

Yale Department of French

Fall 2012

Greetings from the Chair —

This past year, as always, the department sponsored a rich array of lectures and cultural events, including two conferences within the department. In November, **Marie-Hélène Girard** and **Maurie Samuels** organized a bicentennial commemoration of Théophile Gautier and in February the Graduate Association of French Students convened a graduate student conference on “Ethics and Literature,” for which Professor William Calin of the University of Florida acted as the keynote speaker. Among our visitors during 2011-12 were Vincent Debaene of Columbia, Antonin Baudry of the French Cultural Services, Jeffrey Ravel of MIT, Albert Dichy of the Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine, Robert Morrissey of the University of Chicago, Patrice Nganang of SUNY-Stony Brook, **Jean-Vincent Blanchard** '97 PhD of Swarthmore, Paolo Tortonese of Paris IV, Patrick Hersant of Paris VIII, and the French author Colette Fellous.



Professor William Calin and Yale Graduate Students at the “Ethics and Literature” conference.

Senior Lecturer **Ruth Koizim** was honored last February with her promotion to the rank of *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*. Senior Lecturers **Françoise Schneider** and **Lauren Pinzka** were reviewed and reappointed this past year, as was Senior Lecturer **Maryam Sanjabi**. **Connie Sherak**, who has taught language courses with us since 2006, was promoted to Senior Lecturer. During 2012-13 **Françoise Schneider** will serve as the inaugural Language Program Director in French.

April saw the inauguration of the department's John T. King Visiting Scholars Program. From April 8th to the 22nd, Nancy Green, *directrice de recherches* in History at the Ecole 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, spent two weeks at Yale interacting with faculty and graduate students, not only from the department, but from across the university. On the 10th,

Professor Green gave a lecture on “Love or Money: Franco-American Marriage and Divorce, 1880 – 1940,” and on April 17 Professor Bouvier presented an overview of “*Les enjeux du post-colonialisme autour des figures d'Aimé Césaire et Frantz Fanon*.”

In April as well, **Alice Kaplan**'s new book, *Dreaming in French: The Paris Years of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis* was published. To mark that event, Alice was interviewed by **Maurie Samuels** during a pre-publication departmental reception in late March. Second-year graduate student **Benjamin Hoffmann** also published his third novel, *Anya Ivanovna*, this year. In May we welcomed to the department our new academic support assistant (aka registrar), **Sonia Bauguil**.

While only **Edwige Tamalet Talbayev** was on leave this past year, 2012-13 will find both **Howard Bloch** and **Chris Semk** devoting the full year to their research projects. Only half so blessed, **Maurie Samuels** and I will be on research leaves during the spring 2013 semester.

For the fifth successive year the Kenneth Cornell Memorial Fund has made it possible for the department to provide financial assistance for study and research in French-speaking countries for our students. This included short-term research projects by undergraduate French majors preparing their senior theses as well as full academic year support for those of our graduate students spending the year in Paris through our exchange program with the *École normale supérieure*.

Speaking for all the department's students and faculty, let me especially thank those loyal alumni and friends who have

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Left to right: “Normaliens” Graciane Laussucq-Dhiriart, Hubert Tardy-Joubert, Anne-Camille Plichart, and Fanny Pichon, the four exchange students from the *École Normale Supérieure*.

Chair's Message *continued from page 1*

generously donated financial support to the department. Given the still bleak budget situation, this support is most keenly appreciated. It is only thanks to your help that we have been 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.

I would like to 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, as DGS, once again provided superb guidance for the graduate program; to **Yue Zhuo**, who, as DUS, mastered all the intricacies and challenges both of coordinating our language program and of mentoring those undergraduates preparing for and completing the French major; to the four exchange students from the *École normale supérieure*, who enriched our teaching program: **Graciane Laussucq Dhiriart**, **Anne-Camille Plichart**, **Fanny Pinchon**, and **Hubert Tardy-Joubert**; to **Colin Foss** and **Benjamin Hoffmann**, who served so ably as co-chairs of the Graduate Association of French Students; and to **Agnès Bolton** for her unstinting devotion to the department and its many missions.

Fall 2012 brings the arrival of our newest junior colleague, **Thomas Connolly**. Mr. Connolly did his BA and MA at Oxford in Modern Languages. After four years at the ENS, where he completed the DEA and *Maîtrise* in Comparative Literature, and one



Thomas Connolly

year as a research fellow at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he entered the PhD program in Comparative Literature at Harvard, where he will complete his dissertation on Paul Celan this spring. Specializing in French and European poetics, his courses for next year will include a Freshman Seminar on "Poetry and the Invention of Modern Life" and an advanced seminar on *le poème en prose*.

During the fall semester, the King Visiting Scholars Program will bring to campus Pierre Birnbaum, Emeritus Professor at Paris I and Sciences-Po, for two weeks. His visit will coincide with the international conference on France and Anti-Semitism sponsored by the Yale Program for the Study of Anti-Semitism, which is directed by our own **Maurie Samuels**. This Program will also bring the eminent French historian and political scientist Henry Rousso, *directeur de recherches* at the CNRS to Yale in the fall as a visiting professor. Professor Rousso will teach both an undergraduate course, "The Holocaust in France: History and Memory," and a graduate seminar, "Judging the Holocaust: Law, History, and Politics," with both courses being taught through the History department and cross-listed in French and Judaic Studies. The department's much anticipated international conference "Beyond French: New Languages for African Diasporic Literature," organized by **Chris Miller** and **Edwige Tamalet Talbayev** will also be taking place.

Let me end this final version of my "Greetings from the Chair" with heartfelt congratulations to **Alice Kaplan** on her appointment as chair of the department. Since coming to Yale, Alice has inspired innovations and initiatives that have benefited her colleagues, our students, and the life of the department in countless ways. Alice will be a superb chair, and she will have the able assistance of **Chris Miller** as our incoming DGS and of **Edwige Tamalet Talbayev** as our incoming DUS. The future of the department is bright indeed. — **Thomas Kavanagh**

From the DUS —



is holding steady, with an increased enrollment in upper-level French classes, and our literature program is thriving and opening up to interdisciplinary approaches and to a general humanities pool of students.

In 2011-2012, six seniors successfully graduated with a major in French: **Henry Grabar Sage**, with a senior essay on the urban transformation of Algiers after independence (directed by Alice Kaplan); **Vanessa Baratta**, with an essay on the visual effects in

Le spleen de Paris of Baudelaire (directed by Maurice Samuels); **Alice Hasen**, with an essay on the complementarity of music and poetry in Verlaine's and Debussy's "melodies" (directed by Edwin Duval); **Maria Yagoda**, with an essay on the French perceptions of African Americans in a journal associated with the negritude movement, *Présence Africaine* (directed by Christopher Miller); **Jordan Rogers**, with an essay on the comparison between two black diasporic novels, McKay's *Banjo*, and Sembene's *Le Docker noir* (directed by Christopher Miller); and **Chinasa Copper**, with an essay on the question of the "self" in Camus's *L'Étranger* and *Caligula* (directed by Yue Zhuo). Congratulations to all six of our majors, and special congratulations to Henry, Vanessa, and Alice for graduating with Distinction in the Major.

The Scott Prize "for the best essay in French" was awarded this year, at the upper level, to **Vinicius Lindoso** '13, for his essay on "Nationalist" Ethnography in Mérimée and Hémon. At the gateway level it was awarded jointly to **Eleanor Michotte** '15, for her essay on Madame Bovary's "double vision" of dream and

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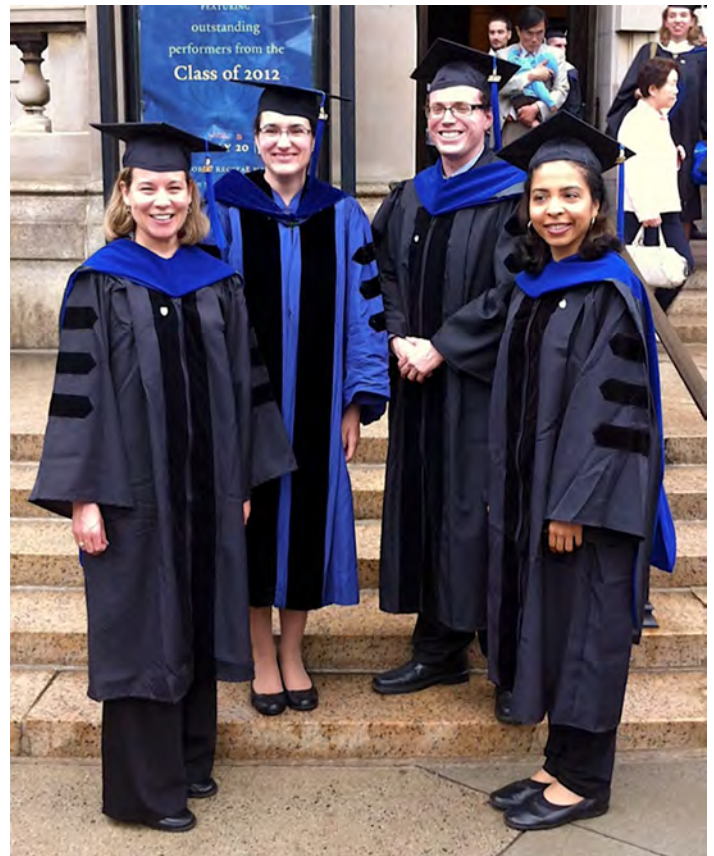
From the DGS –

The department welcomed another small but strong cohort of graduate students this past year: **Jennifer Brown**, whose main interest lies in twentieth-century literature, earned her BA at Columbia University; **Laura Jensen**, who works on nineteenth-century literature, earned her BA at Washington University; and **Ryan Riley**, who will focus on Renaissance literature and culture, earned an AB from Harvard and an MSt from Oxford. Ryan is the first student from French who will pursue a joint degree with Renaissance Studies.



We congratulate four students who received the Ph.D. this year. In the fall, **Erin Tremblay Ponnou-Delaffon** submitted her dissertation, directed by Ora Avni, entitled “The Echoes of Silence: Silence as an Ethical and Textual Problem in Contemporary French Literature.” In the spring, **Jonathan Cayer** submitted his dissertation, directed by Howard Bloch, entitled “Heroic Uncertainties: Representations of the Hero in the French Epic of the Later Middle Ages;” **Jessica DeVos** submitted her dissertation, directed by Edwin Duval, entitled “Autobiography, Authorship, and Artifice: Reconsidering Renaissance Women Poets;” and **Awendela Grantham** submitted her dissertation, directed by Christopher Miller, entitled “Messianism in French Caribbean Literature: Césaire, Roumain, Glissant, and Schwarz-

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Left to right: *Jessica DeVos, Erin Tremblay Ponnou-Delaffon, Jonathan Cayer, and Awendela Grantham.*

Below: *The Yale Department of French, Fall 2012*



From the DGS *continued from page 3*

Bart.” **Jonathan Cayer** received the Marguerite Peyre Prize in recognition of his fine work.

Jonathan will be returning to Yale next year as a postdoctoral fellow, teaching courses in the French Department and the Humanities Program. This is part of a new, competitive program that seeks to reward students who finish the PhD in a timely manner and to provide opportunities for them to broaden their teaching experience. This is especially useful in a job market that has continued to be extremely tight and we very much hope that Yale will continue the program in the future. Despite the difficult market conditions, we learned that two of our recent PhDs received tenure-track job offers: **Jeffrey Leichman** ’08 PhD will become an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University and **Anne Linton** ’11 PhD will become an Assistant Professor at San Francisco State University.

The Department continued its exchange program with the École normale supérieure, sending three students to Paris this year: **Maren Baudet-Lackner**, **Julia Elsky**, and **Chapman Wing**. Maren left after the first semester to accept a job as a project manager at a French publishing house. We wish her great success in this new endeavor.

Several of our students were awarded prestigious fellowships this year. **Benjamin Hoffmann** won a John D. and Rose H. Jackson pre-prospectus fellowship to work at the Beinecke Library. **Elizabeth Hebbard** won a Robert S. Lopez Fellowship to complete an MPhil in Medieval Studies. **Annie De Saussure** won a Summer Language Institute Fellowship, and **Mary Anne Lewis** won a John F. Enders Summer Fellowship. Although much of the money in the Cornell Fund now goes to support our students going on the ENS exchange, we were able to support **Ryan Riley** for summer language study. **Julia Elsky** had the MacMillan Center Fox Fellowship in the fall and the Chateaubriand this past spring-summer.

Thanks to generous alumni support, we were able to fund a number of students who presented papers at conferences. **Nathalie Batrville** presented at conferences at UCLA and Emory; **Jonathan Cayer** presented at Johns Hopkins University; **Annie De Saussure** presented at Brown University; **Julia Elsky** presented at the Universität des Saarlandes in Germany; **Kristin Graves** presented at conferences at Emory University, Duke University, and the Sorbonne Nouvelle; **Benjamin Hoffmann** presented at conferences at the Université de Versailles and NYU; **Annabel Kim** presented at UCLA; **Mary Anne Lewis** presented at conferences in Thessaloniki, Greece, Princeton, and NYU; **Ryan Riley** presented at Rutgers, Utica College, and UMass Amherst; and **Chapman Wing** presented at Rutgers.

The department offered an exciting array of graduate seminars in all periods. In the fall, these included: Old French (Bloch); Renaissance of the Middle Ages (Bloch); Roman et société au dix-huitième siècle (Kavanagh); Fin-de-siècle France (Samuels); and National Identity: Theories, Polemics, Foundational Texts (Kaplan). In the spring, these included: Voix de Femme/Voix d’Homme (Duval); Spectacles of Violence (Semk); Romans et récits au vingtième siècle (Zhuo); and Creole Identities and Fictions (Miller).

This year, as part of our annual recruitment event, the department held a festive dinner at a private room at the Union



Left to right: New graduate students Reena Rungoo, Sean Strader, Robyn Pront, and Catherine Chiabaut.

League restaurant in New Haven, where the waiters were pleasantly surprised to discover that all the diners spoke fluent French. Our efforts yielded four stellar new graduate students: **Catherine Chiabaut** from McGill University; **Robyn Pront** from Amherst College and the University of Burgundy; **Reena Rungoo** from Queens University; and **Sean Strader** from Ohio State University. Sean will be the first student to do the joint program in French and Film Studies. We look forward to welcoming them to New Haven in fall 2012.

I gratefully acknowledge the hard work of the GAFS co-chairs, **Colin Foss** and **Benjamin Hoffmann**, who helped make sure that everything ran smoothly this year. I am also extremely grateful for the help of **Christine Cavanaugh**, who came on loan from the Registrar’s Office to see us through a transitional period this winter, and who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything was ready for our new registrar, **Sonia Bauguil**, to take over this spring. We already recognize Sonia’s calm efficiency and smiling presence as a wonderful addition to the department. As I now step down after five years as DGS, I feel confident that **Christopher Miller** is inheriting a very tight ship. — **Maurie Samuels**

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 5, 2013

7:00–8:15 pm

309, Hynes

Hynes Convention Center

1900 Boylston Street, Boston, MA



Faculty News —

R. Howard Bloch published articles on medieval literature and the visual arts: “Frontality from Christ the Pantocrator to Napoleon Bonaparte” in *Modern Language Notes*; “From Romanesque Architecture to Romance” in a volume on New Medievalism in Honor of Stephen G. Nichols; and “Viollet-le-Duc’s ‘Republic of Architectural Art’: The Greco-Gothic Revival and the Building of Modern France,” in the architectural journal *Perspecta*. He lectured on “The Applied and Common Humanities,” at the National Conference of Academic Deans/Phi Beta Kappa in Charleston, S.C. and on the “Good Uses of the Humanities in Bad Times” at the November meeting of the American Philosophical Society. He continues as Chair of the Yale Humanities Program to teach in Directed Studies.



R. Howard Bloch

Kathleen Burton was invited on November 23, 2011 to make a presentation 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.”



Kathleen Burton

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.”



Diane Charney

Ned Duval continues to teach in the Directed Studies Program. In the fall he once again taught the first semester (Homer to Dante) of the yearlong literature course. In the hope of attracting some of the extraordinary Freshmen enrolled in this program to the Department of French, he developed and taught a new



Ned Duval

course in French specifically designed to build on the readings of D.S. Lit., but restricted to current and former students of the program. In January an article of Ned’s on Ronsard and Du Bellay (“Rival Laureates and Multiple Monuments: Collaborative Self-Crowning in France”) appeared in a volume of essays dedicated to the memory of Richard Helgerson. As Ned approaches the end of his book on Renaissance lyric (musical forms and poetic genres from the late fourteenth to the late sixteenth centuries), he is very happily reading for the next one on the “Renaissance of the *Aeneid*.”

Alice Kaplan taught a bilingual class in spring semester on Camus (lectures and sections in each language) and a seminar in French on the topic of the Second World War in French Cinema since 1943. Both classes benefited from the assistance of two brilliant teaching fellows, **Mary Anne Lewis** and **Catherine Fox**. In April, the University of Chicago Press published her *Dreaming in French: The Paris Years of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis*. In October, Gallimard will publish the French edition, *Trois Américaines à Paris*, with the translation by Patrick Hersant. For a special issue of *Critique* #781-782, “Biographies, modes d’emploi,” she contributed an article on Manning Marable’s new biography of Malcolm X (“Malcolm: né et rené sous X”). And for the new online journal www.contreligne.eu, she wrote several small pieces: “Perplexités d’une francophone francophile” (May); a review of José Muñoz’s beautiful new illustrated edition of Camus’ *L’Etranger* (June); and contributed the text of her June lecture in Algiers on Camus’ *Chroniques algériennes* (September). She enjoyed a first experience blogging this summer from Algiers and Brittany for The Best American Poetry Blog (“the news of the world, brought to you by poets”). Totally new for her was a several weeks’ residence in Algiers in June-July at Les Glycines: Centre d’Etudes Diocésain-- a wonderful opportunity to meet international scholars working on Algeria and to reflect on 50 years of Algerian independence.



Alice Kaplan

Thomas M. Kavanagh was particularly happy to see the last year of his chairmanship bring with it a successful junior search and the hiring of **Thomas Connolly**. In October he gave a lecture at New York University in the context of the Ranieri Colloquium on Ancient Studies. Organized by Professor **Jacques Lezra** ’90 PhD of NYU’s Comparative Literature department, the colloquium’s theme was “Lucretius and Modernity,” for which Kavanagh’s presentation dealt with “Epicureanism Across the Revolution.” He looks forward to being on research leave during the spring 2013 semester and moving ahead with his two research projects: one on how the Epicureanism of eighteenth-century French culture was transformed by its passage through revolution and empire, and the other on French film.



Thomas M. Kavanagh

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Faculty News *continued from page 5*

Ruth Goldfarb Koizim continues to enjoy teaching intermediate and advanced French at Yale where enrollments have been on the upswing for the past several years. She is trying not to view the presence of offspring of former students in her classes as a sign of the passage of time. Ruth has found an additional outlet for her (melo)dramatic abilities - as an actor with the Standardized Patients Program at the Yale School of Medicine. In February 2012, she was promoted to the rank of *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques (la Légion violette!)*



Ruth Koizim

Lauren Pinzka completed "Teaching Myth and Memory in *Indiana*," for the upcoming *MLA Approaches to Teaching Indiana*. Her article "Violent Fantasy in Baudelaire's Prose Poems" has been accepted for an MLA volume dedicated to the teaching of the French poet's prose poems. Last fall she presented "Playing Dress-Up: Gender as Performance in Gautier and Sand" at the Gautier bicentennial conference. She also enjoyed teaching a new course entitled "The French Intellectual and America."



Lauren Pinzka

Maurice Samuels really enjoyed co-teaching a new lecture class with Alice Kaplan on "The Modern French Novel in English Translation." He spent much of his time this year getting the new Yale Program for the Study of Anti-Semitism up and running, while also lecturing at Boston University, Vanderbilt, UCLA, Stanford, Miami University of Ohio, and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He also completed his fifth and final year as DGS of the French Department.



Maurice Samuels

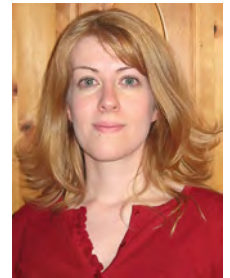
Chris Semk taught two new undergraduate courses (Twentieth-Century French theater and Seventeenth-Century French literature) as well as a graduate seminar on violence in early modern French literature. In May he gave a paper on Racine's *Andromaque* at the North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature (NASSCFL) conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, where he also indulged in a little live country music. With the generous support of a Morse Fellowship, he is on leave 2012-13. Although he will miss teaching, he "looks forward to a productive sabbatical."



Chris Semk

Edwige Tamalet Talbayev split her year of sabbatical leave between New Haven and New Orleans. Besides writing her monograph on the Mediterranean Maghreb, she co-edited a special issue of *Expressions Maghrébines*, "Le Maghreb Méditerranéen:

Littérature et Plurilinguisme," which examines diasporic North African writing in Catalan, Spanish, and Italian. This year saw the publication of two of her essays: "Berber Poetry and the Issue of Derivation: Alternate Symbolist Trajectories (in *The Oxford Handbook of Global Modernisms*, ed. Mark Wollaeger) and "Mediterranean Criss-Crossings: Exile and Wandering in Tahar Bekri" (in *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies: Sites*), a short version of which was presented at the Winthrop King Center at Florida State University last November. She was also delighted to serve as Core Member on the University-wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct. As of next Fall, she will hold a courtesy appointment in the Program of Ethnicity, Race and Migration. She looks forward to resuming her duties as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the French Department.



Edwige Talbayev



Alyson Waters

This fall, **Alyson Waters** received for the second time a *bourse aux traducteurs étrangers* from the Centre national du livre. With this grant, she will be spending three months in France working on her translation of short stories by Emmanuel Bove and researching the Bove archives held at l'IMEC. This translation will be published in 2014 by New York Review Books. She has also just been named to the Advisory Committee of the Banff International Literary Translation Centre for 2012-2015. While entering her 20th year as Managing Editor of Yale French Studies, Waters will also be teaching two translation workshop seminars in New York, one in the Masters in Literary Translation program at NYU and another in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Columbia University.



Yue Shuo

Yue Zhuo was DUS this year, the intense and rewarding experience of which allowed her not only to have a more direct contact with our undergraduate student body, but also to know the department and the university to a greater extent. She is grateful for having had this opportunity. She taught two new courses, French Theory from Sartre to Derrida, which appealed to a large number of students from various disciplines, and *Romans et récit au vingtième siècle*, a graduate seminar on the experimental forms of fiction of the twentieth century. She completed two pieces of writing, first an article on Bataille and Blanchot's life and friendship around the récit *L'Arrêt de mort*, then a review-essay on Rodolphe Gasché's new book, *The Stelliferous Fold, Toward Virtual Law of Literature's Self-Formation*. In addition, she participated in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the publication of René Girard's *Deceit, Desire, and the Novel* at Yale University (as part of a series of events at Stanford, Berlin, São Paulo, and Cambridge). For the annual 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium at Long Beach this year, she gave a paper on Clément Rosset, on the topic of relation between love and personal identities.

reality, and to **Charlotte Storch** '15, for her essay on the governing structure in Marguerite de Navarre's *Héptaméron*. The Montaigne Prize "for proficiency in speaking and writing French" was awarded to **Jordan Laris Cohen** '12 (1st place); **Vinicius Lindoso** '13 and **Christopher Murray** '13 (2nd place *ex aequo*); **Alice Hasen** '12, **Gabriel Perlman** '12, and **Elsie Sowah** '13 (3rd place *ex aequo*). The competitive Kenneth Cornell Memorial Fund fellowships were given this year to the following three outstanding students in support of their research in French and Francophone countries: **Joy Chen**, for a project on "Apollinaire, Art, and the Avant-Garde;" **Zoe Egelman**, for a project on the life and writings of Héléne Berr, the French "Anne Frank;" and **Elena Light**, for her senior thesis project on Christian Bérard, the French illustrator and fashion designer.

In addition to a wide range of high-quality language classes and to "Gateway" courses that prepare students for the study of literature and culture in the language, the Department offered thirteen advanced courses in French and Francophone literature and culture, covering a large spectrum of periods and genres: Renaissance of the Middle Ages (Bloch), Lyric Poetry of the French Renaissance (Duval), Seventeenth-Century French Literature (Semk), The French Enlightenment (Freshman seminar, Kavanagh), Introduction to World Literature in French (Miller), Art and Literature in Modern France (Girard), The Modern French Novel (Kaplan and Samuels), Camus and the Postwar Era (Kaplan),

World War II and French Cinema (Kaplan), Women's Narratives in French Literature (Sanjabi), Twentieth-Century French Theater (Semk), Francophone African and Caribbean Literature (Miller), and French Theory from Sartre to Derrida (Zhuo). Some of our courses taught in English, such as the Modern French Novel and the French Theory course, drew interest from students who do not possess the knowledge of French but who are curious about the French culture. Is it better not to read *Madame Bovary* at all if you don't know French, or is it better to read it at least in English? Such is the existential question a 21st-century French literary Hamlet-turned-scholar will have to face: to be, or not to be, that is (indeed) the question. Should the acquisition of a foreign language lie at the foundation of the learning of another culture, or should national literatures and cultures be preserved at all cost, because in whatever language, they have become things rare?

I thank **Ned Duval**, **Tom Kavanagh**, and **Edwige Tamalet** for their steady support and precious advice throughout the year; Chris Cavanaugh and **Sonia Bauguil** for their efficiency and professionalism; and **Agnès Bolton** for her daily attention and wisdom. I thank all senior lecturers from the language program, especially **Ruth Koizim** and **Françoise Schneider**, for their patience and guidance. Without them, I would have felt lost amongst the complexities of the language program planning.

— Yue Zhuo

News from Yale French Studies —

As the heat wave continues to bake us here in the northeast (I write on 5 July 2012, from Brooklyn, New York, where it is 92 degrees), it is a blessing to be able to sit in an air-conditioned library and copyedit articles for the forthcoming volume of *Yale French Studies* on Claude Lévi-Strauss, edited by Robert Doran of the University of Rochester. I am enjoying these quiet days as I read through a series of stellar articles by Jonathan Culler, Vincent Debaene, Françoise Lionnet, and Marcel Hénaff, among others, in a volume that, in the words of Doran, "commemorates, reassesses, and debates the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss, who died on October 30, 2009, at the age of 100." This volume, still in the early stages of production, will appear in the spring of 2013. I hope you will be among its readers.

In the meantime, I am in the final stages of correcting proof for YFS 122, *Out of Sight: Political Censorship of the Visual Arts in Nineteenth-Century France*, edited by Robert Justin Goldstein. Composed of articles by historians and art historians, it is a volume chock-full of wonderful examples of censored illustrations. *Yale French Studies* is lucky to have James J. Johnson for a designer, who does a beautiful job with the layout of the journal and with our cover designs. This volume will be published in Fall 2012, around the same time as this *Newsletter*.

The editorial office of *Yale French Studies*, staffed only by myself and an editorial assistant drawn from the PhD candidates in the Yale French Department, works hard with the *Yale French Studies* editorial board and Yale University Press to assure the continued relevance and quality of the journal. I would like to thank outgoing editorial assistant **Mary Anne Lewis** for her efforts,

especially in the final, very busy months of her tenure, and to welcome incoming editorial assistant **Elizabeth Hebbard**, with whom I very much look forward to working.

Hoping you all had a wonderful summer,

— Alyson Waters

Managing Editor, Yale French Studies



Alyson Waters, Donald-Nicholson Smith, and Christopher Semk.

In February, the French Department held a party in honor of Alyson Waters who remarked, "I'd like to thank the French Department for its kindness in holding this "vin d'honneur" for me in my new incarnation as a *chevalier dans l'ordre des arts et des lettres* . . . It heartens and delights me that the work of translators, who have long been laboring in the shadows, has, in the second decade of the twenty-first century, begun to be acknowledged in the halls of academia not only as the joyous creative endeavor it is, but also as the product of genuine scholarship."

News from Alumni —



Joseph Acquisto '03 PhD writes that his book *Crusoes and Other Castaways in Modern French Literature: Solitary Adventures* will be published by Univ. of Delaware Press

in fall 2012. He is currently finishing an edited volume on philosophical approaches to nineteenth-century French poetry and beginning a book on antimodernity, pessimism, and salvation in Baudelaire, Cioran, and contemporary criticism.

In July **James Austin** '03 PhD became chair of Connecticut College's French Department.

Karin J. (Harman) Bohleke '96 PhD continues to direct the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University, in which capacity she recently staged an exhibit titled *Titanic Fashions: High Style in the 1910s*, in a 1912 mansion in Hanover, PA. She authored the accompanying full-color catalog replete with original White Star Line paper ephemera as resource material. In June, Karin co-instructed the all-day workshop "Displaying Our Past" at the national symposium of the Costume Society of America in Atlanta, GA. In an unanticipated capacity during the renovation of the 1832 "Old Dorm" into the new Schmucker Museum at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Karin was called upon to date shoes that had been deliberately hidden in the walls for good luck during the 19th century. Karin has also recently assisted with major exhibit installations at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and a forthcoming exhibit at the DAR Museum in Washington, DC. In the fall, she will continue to teach French at Shippensburg University while also starting at Penn State Mont Alto.

Bruno Braunrot '70 PhD wrote that he is finally "separating himself voluntarily"—not to say "retiring"—from Georgia State University at the end of this academic year, after some fifty years in the service of our profession. Following a very short stint at Yale as a Junior Sterling Fellow in charge of an introduction to literature class, he began his teaching career at McGill University and at the University of Virginia, and then spent the last thirty-six years at Georgia State University in Atlanta. His final legacy in print is an *Anthology of 16th Century French Poetry* published two years ago in the Molière & Co. French Classics series of European Masterpieces. It should prove helpful to the

endangered species of teachers and students still interested in such things. Bruno plans to spend the rest of his time reliving his childhood and youth vicariously through his four grandchildren, and to join his wife **Christabel** (PhD '72), who had the wisdom to retire several years ago from Agnes Scott College, in "cultivating our garden, in the most literal sense of this critically over-abused expression."

Victor Brombert '48 BA, '53 PhD gave a lecture in April to the "Association des Amis de Stendhal" at the Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris, and an essay of his on Franz Kafka appeared in *The Hudson Review*.

Carrol F. Coates '64 PhD retired as of July 1, 2012, but continues to teach part-time for the immediate future. With lowered institutional duties and expectations, he has gone back to a project that germinated during his studies at Yale: the analysis of Ivan Andreyvich Krylov's BASNI (fables) in Russian and the comparison of his poetic structuration with that of La Fontaine in his *Fables*.

Catherine Cusset '91 PhD a quitté New York pour Londres avec son mari et sa fille, afin de vivre une parenthèse européenne de deux ans. Son roman *Un brillant avenir*, Prix Goncourt des Lycéens 2008, a été traduit en espagnol, italien, portugais, grec, roumain, tchèque, et plus récemment en vietnamien et taïwanais. D'autres traductions sont prévues en 2012. Son récit *New York, Journal d'un Cycle* (Mercure de France, 2009), a paru en Folio en septembre 2011. Son prochain roman, qui se passe en Inde et dont le titre n'est pas encore tout à fait décidé, paraîtra chez Gallimard en janvier 2013.

Karen L. Erickson '87 PhD writes, "I will be Chair of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages at the College of St. Benedict / St. John's University beginning July 1, 2012. Current research: *Salomé's Song and Dance* (working title for book in progress), presentations on this project include the Image Conference, Minnesota Opera Company, MMLA. Project: French folk songs in language classes (CD recorded and accompanying materials in progress). Music compositions include: *Mass of St. John the Baptist*, performed November 13, 2011, by the Colledgeville Consort, The St. John's Boys' Choir, and the St. John's Abbey Schola; *Five Shakespeare Songs* for Mezzo-Soprano, Piano, Recorder; and Three Choral Motets based on medieval texts."

Irene Finel-Honigman '73 PhD writes, "While many of my classmates are looking

toward retirement, this past year has been very active as I am one of the experts on the Euro crisis (and French politics) at SIPA, Columbia University. I have taught, lectured and provided a steady stream of media commentary on Bloomberg Radio and TV, NPR, CNN Mexico, and in the Huffington Post and French media: Le Monde, Radio France. I also have a contract to co-author a new textbook on International Banking. I would be so glad to renew contacts with friends and colleagues."

Julia Frey '77 PhD writes, "My most recent book *Balcony view - a 9/11 Diary* was a finalist for a 2012 Indie Discovery Award in the "memoir" category. This account of overlooking New York's Ground Zero on and after September 11, 2001, while caring for my terminally ill husband, novelist Ronald Sukenick, is based on my handwritten diary, now in the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. This is what fellow French Dept. PhD '78 **Katherine Kolb** wrote about it to me in an email: 'I just finished reading your powerful Diary. Your narrative of double coping—with Ron, with the aftermath and clean-up of 9/11, with the stench, the bodies, the 24/7 pace of it all, was too compelling. I had to finish.' Now I'm writing a monograph on Edouard Vuillard for Reaktion Books (UK). His beautiful paintings are much better-looking than the view from my Battery Park City windows after the Al Qaeda attacks."

Sara Gibson '06 MA writes from Sierra Leone: "I'm doing my 2L summer internship at the Access to Justice Law Centre. I'll be

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**Your comments, suggestions and
news are most welcome!**

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Alumni news *continued from page 8*

here for ten weeks working principally on projects aimed at improving women's access to justice (very exciting!). Last year, I spent my summer in Cambodia through Michigan Law's Cambodian Law and Development Scholarship, which I used to work on a project affiliated with the ECCC (the Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal). I helped to draft the Handbook on the Cambodian Criminal Procedure Code, which will be published by the UN and distributed to legal practitioners throughout Cambodia. I'd ultimately like to work in international human rights law and development, and have a particular interest in working on justice-building and rule of law projects in post-conflict societies. I graduate from law school at the University of Michigan in December of this year (can't believe it went by so fast!). This past spring, I was selected to be an Executive Editor on the Michigan Journal of International Law."

Gaston Hall '59 PhD writes, "I can't remember whether I reported last year's publication in August 2011 of another volume of my own poems in my 'Richmond House Verse' series: As the Days Draw In and/or publication in November of *Housman and Heine: A Neglected Relationship*, ed. Jeremy Bourne (Bromsgrove: The Housman Society, 2011), to which I contributed verse translations of 44 poems by Heine and others with title-page credit. Reviews are just starting to appear, e.g. in *Translation & Literature*, *The Contemporary Review*.... But I can report three little articles: "A French Antecedent of 'Bredon Hill'", Housman

Society Journal 37 (2011), together with "Celebrating the 5th of May" and "Princess Victoria, the future Napoleon III, and other Visitors to Leamington" in the souvenir program of the Leamington Music Festival Weekend 4-8 May 2012 featuring Russian & French music, during which you may be pleased to learn that I supported a concert by the Elias String Quartet (Malin Broman on violin & Simon Crawford-Philips on piano), featuring chamber music by Chausson, Franck & Fauré. (May 5th is of course the anniversary of the opening of the Estates General in 1789, the defeat of Napoleon III's army in Mexico in 1862, and of the death of Napoleon I in 1821, famously evoked by Manzoni in the "poem of the century" & commemorated in French music by Fauré and others.) I am pleased to have placed a paper for publication later this year in Montpelier in *Cahiers Elizabethains*: "Epic Antecedents of the Ghost of Hamlet's Father: Reminiscence and Allusion?"

Ed Knox '66 PhD writes "Huguette and I were very disappointed to miss the *French in Action* 25th birthday party, especially since she taught of Robert et Mireille in the summer of 1965. We continue to split our time between Middlebury and Paris. I do occasional book reviews, and last fall gave a talk at Middlebury called 'French Matters, or What Does the Strauss-Kahn Affair Tell Us?'"

Jeffrey Leichman '08 PhD writes, "In November I was a plenary presenter at the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) national convention in Montréal, QC. I also presented papers this year at the

Midwest MLA convention, as well as the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) national convention. Articles on Beaumarchais and Rousseau are forthcoming this year in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* and *L'Esprit Créateur*, respectively. I have just completed a year as a Visiting Assistant Professor at UC Irvine, following three years as a Guest Professor at Sarah Lawrence College. In the fall I will take up a new position as Assistant Professor in the Department of French Studies at Louisiana State University. Please don't hesitate to drop a line if you will be in Southern Louisiana (or just to say hello)."

Barry Lydgate '75 PhD professor of French at Wellesley College and department chair, reports that his department is recruiting for a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow position in 19th-c. and women's and gender studies. This will be a 2-year appointment, beginning in 2013-14, and he hopes to hear from interested Yale candidates who are within five years of the PhD as of July 1, 2013. In his other life, Lydgate is at work with Pierre Capretz on the 3rd edition of print materials for *French in Action*, now well into its third decade as a leading multimedia approach to teaching French language and culture.

James Magruder '84 MA, '92 DFA is teaching a theater course on translation and adaptation at Princeton in the fall, in conjunction with his world premiere English language adaptation of Hofmannsthal and Strauss' *Der Bürger als Edelmann*, itself a musical comedy version of Molière's *Bourgeois gentilhomme*.

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IN MEMORIAM: ALUMNI

Rosette Clementine Lamont '54 PhD died on January 5, 2012. A renowned theater critic and authority on Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco, she was born in Paris in 1927. Lamont was a professor of French and comparative literature in CUNY's doctoral program in theater, and later a member of the theater faculty at Sarah Lawrence. A decorated *Chevalier*, *Officier des Palmes Académiques*, *Officier des Arts et Lettres*, Lamont was also a Guggenheim Fellow, a Rockefeller Humanities Fellow, a visiting professor at the Sorbonne, and an envoy for the U.S. State Department's Scholar Exchange Program with the U.S.S.R.

Martha E. Meng '72 MPhil died at her home in Madison, CT on February 25, 2012 at the age of 68. A student of French women's literature at Yale, she later enrolled in the University of Connecticut School of Law, from which she received a Juris Doctor degree with highest honors in 1985. She spent her entire professional career with the law firm of Murtha Cullina LLP, where she specialized in healthcare

law and developed a national reputation for her expertise in this area. Martha was also a talented musician, an avid gardener and bridge player, and an active volunteer with a number of nonprofit organizations in the New Haven area.

Mireille Bernard Pillsbury '86 MPhil died on July 27, 2012 of breast cancer, at the age of 66. Born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1946, she grew up in Grenoble, France. She was studying English in London when she met her future husband, Edmund "Ted" Pillsbury, in the libraries of the University of London's Courtauld Institute of Art. They married in Grenoble, moved to America (a place Mireille had never visited), and settled in New Haven. Mireille pursued post-graduate studies in French literature at Yale. In 1980, the family left Connecticut for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. There Mireille taught French at Fort Worth Country Day School, in addition to serving on various boards related to the arts and supporting her late husband in his work as director of the Kimbell Museum of Art.

Emily Wentworth '93 MPhil

If the French Department were to award a medal for meritorious service under adverse conditions, Emily Wentworth would be a top candidate. Over the past 15 years, Emily has evaluated the Oral Production responses for every student on every test for the courses in the Fren110 – Fren140 (L1–L4) sequence at Yale. After careful calculation, we can report that she has listened to, commented on and scored over a quarter million student responses (approximately **280,500 student responses**) during this time! (This number does not include the many times she has had to listen to answers multiple times in order to rate them fairly and accurately, or indeed decipher them at all.) To cite but one specific example, Emily has listened to more than 2,250 student renditions of the first lines of “Le Pont Mirabeau”! As Emily says, “Ça coule!”



Emily’s expertise in utilizing the latest technology to improve and streamline the OP system has brought us from the not-so-good old days of audio cassettes (one per student, transported from the Language Lab to her home through rain, snow and occasional good weather in yellow plastic bins) to a new era of electronically shared audio files. She continues to amaze us with her ability to keep turn-around time to a minimum. Indeed, if there is a delay in getting back the

Oral Production results, we know that the glitch was not at Emily’s end of the process. She has also revised and refined the scoring sheets so that they provide easy-to-understand and helpful information for the students themselves. Un grand MERCI, Emily!

As if academic year efforts were not enough, Emily worked tirelessly for several weeks this summer leading a team devoted to “Capretziana” in order to sort through and preserve **Pierre Capretz’s** substantial archives that had been held at the Yale Language Development Studio on Church St., New Haven. Under the crumbling eaves of the steamy 4th floor offices, Emily and her intrepid team (**Agnès Bolton**, **Sylvie Mathé**, my son, Ben, and I) triaged and organized paper files, photos, slides, recordings, films, books, and a great deal of original *matériel* related to the genesis and on-location shooting of *French in Action*, not to mention the *Jules et Jim* interactive DVD-Rom, and ongoing projects. Their pizza party *sans pizza* was a sight to behold, as they transferred tens of thousands of slides from metal cabinets to empty pizza boxes for storage! In addition, Yale manuscript and sound archivists, IT specialists, along with Michael Kerbel and Dudley Andrew from the Film Study Center, **Alice Kaplan**, and Tim Shea (Yale UP), were called upon for their advice and expertise, as were recent Yale graduates in IT, who dismantled and decommissioned a mountain of computer hardware. Apart from their shared wonderment at the extent of Pierre’s collections, which chronicled more than 50 years

of lectures, conferences, correspondence, projects, publications, language lab leadership, teaching, and coursework, everyone who lent a hand to the enterprise was awed by such evidence of unwavering devotion to both Yale and *French in Action* users around the world.

– Ruth Koizim



Left to right:
“La Bande:”
Ruth Koizim,
Emily Wentworth,
Agnès Bolton, and
Pierre Capretz.

The department notes with great sadness the recent untimely death on Oct. 7, 2012 of Richard Warren, Jr. '59 BA, esteemed Curator of Historical Sound Archives for 45 years at Yale, who came personally to the Capretz Archives at Church St. in July to support and advise Emily, Ruth, and Sylvie on their preservation efforts. Richard was one of the first to recognize the unique value of the recordings Capretz had and conveyed his dedication, good humor, and breadth of knowledge in his engaging conversations at the Archives. The department is extremely grateful for Richard’s sharing of his expertise, and mourns his loss.

Alumni news *continued from page 9*

The enterprise, titled *Das Bourgeois Bigshot*, is being performed the first two weeks of November. He is also completing a new version of *La Folle de Chaillot* for American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. His second novel, *Let Me See It*, comes out this autumn from Magnus Books.

Vicki E. Mistacco '72 PhD writes, "I have been taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by semi-retirement to pursue my research without interruption and to travel, including a memorable trans-Atlantic crossing on the Queen Mary 2 – in January, of all times. The weather was actually quite mild and the waters were mostly calm. It was a wonderful way to get to Paris to do research. I love the detective work required for my current project on women promoting French women writers in compilations such as biographical dictionaries and anthologies between 1750 and 1970. The latest piece to appear in print is "Les Silences de l'histoire: l'Anthologie féminine de Louise d'Alq" in *La place des femmes dans la critique et l'histoire littéraire*, éd. **Martine Reid** '84 PhD, Paris: Champion, 2011. This is the first volume published by Champion in its new series "Littérature et genre."

Kathryn Oliver Mills '94 PhD had her book *Formal Revolution in the Work of Baudelaire and Flaubert* published by University of Delaware Press in 2012, and she has been promoted to full professor at Sewanee, The University of the South. Her future scholarly endeavors will involve the work of her late husband, the poet Wilmer Mills.

Rebecca Ruquist '03 PhD is a Senior Writer at the MIT Sloan School of Management. She recently worked as a consulting scholar on race and religion in France for Elaine Sciolino, Paris Correspondent for the New York Times, and contributed research to Sciolino's 2011 book *La Séduction: How the French Play the Game of Life*. Rebecca continues to teach and lecture informally on French and Francophone cultural studies. She is very happy to keep up with friends from the program. It's been too long since her last visit to Paris.

David Sices '62 PhD writes, "My translation of 'Selected Essays of Montaigne,' with an introduction and notes by James B. Atkinson, has been published by Hackett Press in April. Our translation of Etienne de la Boétie's "Discourse on Voluntary Servitude," also with an introduction and notes by Atkinson, will appear this fall."

Philip Stewart '70 PhD writes, "I am co-director with Catherine Volpillac-Auger of the correspondence of Montesquieu, in the context of which was recently issued Catherine Volpillac-Auger et Philip Stewart (éds.), *Montesquieu, Histoire véritable et autres fictions*. Paris: Gallimard, Folio classique, 2011. In this year of the Rousseau tercentenary I have published two articles: "Le moi origine et fin: de la création à l'implosion," in Michael O'Dea (éd.), *Jean-Jacques Rousseau en 2012, SVEC, 2012:01*, and "Illustrations romantiques de Julie," in Philip Knee (ed.), *Rousseau et le romantisme*, Montmorency: Société internationale des Amis du Musée Jean-Jacques Rousseau (SIAM-JJR), coll. "Lire Rousseau", n° 5, 2011, as well as a critical edition of *Rousseau juge de Jean-Jacques*, t. III in the Slatkine-Champion *Oeuvres complètes de Rousseau*, 2012, and finally, a book just released at the École normale supérieure in Lyon: *Éditer Rousseau : enjeux d'un corpus (1750-2012)*. Lyon: ENS Éditions, 2012."

Robert Thomson '66 PhD writes, "My recent book, "Operatic Italian" might have been mentioned in your newsletter but, if it was mentioned, a number of new reviews have appeared since it came out." Reviews appeared in Opera Today, Music Ref. Services Quarterly, NECTFL, Opera America, NATS journal and British "Opera". His website is www.godwinbooks.com.

Richard H. Watts '98 PhD writes, "I've been appointed Chair of the Division of French and Italian Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, where my term will last as long as a French president's. I also recently published an essay in a special issue devoted to the environmental humanities of PAMLA's journal *Pacific Coast Philology* (Summer 2012) titled 'Poisoned Animal, Polluted Form: Chamoiseau's Birds at the Limits of Allegory.'"

Emily Wentworth '93 MPhil has taken time off from teaching French (two decades at various institutions, including 10 years at Trumbull High School in CT and several years as an adjunct at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT) to attend to family matters after the death of her mother in 2010, but is pleased to see her name, as a contributing writer, on the title pages of the teacher and student editions of EMC Publishing's (St Paul, MN) forthcoming 3-level series of French secondary school textbooks *T'es branché?*, for which she wrote extensive teacher notes, *bilans cumulatifs*, and activities this past year. Correcting French oral production for Yalies and setting up her printmaking studio keep her quite busy.

Mary Beth Winn '74 PhD writes, "Despite opposition from the university faculty as well as the national and international academic community, the SUNY Albany administration deactivated the degree programs in French Studies (BA, MA, PhD), leaving only an undergraduate minor as of May 2012. With the imminent departure of the University president, it is hoped that his successor will reverse this disastrous decision and restore at least some of the programs that were so brutally abolished (in French, as well as in Italian, Russian, Classics, and Theatre). I will take advantage of a research leave in 2012-13 to pursue ongoing projects on texts published by the Parisian *libraire*, Antoine Vérard (1485-1512), on printed editions of Books of Hours c. 1500, and on a collaborative edition of the chansons of Jean Courtois. With musicologists Barton Hudson and Laura Youens, I celebrated this year the publication by the American Institute of Musicology of the final two of seven volumes of our critical edition of the chansons of Thomas Crecquillon."

Maurice Samuels
with Alice Kaplan
discussing *Dreaming
in French: The Paris
Years of Jacqueline
Bowie Kennedy,
Susan Sontag, and
Angela Davis*



Shakespeare in French

The call went out by email: “Shakespeare at Yale,” a semester of events celebrating the Bard, wanted volunteers to participate in a day-long sonnet slam. Actors, professors, staff and students from across Yale were invited to perform their favorite sonnet by heart, until, by the end of the day, all 154 of them would be recited, from memory, in the L&B room of Sterling library. There was only one problem with the plan as we saw it: the sonnets were in English. Honoring the great tradition of Shakespeare in French, a group of professors was dispatched by the Department to recite Yves Bonnefoy’s sublime translation of Sonnet 30, whose “When to the sessions of sweet silent thought I summon up remembrance of things past” gave Scott Moncrieff the title for the first English translation of Proust’s *À la recherche du temps perdu/Remembrance of Things Past* in 1922.

The sweet French sounds were greeted with loud applause and much appreciation:

Quand, apaisée ma pensée, attentive,
Je pars à la recherche du passé,
Je pleure bien des choses jamais eues,
Je revis mes malheurs, tant d’années perdues.
Et des larmes alors! Que je n’avais plus guère,
Pour mes amis du fond de la nuit des morts,



Pictured reciting are Christopher Semk, Alice Kaplan, Yue Zhuo, and Edwige Tamalet.

Fraîches pleurs sur des peines d’amour flétries,
Tristesse, pour tant de choses qui ne sont plus.
Je puis même souffrir de souffrances finies,
Recompter, consterné, mes malheurs d’autrefois,
Et à chacun payer mon écot de plaintes
Comme si ce paiement restait mon dû.
Mais, mon très cher ami, que je pense à toi,
Et mes pertes sont réparées, mon chagrin cesse.

James T. King Visitors —

The King’s Distinguished Visitor Program is a program started in 2011-12 and created to consolidate the Department’s ties to universities in the French-speaking world, to enter into meaningful dialogue with scholars and writers trained in different traditions, and to introduce undergraduate and graduate students to new developments in the field.

En avril 2012 j’ai eu le plaisir et l’honneur d’être invité dans le cadre du programme James T. King’s Distinguished Visitor Program. Ce fut une occasion unique de découvrir non seulement le campus impressionnant de l’université de Yale mais également de rencontrer des collègues enseignants-chercheurs. Dans le cadre du département de français j’ai eu le plaisir non seulement d’échanger de façon informelle mais plus encore de présenter plusieurs conférences. L’une d’elle s’est tenue dans le contexte du séminaire du professeur Christopher Miller. Elle a porté sur les questions liées à l’esclavage, à la créolité en regard des œuvres d’Aimé Césaire et de Frantz Fanon. La seconde, dans le cours du Professeur Alice Kaplan autour de Camus, m’a permis de revenir sur les années charnières de l’indépendance algérienne et des espoirs qu’elles avaient pu susciter en terme d’émancipation des populations les plus démunies. Dans une conférence plénière au département « Les enjeux du post-colonialisme autour des figures d’Aimé Césaire et Frantz Fanon » j’ai élargi mon propos du contexte antérieur celui de la colonisation aux effets de la situation actuelle post-coloniale. Quid des populations ayant



émigré et vivant de manière ambivalente leur place tant en France que face à leur pays d’origine. Ici Frantz Fanon présage déjà en 1961 les difficultés à venir.

Comme lors des interventions précédentes des débats nombreux ont été soulevés par des membres du corps professoral ainsi que par des étudiants avancés. Belle occasion pour préciser et enrichir la connaissance de ce sujet. Par ailleurs l’accueil a été très chaleureux de la part des collègues comme de part de l’administration en particulier de Madame Bolton. Merci.

– Pierre Bouvier



Cheese and wine! – the after-talk events were as memorable as the talks themselves. It was a great pleasure for me, a historian, to be a James T. King Distinguished Visitor in April of last year and to get to know the faculty, students, and staff of Yale’s famous French Department. I was delighted to get good feedback on my talk “Love or Money: Franco-American Marriage and Divorce, 1880.” It was also stimulating to participate in Alice Kaplan’s film class and analyze “Un héros très discret” along with divulging my own experience as an American-in-Paris with graduate students at the “Autour de France” lunch series. The stay at Yale also let me hunt down some needed archives in the Gertrude Stein, James Joyce, and Alfred Stieglitz papers at the Beinecke Library. I hope that all of those whom I met will let me know when they come to the City of Light. With great thanks again to our hostess, Alice Kaplan, and the ever-efficient, helpful, and cheerful Agnès Bolton.

– Nancy Green