writes, "I had a great year last year working as the college counselor and assistant upper school director for BASIS Scottsdale, a wonderful charter school in AZ. This year, I will be taking a leave of absence, as we welcomed our second son, Asher Cole, to our family."

Edward Baron Turk '72 PhD writes, "My new book *French Theatre Today: The View from New York, Paris, and Avignon* enjoyed



Ruth Koizim "in action" at the FiA Reunion

a Paris launch mid-June, generously hosted by the Société des auteurs et compositeurs dramatiques (SACD). My official retirement from MIT occurs on June 30, 2012. But since I will be on leave from MIT during my final semester, I've accepted an invitation to teach a seminar in the Film Division of Columbia University's School of the Arts in winter/spring 2012. My post-retirement plans include splitting much of my time between New York and Paris, continuing to write, and seeking out perhaps one course per year at universities on either side of the Atlantic. I was delighted to spend a few

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IN MEMORIAM: ALUMNI



Liliane Massarano Greene '69 PhD died in Hamden, CT on December 24, 2010 at the age of 82. Born in Salonika, Greece, she grew up in Paris, which she and her family were later forced to flee. They arrived in New York in 1941. After receiving an MA from Columbia, Liliane was one of the inaugural recipients of the Fulbright

Fellowship, which took her back to Paris for a year where she met and married her late husband Thomas McLemon Greene. They settled in New Haven where they raised three sons. Eventually Liliane completed a PhD at Yale. After serving in the French departments of Yale and Connecticut College, she became managing editor of *Yale French Studies* in 1994. She was also a founding member of the Center for Independent Study.

James F. Stephens, Jr. '54 PhD died on February 16, 2011 in Texas at the age of 88. A veteran of WWII, he served in military intelligence with work in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese. In a long and distinguished career at the University of Texas, Jim

specialized in modern French drama, and served as chair of the Department of French and Italian. He loved opera, surreal art, fine food, and wine.

Frederick Willard Moore '56 PhD died in N. Carolina on February 28, 2011 at the age of 92. A Retired Commander in the US Navy, he served in both WWII and Korea. He was a Professor Emeritus of SUNY Albany. His hobbies included a passion for golf, sailing and reading. Among his many surviving family members are Eleanor, his wife of 72 years, their four children, and numerous grandchildren.

Marguerite "Jiggs" Bryant Shannon Powell '28 Grd died on September 13, 2010 in New Jersey at the age of 104. It was while attending Yale that Jiggs met her future husband Charles, a chemical engineering student. Married for almost 60 years, Jiggs died on what would have been their 80th wedding anniversary. She was active in St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Home Garden Club, and the Reading Club in Morristown and in St. George's Botanical Garden and East End Social in St. Croix, USVI, where she wintered for over 40 years.

Alumni news *continued from page 10*

hours with Ned Duval in Avignon this summer, 'catching up' after all these years. If any of you happen to be in or near Cambridge, MA on Friday, October 21, 2011, you are welcome to attend my public lecture at 5 p.m., 'Valedictory Thoughts of an MIT Humanist,' to be followed by a swell reception."

Mary Beth Winn '74 PhD writes, "Without warning, the SUNY Albany administration announced on Oct. 1, 2010, the deactivation of the degree programs in French Studies (BA, MA, PhD), leaving only an undergraduate minor. The news prompted an international outcry that, unfortunately, remained unheeded. Although the budget crisis was given as the cause, the decision to eliminate programs in French, Russian, Italian, Classics and Theatre reflects an ongoing devaluation of the humanities and an adoption of a business model at public institutions where programs are judged not by their intellectual quality but by income generated. I began teaching at

UAlbany in 1974 right after earning my PhD at Yale and have enjoyed a rewarding career, earning University awards for research and service. It is therefore devastating to be one of the seven tenured faculty members in French told to 'retire or pursue your career elsewhere.' Since I am on sabbatical, continuing my research on late 15th-century literature, the editions of the French libraire Anthoine Vérard (d. 1512), and 16th-century chansons, I have no intention of retiring, and I will continue to protest by my presence the loss of French at SUNYA. I urge colleagues to write to the administration in support of French Studies:

George Philip, President:
presmail@uamail.albany.edu
Susan Phillips, Provost:
provost@uamail.albany.edu
Edelgard Wulfert,
Dean of Arts & Sciences:
ewulfert@uamail.albany.edu

Seth Wolitz '65 PhD is Gale Chair & Professor of Jewish Studies, and Professor of French and Slavic and Comparative Literature, at the University of Texas in Austin. His recent publications have focused on French-Jewish and Yiddish literature as well as translations of various works by Jean-Claude Grumberg. Professor Wolitz has recently lectured at conferences in Osaka, Toronto, Jerusalem, Lodz, Montreal, and Cambridge.

Eléonore M. Zimmermann '56 PhD reports that her companion of many years, Sverre Lyngstad, died on May 2 in Port Jefferson, New York. She writes, "He was a friend of many members in the department, and a frequent visitor at Yale. He was professor of English and Comparative Literature, an eminent, widely respected translator and interpreter of Norwegian literature, and in particular of the works of Knut Hamsun."



The FiA Family Reunion —



Top, l-r: Sylvie Mathé, Michèle Bonnet, Christian Siret, Valérie Allain, Charles Mayer; Bottom: Barry Lydgate, Pierre Capretz, James Boorsch.

Yale Department of French

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News from Yale French Studies —

As I write this news about *Yale French Studies*, it is mid-June. I am spending three weeks at the Banff International Translators Literary Centre working on my own translations, but *Yale French Studies* is never far from my mind. Summer is a busy time for *YFS*. When I return from the Canadian Rockies at the end of June, there will be proofs to correct for the exciting next volume (120), on “Francophone Sub-Saharan African Literature in Global Contexts,” edited by writer Alain Mabanckou and Yale French Department alumnus Dominic Thomas. It was a real pleasure to work with both of them, and a very large audience turned out to hear Professor Mabanckou when he came to speak at Yale in the spring of 2011 on “Indépendances africaines: Illusions et disillusiones.” I am confident that Volume 120 will have many readers, and hope you will be among them.

As soon as those proofs are corrected, work will continue on another volume that is bound to have a large readership. Volume 121, entitled “Two French Exceptions? Irène Némirovsky and Jonathan Littell,” is edited by Richard J. Golsan and Philip Watts. In their Editors’ Preface, Golsan and Watts explain the origin of the volume:

“The almost simultaneous publication and remarkable recent successes of two novels in France, Irène Némirovsky’s posthumous *Suite française* (2004), and Jonathan Littell’s *Les Bienveillantes* (2006) — translated [by Charlotte Mandel] as *The Kindly Ones* — serve as powerful reminders that the traumatic memory of the “Dark Years” of defeat, the Nazi occupation, the Vichy regime, and French complicity in Hitler’s Final Solution continue to fascinate and unsettle the French, more than sixty years after the Liberation. The two novels and their reception around the world have added a new chapter to our memory, interpretation, and understanding of the war and of the

Holocaust. But these works have also posed a series of questions to readers that the authors in this volume of *Yale French Studies* have attempted to answer.”

As Managing Editor of *Yale French Studies*, I am privileged to be among the first readers of the dynamic and varied scholarship being produced in our field, and privileged as well to work with wonderful Special Editors, many of whom have or have had ties to Yale’s French Department. I look forward to each volume, and hope many of you will continue to enjoy in our pages the fine work to which so many have contributed. — **Alyson Waters**

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, January 7, 2012

7:00–8:15 pm

Redwood A and B

Sheraton Seattle Hotel

1400 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA

