Jacques Derrida accepts an invitation from Paul de Man to teach at Yale for the fourth consecutive year.
THE YALE FRENCH DEPARTMENT REMEMBERS

JEAN GENET,
THE MAY DAY SPEECH

NEW HAVEN GREEN | MAY 1, 1970

“This, here and now, is the moment of truth—for Bobby Seale, for the Black Panthers, for young white Americans.” — Jean Genet
THE YALE FRENCH DEPARTMENT REMEMBERS

G E O R G E S  M A Y

1920–2003

Professor | Dean | Provost
Yale professor of French Milton Stahl Garver took these photos in 1931 on a visit to the Colonial Exposition in Paris.
With this volume, Robert Greer Cohen launches the first journal in the US devoted to French (and later, Francophone) literature and culture.
THE YALE FRENCH DEPARTMENT REMEMBERS

“ACTUALLY, I’M ONLY A FRENCH MAJOR FROM THE BRONX.”

From Garry Trudeau’s Bull Tales, the precursor to Doonesbury
Yale President Jeremiah Day reacts to the appointment of the first instructor of French in 1839: "It might soon be necessary to appoint an instructor in whistling."
THE YALE FRENCH DEPARTMENT REMEMBERS

FRENCH IN ACTION

CREATED BY PIERRE CAPRETZ AND FILMED FOR TELEVISION IN 1987

Starring Charles Mayer as Robert and Valérie Allain as Mireille
Then came the light at the end of the tunnel, the dazzling offer from Devayne University, even though she wasn’t any more intelligent than anyone else and she hadn’t even completed her dissertation: a real job, with a real salary, in the best French department in the whole country, on the East Coast, one and a half hours from New York....” — The Story of Jane (2001)
"Cher Monsieur, Je suis très heureux d’avoir de vos nouvelles. Simone de Beauvoir, en me disant la charmante réception qu’elle a trouvée à Yale, a ravivé le regret du temps que j’ai passé là-bas."
"At Yale they are seriously interested in phenomenology and in various forms of Existentialism, but this instance is nearly unique."

—America Day by Day
“While in the many years since I have carried on love affairs with a multitude of isms (e.g., fetishism, realism, idealism, universalism), it is really only in feminism—where activism and criticism were joined—that I found an ism that made sense for me.”

—Bad Objects: Essays Popular and Unpopular
THE YALE FRENCH DEPARTMENT REMEMBERS

JONATHAN LITTELL

LES BIENVÉILLANTES | 2006

“Jonathan Littell ’89 joined the ranks of Marcel Proust, André Malraux and Simone de Beauvoir on Monday when he won the Prix Goncourt, France’s highest literary honor.” — Yale Daily News, November 10, 2006.