For some years now, much time has been devoted at every level of academic institutions in this country, but also elsewhere, to discussing the impact on Academia of what is known in today’s public vocabulary as globalization. Is it but the latest version of one of Academia’s founding ideals, that of translation studies? Is Academia concerned by it? Should it be? Should it join it? Resist it? Can it not join it? What would either of the two outcomes entail?

These questions have prompted a whole gamut of commentaries and reactions, ranging from the high-flown world historical and philosophical to the minute budgetary practicalities of resource management, and from triumphal missionarism to sarcastic skepticism, defensive indifference, and even to the fear that history would hold a de facto retaliation in reserve against those disciplines which, for whatever reason (objective or subjective), wouldn’t be able to join in.

For the Department of French, during the past few years, these discussions haven’t been a purely theoretical, purely “academic” exercise: they were fed, even if in an uneven manner, by two projects. On the one hand, that of the long lasting negotiations between New York University and the American University in Paris and, on the other, more marginally, that of the fast moving NYU-Abu Dhabi project. Will the Department of French ever be present in the Emirates? Probably not as such. The situation was more of a close call with the American University in Paris merger, which was of direct import for our Paris program.

Considering the fact that AUP already had its own French Department, the coexistence of two NYU units next to each other, one in the Western districts of Paris and the other in its Western suburb, raised questions of redundancy, overlap, and integration. But it was not simply a case of duplicates. The respective contexts and thus the identities and status of these two superficially identical units were in fact very different. A worldwide serialization of American satellite campuses (or European ones for that matter) is one thing (a university delivered, as it were, clés en mains.) A strong NYU French program in Paris, with organic ties to the Department and the IFS (the Institute of French Studies), is another. Needless to mention the oddity that a NYU-sponsored French Department in Paris with no organic ties with the Department of French of NYU in New York would constitute. Our NYU-in-France program predates the globalization motto. Its existence doesn’t owe much to a formal cult of expansion per se, but to the subject matter or matters that are part and parcel of our curriculum. It is not a mere exportation, nor simply a geographical expansion or extension. It is an outside that was preinscribed in the very definition of the field. Here, isolationism would simply be unthinkable. For a French department, as for many others, such ventures abroad did not wait for the discourse of globalization to be launched. Such exchanges are part of their organic development, not only with France and Francophone Europe, but also with these other sub-fields that are developing so fast: Maghrebian, Sub-Saharan, and Caribbean Studies. It may be that globalization can only be specific, inscribed in a history and a discipline or a field.

In any case, after a few years of suspense, it seems that the merger between NYU and AUP has been definitively put to rest. Thanks in particular to Caroline Montel-Glénisson, the suspension of the negotiations
turned out for the better as far as NYU in France is concerned whose rue de Passy premises are being expanded to accommodate the influx of new students.

Whatever the futuristic anticipations of Academic visionaries, the core of our activities still remains anchored around “the Square,” between 19 University Place and the Mews where this past year has been a very active and positive one for the Department, and I have to thank Judith Miller for having helped me get through it as Acting Chair, even though she was on leave. I have to thank also Richard Sieburth, who came back to the position of Director of Graduate Studies for a year, and Stéphane Gerson, who continued his work as Director of Undergraduate Studies; I extend my gratitude for their energy, their commitment to the program, to its adjustment to current demands, for their attention to students, individually and collectively. They were helped by Claudie Bernard, who served as adviser for the incoming first-year graduate students. John Moran, now a seasoned Director of the Language Program, does a fantastic job in organizing the pedagogical training of the new generation of graduate students who, for the past two years, have been enjoying quite a lighter teaching load than their elders. Before I leave this position, I want also to thank Sandi Adams, our administrator, for the help she has provided me with, as well as our team of Assistants, Brett Underhill, Alex Teachey, and Ellie Vance for the atmosphere of congenial liveliness and efficiency they have managed to maintain on our Sixth Floor.

The Department is looking forward to answering the challenges of the present and the future, but it does so without forgetting its past. It is significant in this respect that one of the first events of the year to be held at (and by) the Maison Française was an evening of homage to Germaine Brée, its founder fifty years ago at the time she was chairing what was then the department of Romance Languages. The “French Literature in the Making” program, organized by Tom Bishop and the Center for French Civilization and Culture, where Olivier Barrot interviews a French writer one Monday evening each month, is now in its second year, giving our students direct access to current French literary production. The arrival of our new colleague, Ludovic Cortade, put an emphasis on cinema, often in conjunction with Film Studies. Particularly successful were an event around Deplechin’s last movie and a round table devoted to Resnais’s documentary, *Les Statues meurent aussi*, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum. Tom Bishop organized a week of homage to our late friend and colleague Christian Delacampagne. The year concluded with two conferences—one to honor Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe (“Catastrophe and Caesura”), organized by Avital Ronell and myself, and another “The Way we Read Now” co-organized by Emily Apter and Columbia’s English Department.

The Maison Française also hosted a series of successful events initiated by students. For the first time, this year’s students from each of our Ph.D. programs organized their own conference: in November, those from the Joint program in French Studies and French Literature had a day devoted to the question of “Regime change.” And in February, those from the Ph.D. in French Literature two days devoted to “The Life of the Work.” I should also mention the very promising initiatives of several of our language lecturers: Olivier Berthe and Nils Froment, who organized a series of monthly discussions for undergraduates (“Exagon”) at the Maison Française that are taking over the traditional *Table française*, and Stéphanie Dubois and Jennifer Gordon’s “Rendez-vous à la Maison Française,” which allows beginner and intermediate level students to practice speaking French in a casual setting.

As for the faculty, a new colleague is joining the Department this coming fall. After a very rewarding search for a *dix-huitièmiste*, Lucien Nouis, a Princeton Ph.D. who was previously teaching at The University of Pittsburgh, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor. There will be movements in the other direction in the near future also: Nancy Regalado and Jindrich Zezula, to whom the Department owes so much, have announced their intention to retire.

I conclude with another type of departure, that of students who, having defended their dissertation, are leaving to start their professional career: Anthony Abiragi at Virginia Tech, Xiaofu Ding at The Brearly School, Fayçal Falaky at Tulane, Karen Santos da Silva at Sarah Lawrence, Keithley Woolward at the University of the Bahamas, and Yue Zhuo at Yale.

Denis Hollier, July 2008
I recently had the opportunity to speak about André Dulau with Tomás Ryan and Viviane Ohayon Ryan, who administer the Dulau award for dissertation students in The Department of French. The Ryans were long-time friends of André Dulau, Mr. Ryan handling his legal affairs and Mrs. Ryan, who shared his love of literature and who herself had been a teacher in our department (then in a slightly different configuration) from 1959-1971, conversing with him regularly about favorite books. The Ryans painted a portrait of a reserved and highly cultivated man, a connoisseur of both French literature and elegant armagnac.

André Dulau, from a well-off French family from the southeast of France, was a Captain in the French Army during World War II, when he was taken prisoner by the Wehrmacht. Married to a woman from a German and English background, he was already a cosmopolitan by the time he decided to leave France after the war: He had become disenchanted with the French government and what he perceived to be its left-leaning policies. He settled in New York where he transplanted the family business, importing fine textiles, particularly ornate linens. A life-long conservative Republican, he spent his free time reading, collecting books, and taking long walks in Manhattan, a city he adored. Widowed fairly early, he never remarried and had no children.

André Dulau died in his 80s from complications after an accident in the subway, bequeathing in 1996 300 of his books to the French Department of New York University, as well as the substantial sum of money that serves as the basis of the Dulau Fellowships. His gift and the careful shepherding of this gift by the Ryans will enable us to award dissertation fellowships for many years to come.

Judy Miller

2008 Dulau Fellowship recipient
Alina Cherry with the Dulau collection (Room 605)
French Literature in the Making, contemporary French writers in conversation with Olivier Barrot, presented with the support of Voyageurs du Monde (Paris), Directeurs, and L’Avion

Cécile Guilbert  Jean Echenoz  Olivier Barrot on Linda Lê  Clémence Boulouque  Michel Schneider

Philippe Roger (Visiting Professor)  L’Invention littéraire du maître à penser et l’anti-intellectualisme à la française


Paul Audi  Le Paradoxe du désir selon Alfred Jarry

Lawrence Kritzman  Romancing the Stone: Montaigne’s Erotics of Experience

Tom Bishop  Now You See It, Now You Don’t: The Disappearing Avant-Garde

Jack Lang, member of the French National Assembly and Former French Minister of Culture and Minister of Education, in dialogue with Tom Bishop on France today, culture, and politics

Guy Sorman  The Truth About China in the 21st Century

Jean Anouilh, vingt ans après  Remembering Jean Anouilh

Scenes, Songs, and Poems interpreted by Bernard Pisani, Jacqueline Chambord, Malinda Haslett, and Michael Fennelly, with the participation of Colombe Anouilh and Alain Malraux

Françoise Gaillard (Visiting Professor)  De l’âge de la critique à l’âge de la morale

Martine Reid and Joan DeJean  Des Femmes en littérature: comment et pourquoi éditer les femmes de lettres

Carol Symes  Finding a Common Stage: Medieval Arras and the History of Theater

Fabienne Moore  Les poèmes en prose des Lumières ou la politique du genre

Mauro Carbone  Merleau-Ponty and Deleuze as Readers of Proust

Mark Cruse  Architecture and Authority in the Roman d’Alexandre (MS Bodley 264)

Today organized by Denis Hollier and Avital Ronell

Catastrophe and Caesura: Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe
Ph.D. in French Literature

Anthony Abiragi “Call and Response: Maurice Blanchot and the Ethics of Dialogue”

Xiaofu Ding “Les rêveries de l’écriture chinoise: Victor Segalen, Paul Claudel, Henri Michaux”

Fayçal Falaky “Masochist Contract, Social Contract: Freedom and Submission in Rousseau”

Keithley Woolward “Towards a Performative Theory of Liberation: Theatre, Play, and Performance in the work of Frantz Fanon”

Yue Zhuo “À l’écart du visible : anachronisme et imaginaires de l’archéologique à partir de Barthes, Bataille, Quignard et Lacan”

M. Phil

Tanya Mushinsky

Joint M.A. in French and French Studies

Emilia Klasya
Phoebe Maltz
Chelsea Stieber
Emily Teising

M.A. in French Literature

Megan Russell
Dane Stalcup
Jessica Russell
Marion Phillips
Yomi Yochido

M.A. in French Language and Civilization

Dana Aloisio
Michael Ashley
Dorothy Dubois
Adrienne Guerra
Rachel MacFarland
Marjorie Nelson
Erin O’Reilly
Melanie Satterwhite
Kindra Wallace

Fellowships and Awards 2008-09

Dulau Fellowship - Christophe Litwin and Alina Cherry
Chateaubriand Fellowship - Kari Evanson
Elaine Brody Fellowship - Stéphanie Ponsavady
Lurcy Fellowship - Georgiana Perlea
LaGaffe Fellowship - Alexandra Borer
Bradley Rubidge Prize - Kathryn Kleppinger
GSAS Summer Pre-doctoral Fellowship - Kathryn Kleppinger
L’Oréal Fellowship in France - Amanda Bode
Penfield Fellowship - Seth Lobdell

2008 Jensen Fellowship - Rachel Corkle

First-Year Named Fellowships 2008-09

American Society of the French Legion of Honor Fellowship - Iris Brey
CDC IXIS Fellowship - Maximilian Shrem

Visiting Professors 08-09

Christian Biet, a regular Visiting Professor of the Department of French, will be teaching a course on Molière in Fall 08.

Yves Hersant is teaching a course entitled “Narcissus and Orpheus” in Spring 09.
Emily Apter published several articles, among them: “Laws of the Seventies: Badiou’s Revolutionary Temporality” in Cardozo Law Review; “Translation, Terrorism and War,” in The Global South; “Biography of A Translation: Madame Bovary between Eleanor Marx and Paul de Man” in Translation Studies; “Taskography: Translation as Genre of Literary Labor” in volume 122 of the PMLA Special Issue “Remapping Genre.” “The Wolfman Found in Translation” in the online journal, Salt; and “Untranslatable. The ‘Reading’ versus the ‘Looking’ in a special issue on Intermedial Translation, edited by Mieke Bal and Joanne Morra, in a volume of the Journal of Visual Culture. She is working on an English edition with Jacques Lezra and Michael Wood of the Vocabulaire Européen des philosophies: Dictionnaire des intraduisibles (edited by Barbara Cassin) for Princeton University Press. She co-organized with Elaine Freedgood (NYU) and Sharon Marcus (Columbia) a joint NYU-Columbia conference in May 2008 titled “The Way We Read Now: On Symptomatic Reading and its Aftermath,” an event commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Fredric Jameson’s The Political Unconscious. The conference was awarded a Humanities Council Grant. In March 2008 she was appointed Northrop Frye Professor during a week of lectures and seminars at the University of Toronto. Other speaking engagements included: “On Literary Technics,” as part of a lecture series on “The Future of Comparative Literature” at Northwestern University; “Untimely Objects: Periodicity and the Desire for the Démode” at Harvard University’s conference entitled “Modern/Age,” “Untranslatable: A World System” at a conference on translation at Rutgers University; “Alain Badiou’s Red Scarf; or, Operatic Militance” at the Whitney Program in Critical and Curatorial Studies in NYC; “Properties of Translation: On the Limits of Literary Ownership” at a Lecture and Faculty Seminar at the Wesleyan University Humanities Institute; “Laws of the Seventies: Badiou’s Revolutionary Temporality” at Cardozo Law School’s conference on Badiou; and “Baudelaire and the Ethics of Distributive Injustice” at Brown University’s conference entitled “The Flowering of Baudelaire.” Professor Apter was a panelist for a plenary session at the NYU French Graduate Student Conference, “La Vie de L’Œuvre,” at La Maison Française of NYU, and organized two panels: “Untiming the Nineteenth-Century: History, Temporality and the Politics of Periodization” at the MLA Division of Comparative Romanticism and Nineteenth-Century Studies in Chicago, which has been selected for publication in PMLA; and “Labor and Luxury: The 18th /19th Century Turn” as part of “Rethinking Nineteenth Century French Studies” at La Maison française of NYU.

Claudie Bernard was promoted to full Professor as of September 2008. She published Penser la famille au dix-neuvième siècle with a preface by Yvonne Knibiehler with Publications Universitaires de Saint-Etienne, and contributed: “Les formes de la justice dans Les Mystères de Paris d’Eugène Sue” to Poétique, no. 152; and “Si l’Histoire m’était contée...” to Pour une approche narratologique du roman historique, edited by A. Déruelle and A. Tassel. Professor Bernard gave two talks: “Des loups et des hommes: l’expression de la justice dans Madame Putiphar de Pétrus Borel le Lycanthrope” at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne’s colloquium entitled “Stendhal, Mérimée et les écrivains romantiques: le sang, la violence et la mort;” and an interview with Michelle Perrot for Les Lundis de l’Histoire on France-Culture.

Tom Bishop published “Adieu Robbe-Grillet” in Art Forum; “Whatever Happened to the Avant-Garde?” in Yale French Studies; “Sitting Sartre’s Theater of Situations” in Sartre 2005, The Florence Gould Lectures at New York University; “Alain Robbe-Grillet, Icone de la modernité in France-Amérique; “Heavenly Father, the Creature Was Bilingual’ How Beckett Switched to French” in The Florence Gould Lectures at New York University, Volume VII; “Nicolas Sarkozy et les États-Unis” in France-Amérique; and “La Vie privée des présidents, deux modes d’emploi” in France-Amérique. He edited volumes VII, VIII and Sartre 2005 of The Florence Gould Lectures at New York University. He gave the following talks: “Now You See It, Now You Don’t: Whatever Happened to the Avant-Garde” at La Maison Française of NYU; “La coincidence newyorkaise: L’Impact of the avant-garde américaine sur les théâtres européens et la question de la performance / The Impact of the American avant-garde on the European performing arts” at the Théâtre de la Colline, where he also chaired the session “L’Avant-garde américaine en France;” and “Germaine Brée” at “Remembering Germaine Brée” at La Maison Française of NYU. Professor Bishop led a dialogue with Jack Lang, member of the French National Assembly and former French Minister of Culture and Minister of Education at NYU, a conversation with André Schiffriin at La Maison Française of NYU, and participated in “AfterWords,” a discussion on Beckett Shorts, with JoAnne Akalaitis at the New York Theatre Workshop. Tom Bishop is the Chair of the French-American Foundation Translation Prize jury, a member of the NYU Library Faculty Collections Advisory Committee and of the Lycée Français de New York Advisory Board, as well as a contributor to France-Amérique, and within the Department, he served on the Graduate Studies and 18th Century Search Committees. He continued fundraising for the Department, the Institute of French Studies, and La Maison Française.

Benoît Bolduc published “IN FVMO DARE LVCEM: Les Triomphes foartz a l’entrée du Roy a Chenonceau (1560)” in French Royal Entries in the Sixteenth Century: Event, Image, Text, edited by N. Russel and H. Visentin. He presented the following papers: “La gentillesse des villes et l’innocence des champs: les entrées de bergers dans le ballet de cour” at the Université Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux 3 conference on “Corps dansant,
corps glorieux. Musique et danse en Europe au temps d’Henri IV et Louis XIII,” where he also chaired the session entitled “Fêtes en Europe. Points de vue croisés; “Collation, manducation et destruction dans les fêtes de Versailles” at the 40th Annual Meeting of the N.A.S.S.C.F.L., “Nourritures” (La Fayette College, Easton, PA); “Stefano della Bella, graveur des Nozze degli dei et de Mirame” at the Académie de France à Rome – Villa Medici conference entitled “Rome-Paris, 1640. Transferts culturels et renaissance d’une école artistique; “Visualizing Music and Opera in Les Divertissements de Versailles (1676)” at the “Music, Body, and Stage: The Iconography of Music Theatre and Opera” conference at CUNY; and “Britannicus aujourd’hui; la violence et la tyrannie hors du Grand Siècle” at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Interdisciplinary Seventeenth-Century Studies (Yale University). Professor Bolduc participated in a round table discussion on “New Voices in Early Modern Studies at NYU” at the Medieval and Renaissance Center at NYU, and in a round table on “How Molière’s public experienced the Misanthrope” at the New York Theatre Workshop. He is involved in the preliminary organization, in collaboration with Henriette Goldwyn, of the 41st International Conference of the North-American Society for Seventeenth-Century Literature to be held at NYU on 21-23 May 2009. This is the most important event of the field, drawing specialists of literature, history, philosophy, and the performing arts from all over the world. NYU will be the first New York institution to welcome this annual event since its inception in 1967 and it is estimated that 120 members will attend, including many graduates of the department, who are presently teaching in various institutions throughout the U.S. The goal is twofold: to advance research in early modern French studies and to showcase NYU’s French department as the indispensable leader in this international inquiry.


J. Michael Dash reviewed several works: Adonis suivi de Zoflora by Jean-Baptiste Picquenard in Modern Language Review; Romare Bearden: The Caribbean Dimension by Sally Price and Richard Price in New West Indian Guide; and The Tears of Hispaniola: Haitian and Dominican Memory by Lucia Suarez in New West Indian Guide. He was also a panelist on “The French Evolution: Race, Politics, and the 2005 riots” as part of an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA). He gave the following talks: “Exile, Engagement, Errant: Les Ambiguïtés de l’œuvre de Jacques Roumain” at the conference “Penser Jacques Roumain Aujourd’hui” at the Université d’Etat d’Haïti; “Haïti, Neither Odd nor Ordinary” at the Caribbean Development Bank’s Haiti Lecture series at the CDB Conference Center in Barbados; and “The Art of Darkness: Relating the French Caribbean” at the Department of Humanities conference at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine. Professor Dash was filmed for CUNY Television in conversation with Jerry Carson for a screening of Dany Laferrière’s “How to Conquer America.” He was interviewed by Megan Giulino for SAIC on “Current Haitian Situation/Politics,” served as a commentator on Haitian politics for Jamaican Radio, Trinidad Television, and the BBC, and was interviewed on Aime Cesaire with Fanny Germain for France 24. In addition, he served as a member of the Jury of the Prix Carbet in Cayenne, French Guyana, and on the Undergraduate and Graduate Committees in the Department of French.

Anne Deneyes-Tunney gave the following conference papers: “Rousseau et les machines enchantées” at the International Congress of the Enlightenment in Montpellier; “Rousseau, la Loi, le désir et l’amour” at the International Conference at the University of Paris 7; and “Diderot, Politics and Sexuality” at The Royal Academy of Great Britain. She co-edited a book entitled Le corps au croisement de la littérature, de la science et de la philosophie (forthcoming éditions de Laval), and published an article “Le personnage, tache aveugle dans Corinne de Madame de Stael” that came out in the book, La Fabrique du personnage, edited by Françoise Lavocat. Professor Deneyes-Tunney appeared in the film, “M la Maudite,” directed by Jean Paul Fargier, which was broadcast on Arte, and made a film of her Acting French students in their performance of Molière’s Les Précieuses Ridicules.

Assia Djebar gave one of the plenary addresses at a colloquium entitled “Etrangère de l’intérieur,” organized by Professor Antoine Compagnon at Columbia University this past fall. She also gave the keynote address at the inauguration of the Centre d’études francophones at the University of Toronto in the presence of the French Ambassador and the President of the University, as well as giving the lecture “Pourquoi écrire?” at the Pompidou Centre. The latter was followed by a conversation with the public. Her latest novel, Nulle part dans la maison de mon père (Éditions Fayard) appeared in December to glowing reviews in, among other publications, Le Monde and Jeune Afrique. On the occasion of the publication of her novel, she was interviewed for several French television and radio programs. Her new novel was also selected to be one of the texts read at the “Festival Textes et Voix.” In May the actress Marie-Christine Barrault and two
other actors did a public reading at the theatre of Paris’s Alliance Française for some 250 people. The performance was also recorded for Radio France 3. Professor Beida Chikhi, Director of the Francophone Center at The University of Paris IV, led a two-day seminar on Djebar’s work in the spring. The author dialogued with many doctoral students on the second day. Assia Djebar was also the subject of a week-long international seminar this summer at Cerisy-la-Salle. Organized by Professor Mireille Calle-Gruber, each day saw six or seven international scholars read papers on Djebar’s work to an audience of some 60 scholars and doctoral students. In July, Professor Djebar traveled to Sweden as a guest of The Swedish Writer’s Association (Waltic) where she gave a lecture and participated in a televised conversation with the Swedish novelist Agneta Peijel. She was also interviewed for various Swedish publications.

Emmanuelle Ertel translated Rick Moody’s Adumbrated, which was published by Éditions Christian Bourgois in Lexique nomade. She was the moderator for the roundtable “Publishing French Fiction and Non-Fiction in the United States” with Éric Vigne (Éditions Gallimard), Olivier Nora (Éditions Grasset), Lucinda Karter (French Publisher’s Agency), and Jennifer Crewe (Columbia University Press) at La Maison Française of NYU. In addition, she gave two papers: “Derrida and his (mis)reception in America” to the Department of Comparative Literature at Yale University; and “The Jumping Frog, or Translating America” at a conference entitled “Literary Translation. Art, Craft, and Business” at NYU. Professor Értel is a member of the committee for French Voices at The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, which aims to make contemporary French or Francophone works available to American readers through translation. She is also an Undergraduate Advisor in the Department.

Stéphane Gerson wrote the first four chapters of his book on the posterity of Nostradamus. Le Seuil published a translation of the collection he co-edited: Pourquoi la France? Des historiens américains racontent leur passion pour l’Hexagone. The book was widely-reviewed in France — hard not to like the cover article in Libération’s literary supplement. Gerson gave a talk on the topic at Saint-Johns University. As director of undergraduate studies, he oversaw a significant revision of the major in French. He also introduced a research seminar in French Studies, in which IFS/French and IFS/History Ph.D. students write article-length research papers. Finally, Gerson joined the prize committee for the Laurence Wylie Prize in French Cultural Studies. Fifty-seven books were nominated: what crisis of publishing?

Henriette Goldwyn authored the introduction to the second volume of the anthology Théâtre de femmes, XVIIe siècle. She also wrote all the material pertaining to the plays of Mme de Villedieu, including her biography and the introduction and notes to two of her plays. This volume contains plays by Françoise Pascal, La Soeur de la Chapelle, Mme de Villedieu, Anne de la Roche-Guilhen and Mme Deshoulières. It was published by Saint-Étienne University Press in 2008. In conjunction with the publication of this new edition of Mme de Villedieu’s plays, Professor Goldyn co-organized a video performance of a reading of Le Favori in Paris and just finished working on a DVD of that play, which will be released at the end of 2008. Presently she is working on the third volume of the anthology, which contains plays by Catherine Bernard, Mme Ulrich, Catherine Durand, Marie-Ann Barbier, Louise-Geneviève de Sainctonge and Mme de Gomez, and which is forthcoming. She is also co-planning the 41st annual conference of seventeenth-century French literature specialists (NASSCF 2009). In the fall of 2007, she co-organized a “journée d’étude” on Performance in Early Modern France at NYU in Paris, where she presented a paper on the sermon as performance: “Le Sermon de Monseigneur l’Évêque de Meaux aux Nouveaux Catholiques.” She also gave a talk at the American University in Paris on « La Préciosité et les Salonnières au XVIIe Siècle” and another one at the Bibliothèque de l’Histoire du Protestantisme Français on “Jean Cavalier et Mme Du Noyer.” Professor Goldwyn was the fall professor at NYU in Paris.

Denis Hollier has been Acting Chair for the year during Judith Miller’s sabbatical and will be back as Director of Graduate Studies after the summer. He published in Papers of surrealism, in Le Magazine littéraire, and in the Robbe-Grillet issue of Artforum. Professor Hollier participated in the Graduate Student conference “Régime change,” in the symposium on Resnais’s Les Statues meurent aussi, and organized, together with Avital Ronell, a conference on Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe.

Judith Miller has been on leave for the academic year, a year she has split between New York and Paris, where she witnessed first hand the remarkable growth of NYU-in-France in part as a consequence of the failed project to merge NYU-in-France and The American University of Paris. She published “Is There Such a Thing as Francophone African Stage Textuality” in Yale French Studies (fall, 2007) and a translation of José Pliya’s The Sister of Zarathustra with the Brooklyn Rail on-line publications. Her translation was also read by professional actors at the Tisch School of the Arts Hot Ink Festival in January, where Miller chaired two talk-backs on contemporary French theatre. She led a discussion of La Comédie’s Française’s production of Les Fables de LaFontaine at FIAF in New York in July and participated in a discussion of contemporary productions of Molière at the New York Theatre Workshop in September. In January, she chaired a panel in Paris on “l’Avant-garde américain et le Théâtre européen” at a conference co-sponsored by Paris X and Le Théâtre de la Colline. She helped coordinate and plan a conference on Koffi Kwahulé, “Frères de son” in April at Le Bateau Lavoir in
Paris’s Goutte d’Or neighborhood. For this conference, she chaired a panel on “Le Théâtre francophone africain et le diaspora africain” and presented a paper: “Le crâne tambour: Le monologue chez Koffi Kwahulé et Bernard-Marie Koltès.” For a conference on Hélène Cixous, co-organized by the Universities of Barcelona and Paris VIII, she interviewed in June Ariane Mnouchkine about her on-going work with Hélène Cixous and Le Théâtre du Soleil. She has been named “Collegiate Professor” at NYU for the next three years and will be running an honors seminar for Freshmen studying monsters and masks in French and Francophone literatures in translation.

**John Moran** published *The Old French Fabliaux: Essays on Comedy and Context*, a book that he co-edited with Kristin Burr and Norris Lacy and to which he contributed the article “So This Vilain Walks into a Bar: The Fabliaux as Stand-Up Comedy,” with McFarland. He also presented “From Chattel to Choices: The Quest for the Modern Isolde” to the International Courtly Literature Society at the annual South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention. In addition, he served as a reviewer for the new edition of a Prentice Hall grammar reference book and a McGraw Hill elementary textbook; he was a consultant for an on-line English grammar tutorial for a new Prentice Hall elementary textbook; and he was a participant in the CLEF French Test Standards Study. Having served his first year as a table leader for the correction of the Advanced Placement French Language Exam, he has now been named a member of the Advanced Placement French Development Committee. In addition to his work in the Department of French as the Director of Language Programs, he was the Faculty Affiliate for the French Explorations Floor (and continues to be a Faculty Fellow in Residence). Having won the Faculty Fellow of the Month Award in November, he finished off the year by winning both Residential Education’s Faculty Member of the Year Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Golden Dozen Teaching Award.

**Eugène Nicole** published two novels: *ALASKA* (éditions de l’Olivier), and a reprint of *L’Œuvre des Mers I-II* with Seuil. He also published an article in *Libération* entitled “Arrivée de la malle” and a critical review “Les objets du désir” in *Critique*, issue 730. In addition he wrote three reviews: “Un monde fragile” in *Le Figaro littéraire*: “Traduction et mémoire poétique” by Jacqueline Risset in *Bulletin Marcel Proust*, no. 57; and “Proust et le moi divisé” by Edward Bizub in *L’Esprit créateur*. Professor Nicole also served as the New York Acting Director of NYU in Paris in Fall 2007.

**Nancy Freeman Regalado** presented her work on the MS Douce 308 in a keynote speech at the “Collections in Context” conference at the University of Illinois. She published two articles continuing her work on performance and iconography: “A Contract for an Early Festival Book: Sarrasin’s *Le Roman du Hem* (1279)” in *Acts and Texts: Performance and Ritual in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, edited by Laurie Postlewate (Amsterdam: Rodopi); and “Fortune’s Two Crowns: Images of Kingship in the Paris, BnF Ms Fr. 146 *Roman de Fauvel*,” in *Studies in Illuminated Manuscripts: Tributes to Lucy Freeman Sandler*, edited by Kathryn A. Smith and Carol H. Krinsky (London: Harvey Miller). Professor Regalado co-taught “The Roman of Fauvel” course one last time with Edward Roesner (NYU Music), and taught at the “Semaine d’Études Médiévales” of the Centre d’Études Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale at Poitiers. In Fall 2007 she organized a series of 10 lectures and mini-seminars (generously sponsored by the NYU Humanities Initiative, Departments of French & Fine Arts, the CAS Dean, and the FAS Dean for Humanities) to accompany her graduate course in medieval theater and a new undergraduate honors seminar, “The Middle Ages Then & Now.” She was privileged to direct the 2007-08 Senior Honors Thesis program; in which all the enrolled received honors, including Ben Goldman who was co-winner of the Albert C. Borgman Prize for the Best Honors Thesis in the Humanities for his thesis on Dumas’ staging of the *Comte de Monte Cristo*, directed by Claudie Bernard. As she looks forward to retiring in June 2010, she can say 2007-08 was a wonderful year that drew many threads together. “The high point was the heartwarming celebration and festschrift presentation at Kalamazoo May 2007 where former students and long-time colleagues joined in a day of 3 sessions of papers in my honor, followed by a festive banquet (with a gala performance of a French farce by the *Compagnie Gaillarde* led by three NYU ancients: Simonetta Cochis, Yvonne Leblanc, and Mark Cruse). The volume, *Cultural Performances in Medieval France* (Brewer, 2007), was co-edited by Eglal Doss-Quinby (NYU PhD 1982); the 25 articles included fine contributions by NYU colleagues Timmie Vitz, Edward Roesner (Music) and Lucy Sandler (Fine Arts) and by former students Mark Cruse, Kim Campbell, Marilyn Lawrence, Karen Duys, Laurie Postlewate, Kate Loysen and Elizabeth Emery. I was deeply touched by this celebration which brought together so many of those I’ve had the privilege of working with during my 40 years teaching at NYU. In February 2007 I co-organized a conference in Metz, on the *Tournoi de Chauvency* in a manuscript compilation, Oxford, Bod. MS Douce 308, with Mireille Chazan (University of Metz: History) and the soprano Anne Azéma (director of the Boston Camerata), who developed the *Tournoi* into a concert program which premiered in Metz. With support by the NYU Humanities Initiative and the French Department, the three-day conference gathered some 30 colleagues in history, iconography, musicology and literature. I had the pleasure of drafting the conference *argumentaire* with our ancienne Eglal Doss-Quinby, who co-edited the *balletes* in Douce 308 (Droz 2006) and presented a paper on the Douce 308 *chansonnier.*”

**Richard Sieburth**’s translation of Artaud’s *Les Cenci* was staged by the Hotel Savant theatre company at the Ohio Theatre in Soho. In addition, he lectured at Rutgers...
Timmie (Evelyn Birge) Vitz was on sabbatical in Fall 2007. She published two articles: “Performing Aucassin et Nicolette” in Cultural Performances in Medieval France: Essays in Honor of Nancy Freeman Regalado, edited by Eglal Doss-Quinby, E. Jane Burns and Roberta Krueger (D.S. Brewer); and “Experimenting with the Performance of Medieval Narrative,” with Linda Marie Zaerr in Performance and Ritual in the Middle Ages and Renaissance: Acts and Texts, edited by Laurie Postlewate (Rodopi). She currently has three articles in press, all to be published in 2008: “On the Presence of a ‘Rasic’ Performance Esthetic in French Medieval Storytelling,” which will be published in The Drama Review; “Performing Saintly Lives and Emotions in Medieval French Narrative,” in Actes du colloque Toronto; and “La performabilité de la voix et du déguisement dans le récit et au théâtre: Wistasse le moine” in Pris-Ma (University of Poitiers). Professor Vitz gave the following talks and lectures: “On the Usefulness of Cognitive Approaches for the Study of the Performance of Medieval Literature” at the Medieval Conference at Kalamazoo, where she also gave a round table presentation on new approaches to oral tradition; a round table presentation in a panel on “Technologies, Methodologies, and New Medieval Research,” at the Fordham University conference, entitled “Spectatorship and Visuality in the Medieval World;” and “Performance of Medieval Literature and its Impact on the Mind, Emotions, and Body” at Purdue University’s Theory of Mind and Literature Conference. She gave an invited lecture at the International Medieval Society in Paris on “Performing the Romance of the Rose.” Her performance website, “Performing Medieval Narrative Today: A Video Showcase” (http://wilde.its.nyu.edu/mednar/), which she co-directs with Marilyn Lawrence, was re-launched and now contains over 110 clips of scenes from medieval narrative, and receives visits from many teachers, students, and performers. Following last year’s three-day conference at Bogazici University in Istanbul that she co-organized on “Performance and Performers in the Eastern Mediterranean: 11th-18th Centuries,” she is currently co-editing the outstanding articles for publication as a book, entitled Medieval and Early Modern Performance in the Eastern Mediterranean (for basic information, see http://www.nyu.edu/humanities.council/workshops/storytelling/ and click on Istanbul Conference). She and Henriette Goldwyn also organized a conference at NYU in France on “Journée Performance: Performance in France from the Middle Ages to the end of the Ancien Régime” (see website for details: http://www.nyu.edu/humanities.council/workshops/storytelling/ and click on Paris event). At this event, she lectured on “Performance disparate d’un récit médiéval: Aucassin et Nicolette.” At NYU in 2007, Professor Vitz chaired the Faculty Senators Council Committee on Personnel and Affirmative Action, and served as a member of the Faculty Senators Council Committee on Housing. She is a member of the Vice-Provost’s Child Care Task Force and also the Committee to establish a website on diversity. She also served as a reader for the NYU Research Challenge Fund grants. As part of her ongoing interest in performance, she performed in “Enchanted April” at the Onteora Summer Theatre, where she played the part of Mrs. Clayton, and outside of NYU, among her many activities, is participation in a “Threshold Choir,” whose purpose is to sing at the bedside of people in hospices, in intensive care, etc. In addition, she had a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in summer 2007 to work on her newest book project, Performability of Medieval French Narrative.

William Wolf was once again re-elected President of the Drama Desk, the organization of theater critics and writers who report on the theater.
Professor Nancy Freeman Regalado will be retiring in 2010. In this interview, she surveys, with her favorite comrade in arms, her remarkable career at New York University.

Nancy: Well, your interviewing me when we’ve done everything together must feel like interviewing yourself. How we’ve complemented each other in our courses and in our “Orality, Writing, and Culture” symposium that we started in 1986, where you did orality and I did writing! Then you were the director of MARS [Medieval and Renaissance Studies] for twelve years before I continued in 1994.

Timmie: But you were already on the MARS committee, putting everything in place and collaborating on that.

N: Taking turns! “Orality” was such a long-lasting center for medievalism at NYU and in New York City.

T: Of course, and our 2004-06 Humanities Council Storytelling in Performance Workshop too! [NOTE: The events of the Storytelling workshop are available on line at “Storytelling in Performance”: http://www.nyu.edu/humanities.council/workshops/storytelling/]

N: Yes, people are still signing up for Storytelling mailings. Amazing!

T: I keep thinking of things I’d like to do for it even now! It was the most ambitious and most fun thing we did, besides our 2005 book, Performing Medieval Narrative.

N: I think so too -- a lot of work and achievement! What I’ve enjoyed the most about the Department is the collegiality-- you, me, and Jindrich Zezula, all medievalists, as well as Kathy Talarico (Ph.D. 1980), Kim Campbell (Ph.D. 1984) and now John Moran. It’s very different in departments with only one medievalist. They’re so isolated, it’s hard, while for us collaborations are easy.

T: Students also of course become collaborators, while they’re students and then afterwards too.


T: An absolute thrill! A lot are from Tisch, but many--some incredibly talented--are CAS students: I think of Michael Abourizk, Gina Guadagnino, Kelly Houlihan, Jenn Jordan, Nick Robbins, Elizabeth Sprague, and many others; and of graduate students such as Mark Cruse and Michael Ritchie who have also been involved in performance. [You can see them at work on the performance website that Nancy helped to found: “Performing Medieval Narrative Today: A Video Showcase”: http://wilde.its.nyu.edu/mednar/]

N: Until directing MARS, my focus was on graduate students. I was DGS from 1982-88 and loved that time. But this past year working with Undergraduate Honors was a revelation. Such outstanding students! All achieved honors; one won the prize for best thesis in the humanities.

T: What do you think has changed the most
here at NYU?
N: Certainly the quality of the undergraduate students has been transformed in the last decade. NYU itself has changed so much. When you and I came here in 1968, NYU was basically a commuter school. I remember the cramped library in the basement of Main, now Silver; when I go down there now to the media office, I feel ghosts of the past. Bobst was one of the first big buildings to go up in the Village after I arrived in 1967.
T: But it does seem to me that for those of us who work in the Middle Ages and also in French, students have always been good because those drawn to these fields have always been really good, motivated students.
N: That’s particularly true here because French was already such a high quality department when we arrived.
T: Yes!
N: I remember sitting around the Department conference table in 1971/72, telling ourselves that we were the best French department in the country. True or not, that was how we felt -- the best in the university -- and now the university has caught up.
T: But also medieval stuff was always good so I’ve always had good students.
N: Well, part of the Department strength comes from the cultural reach of the Maison and the IFS, but much from NYU-in-France. Our undergraduates come back, beautifully trained, speaking great French, and truly interested. Our PhD’s have always been good and gone on to fine careers. The university has changed tremendously around us, but I think French has remained very much the same. It will change over the next decade, I imagine, but it’s amazing how stable the Department has been for many years.
T: It’s true. I’ve often thought of our department as a simulacrum of eternity; it has been so amazingly stable, more than any other department I know of.
N: My whole career has been in departments such as this. I began teaching in 1958 at Yale where Henri Peyre was the chair for decades, then here with Tom Bishop as Chair for 33 years until Judy Miller took up the challenge and continued the fun.
T: It has had this sense of incredible permanence.
N: Permanence and continuity. Most interesting for me at NYU, besides the Department and the MARS, has been the Women’s Faculty Caucus. I feel a sense of maternal pride at helping create the WFC in 1986 as well as all we have accomplished and how long it has taken! After nineteen years of effort, we got a decent parental leave policy put in place for faculty having or adopting children.
T: And it’s absolutely automatic -- you don’t have to ask, it just happens.
N: Other problems such as salary levels, recruitment and retention of women remain, but these are national issues, not just local. But you’ve worked on these issues too, in different venues, and have seen the Department and the University respond to some of the inequities.
N: When you asked me what projects and activities I have enjoyed the most during my time here, there’s so much! First of all, within the Department, helping start the French Graduate Students Association in the 1980’s, working with Ph.D.’s in their job searches as well as our medievalist activities.
T: And our big one-day colloquia!
N: Yes, interdisciplinary colloquia, every 2-3 years, which were immensely satisfying intellectually—and wonderful things that we did (“Modalities of Performance in the Middle Ages,” “MEMORIA: The Memory Culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,” “The Status of the Word in the Middle Ages,” and “The French Octosyllable and the Oral Tradition”). I fear the end of the great medievalism at NYU since some medievalists in other departments are not being replaced.
T: It is really disturbing, very worrisome.
N: It’s satisfying to think of my work as strands that continue. There’s nothing that I’ve started that I’ve let go entirely. For example, my thesis on Rutebeuf was about representations of literary subjectivity, moving lyric away from biographical interpretation. At the same time you were out there working on Villon. But I never went back to Rutebeuf. I had said what I wanted to say.
T: I guess you had already given Rutebeuf your best shot!
N: Yes, exactly, then I moved right on to Villon with the same questions. In April 2008, at a conference on lyric and narrative in Chicago, I spoke of how Villon’s poetry produces stories but doesn’t have a story in it. My work on manuscripts and the medieval book that began with the Fauvel project in 1978 has lasted 30 years, most recently, in collegial work on Bodleian MS Douce 308. These collaborative projects -- such as your conference on performance in Istanbul in 2007 or the conference and concert I co-organized at Metz last year on MS Douce 308 – are incredibly rewarding.
T: You learn so much!
N: There’s a kind of fullness of understanding that comes from working with others. I felt that very strongly at the 2007 celebration for my beautiful festschrift edited by Eglal Doss-Quinby with twenty-four contributions by
anciens and colleagues. I’m also thinking of making a 
book of the dozen pieces I’ve done on Villon. How did you 
think that worked when you gathered all the articles 
you’d done on medieval narrative?
T: There are things that are easy to do because there’s 
real continuity. At one point, I tried to gather all the 
things I was doing on the saints, but there was just too 
much diversity.
N: I like my Villon pieces and think they add up. So I 
could write a frame around it, undoubtedly about the idea 
of representations of subjectivity.
T: These are certainly ongoing themes.
N: You asked me if my thinking and approach changed 
over the years. Yes, they’ve expanded immensely but I 
don’t think the fundamental questions I’m interested in 
changed; just the way I work. I enjoy collaboration so 
much, I’m not quite sure 
what it will be like when I 
retire. I will have an 
office here in the 
Department, but not this 
one with my view of the 
Empire State Building out 
there which I’ve had since 
I shared this office with 
Charles Affron back in the 
old building.
T: This office is pretty 
much in the same place.
N: Yes, this is the same 
window. They moved the 
wall, but I haven’t moved 
yet.
T: You have experienced 
many different patterns of 
collaboration.
N: I’m certainly looking forward to collaborating more 
outside academia. I want time with my extended family, 
including grandchildren William and Charlotte in 
Brooklyn and our third grandchild, Priscilla, born in June 
in Sao Paolo! And I will continue working for reduction of 
gun violence, which I began in 1993, when my daughter 
was held up in Barnes & Noble by robbers with assault 
guns. Our group, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, 
grew from a kitchen table to become a well-respected 
state group. NYAGV is a very deep interest of mine. 
Whenever I’m out there marching, I’m protecting my chil-
dren, my grandchildren, and the world we live in. I have 
high hopes!
N: Talking recently with my sisters, I said I feel very 
much like someone at the center of an immense reach of 
time. I have been thinking back over my fifty years of 
teaching, starting at Yale in 1958, at Wesleyan in 1965, 
then at NYU in 1968. I remember my family back over 2 
-3 generations, and my grandparents talking about their 
great-grandparents; then I look ahead to the future, with 
my children and grandchildren now, and all our students, 
too, past and present. I have a wonderful sense of being 
right at the center, caring so much about what kind of 
world the grandchildren and our students will find wait-
ing for them and feeling a sense of despair about what 
we’re leaving for them. Well, really, a sense of determi-
nation, not despair.
T: Despair is not your mode.
N: No, I’m just profoundly optimistic and an activist!
T: What else are you looking forward to in retirement? 
What now?
N: The first thing we face is moving out of our apartment 
that has been such a center of my personal and profes-
sional life for so long -- all the parties we’ve had there. 
Everything’s taken place there.
T: The teas!
N: Yes, the teas! As I retire, I’ve started giving things 
away with great satisfac-
tion, passing along books, 
china, and paintings. My 
husband Nat Horwitz is a 
psychoanalyst who’s not 
planning to retire soon. 
But I’ve worked fifty years - 
long enough! I’m happy to 
have more time with Nat 
for music, museums, plays, 
good talk, and good times. 
We just celebrated our sil-
ver anniversary! I rejoice in 
the second round of chil-
dren. I’m so close to my lit-
tle grandchildren, spending 
two days a week with 
William and Charlotte in 
Brooklyn, and ten days in 
Brazil this summer with our little Priscilla.
T: Hard to commute to Brazil!
N: Yes, but they’re more interesting than travel or living 
abroad.
T: It’s the future generation. 
N: Future generations in all kinds of senses. Better gun 
safety, better concern for the environment, peace, whatever 
they need as well as my being a part of their lives, just the 
way your mother and mine were part of our children’s lives. 
T: Absolutely.
N: I’m telling you things that you know perfectly well, but 
it’s important for me to just say what it has meant for me to 
have you as a colleague. It’s just been really extraordinary. 
T: A very shared feeling!
N: I feel very close to lots of colleagues in the Department, 
as you well know, but there’s nobody with whom I’ve 
shared more than you. Not just in medieval things, but 
all the children and all the activities we’ve done and the 
many students we’ve guided together. 
Thank you!
T: And thank you, Nancy!

July 2008
Professeur Assistant dans le département de Français de New York University

Je saisir l’occasion qui m’est ici donnée de me présenter pour dire combien je suis heureux de poursuivre à l’Université de New York mes activités d’enseignant et de chercheur – non seulement pour des raisons professionnelles, parce qu’il s’agit là bien évidemment de travailler dans un cadre très stimulant, mais aussi, plus personnellement, parce que s’accomplit pour moi un retour sur des lieux que je connais très bien et auxquels je suis attaché : c’est par la ville de New York que j’ai pour la première fois découvert les États-Unis (j’y ai vécu trois ans, j’y ai de la famille et des amis), avant de m’éloigner quelques années pour faire un doctorat à l’Université de Princeton puis pour occuper un premier poste à l’Université de Pittsburgh.

Ma recherche porte essentiellement sur le “long” dix-huitième siècle et fait appel à des concepts issus de plusieurs disciplines : la philosophie en premier lieu, mais aussi la sociologie, l’anthropologie, l’histoire des idées et, plus récemment, l’architecture. Dans ma thèse – _Politiques de l’hospitalité (1632-1796)_ –, que je révise maintenant en vue de sa publication, je m’attache à montrer comment le concept d’hospitalité s’est peu à peu transformé à partir du dix-septième siècle, jusqu’à se trouver traversé par des enjeux et des questions que l’on pourrait dire de manière approximative “politiques” (ce qui ne veut pas dire que l’hospitalité n’ait pas toujours été d’une façon ou d’une autre politique, mais plutôt qu’elle l’est différemment à partir de ce moment, ne serait-ce que parce qu’elle l’est de manière explicite) : cessant d’être simplement perçue comme une “vertu” gréco-romaine ou abrahamique, l’hospitalité se pose comme enjeu symbolique important au sein de débats sur la souveraineté, le territoire et la citoyenneté, particulièrement à l’époque de la révocation de l’Édit de Nantes et de la Révolution. En définitive, cette étude vise à rendre visible ce que l’on pourrait appeler le “devenir-politique” de l’hospitalité, transformation dont je tente de démontrer qu’elle devient effective à travers une modification progressive des représentations de l’espace de la nation.

Parallèlement à ce livre, je poursuis plusieurs autres projets, dont notamment deux articles : l’un sur le concept de “communication contagieuse” chez Malebranche (que je lis à la lumière des travaux de Gabriel Tarde et de ses émules dans l’étude de la communication, du mimétisme, des foules et du public) ; l’autre sur les contributions du Hollandais Cornélius de Pauw à une “histoire de l’espèce humaine,” que je rattache à ce qui peut être considéré comme la naissance de l’anthropologie au dix-huitième siècle. Mon prochain projet de livre porte sur Rousseau et propose un réexamen de la formule qui décrit le contrat social comme acte par lequel “chacun se donnant à tous ne se donne à personne,” formule que je tente de replacer dans le contexte d’une véritable philosophie du don et du sacrifice à l’œuvre chez le philosophe.

Tout au long de mes études et de ma récente carrière d’enseignant, le dix-huitième siècle s’est imposé à moi de manière incontournable – tout d’abord parce qu’il contient une immense richesse philosophique et littéraire, qui suffirait à occuper plusieurs vies de chercheur, mais aussi parce qu’il est clair que nous n’avons pas cessé de vivre ses secousses et ses contrecoups dans nos institutions politiques et nos modes de pensée (Michel Foucault va dans ce sens lorsqu’il dit de l’”événement” des Lumières qu’il a “determined, for a part at least, to what we are, what we think and what we do today”). C’est un peu de cette passion pour le questionnement toujours urgent et actuel que propose le dix-huitième siècle que je voudrais partager, à travers mon enseignement et ma recherche, au cours de ces prochaines années.

La Vie de l’œuvre: inception, reproduction, and decomposition. French Graduate Student Conference organizers: Julie Sage, Natalia Wodnicka, Niamh Duggan, Raluca Manea, Yasser El Hariry, Alexandra Lukes, Steven Crumb, and Willemijn Don.
Robert S. April attended the 100th anniversary ceremony of and conference about the Pantheonisation d’Emile Zola at the Pantheon. In his capacity as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at NYU Medical Center, he was the opening speaker at the 11th Annual Meeting of the New York Academy for Traumatic Brain Injury at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. His topic was “How do we define minimal brain injury in today's technological world?”

Kathryn Kleppinger presented a paper entitled “Reality vs. Invention in Beur Novels: The Implications of Paul Smaïl’s success” at the Franco-Arabic Cultures Today Conference at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She spent Summer 2008 in Paris on a GSAS Dean’s Pre-Dissertation Summer Fellowship and is looking forward to defending her prospectus in September.

Elizabeth Wright presented “From Marvel to Miracle in Adenet le Roi’s Berte as grans piés” at the International Medieval Conference at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo.

Yue Zhuo defended her thesis, “À l’écart du visible: anachronisme et imaginaires de l’archéologique à partir de Barthes, Bataille, Quignard et Lacan,” with honors. She accepted a position as Assistant Professor in French at Yale University for Fall 2008.

Isabelle Mullet gave a paper, "Les Entretiens sur la pluralité des mondes ou la politique perspectiviste," at a conference about "Fontenelle, L'Histoire, la Politique," that took place in Rouen, France.

Seth Lobdell spent his 5th year in the department as a pensionnaire at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. In addition to beginning research on his dissertation, "The Primal Scene of Poetic Disaster: Mallarmé, Jouve, Blanchot," he has also this year completed a D.E.A. in Psychoanalysis at the Université de Paris 8, St. Denis.

Exagon est le nom du blog crée pour proposer aux étudiants sous-gradués un espace de découvertes et de discussions en français autour de thèmes liés à l’actualité, à l’histoire et à la culture françaises. Sur le blog, une dizaine de vidéos sous-titrées accompagnées d’explications leur font explorer des traits connus de la culture française mais présentés d’une façon originale, souvent humoristique voire caustique.

Une fois par mois, le vendredi, est organisée une rencontre à la Maison Française pendant laquelle les étudiants et les enseignants discutent du thème du mois en découvrant de nouvelles vidéos sous-titrées et des extraits de films. Pour pouvoir se familiariser avec les questions qui seront abordées lors de la rencontre, les étudiants ont accès à l’avance au thème, aux vidéos et à des liens vers de nombreux documents écrits via le blog dont l’adresse est la suivante :
exagon-ny.blogspot.com

Pendant le semestre du printemps 2008, les trois rencontres autour des thèmes des humoristes français, de l’intégration et de la rupture dans la présidence Sarkozy ont attiré de nombreux étudiants et enseignants et suscité des débats intéressants. La formule se répétera donc à l’automne prochain. En attendant, les vidéos et thèmes du semestre dernier peuvent être consultés à l’adresse du blog dans la rubrique des archives.
John Rappaport has recently been promoted to Executive Director of the McBurney YMCA on 125 West 14th Street in New York City.

Patrick Saveau (Ph.D. 1999) presented a paper entitled “Un Juif non-juif” at the “Masculin, féminin, pluriel? Autour de Serge Doubrovsky” conference at the Université de Haute-Alsace (Mulhouse). He also presented “L’autofiction à la Doubrovsky: mise au point” as part of the conference entitled “Autofiction” at the Centre Culturel International de Cerisy la Salle’s Décade de Cerisy la Salle.

Susan Bernat (M.A. NYU-in-France 1999) has headed to the Big Island of Hawaii to test the waters in a summer session of marine science studies, after eight and-a-half years in NYC. She is learning to scuba dive and hopes to earn her certification in the Pacific waters. Although it may seem that she has strayed afar academically speaking, she still seeks ways to use her French language and cultural ties. One of these days she imagines that she will make her way to French Polynesia. In the shorter term she has recognized her passion and concern for environmental issues, which will surely dominate the 21st Century, and feels she must heed the call to learn and to serve in some related capacity.

Leslie Larson (M.A. NYU-in-France 2004) has fond memories of Friday afternoon grammar tutorials with Madame Boularès and lively conversations with Patrick Guédon! After completing another master’s degree in public policy in 2007, she is now working as a senior research analyst at the Wall Street Journal in New York. She tries to stay current with French vocabulary by having conversation groups with her sisters, Esther & Marcia, and reading the latest edition of Paris Match. Though most of their conversations revolve around the latest news on la Première Dame de France!

Cristian Bratu (Ph.D. 2007) is an Assistant Professor of French at Baylor University and was awarded a sabbatical for the summer of 2008. His book, The Emergence of the Author in French Medieval Historiography, is currently under review, and one of his articles on “L’esthétique des chroniqueurs de la quatrième croisade et l’épistémé gothico-scolastique,” was recently published in The Medieval Chronicle (Rodopi). Ten short articles on French medieval chronicles will be published in the Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle (Brill: Leiden, Netherlands) in 2009. He gave the following presentations: “Remembering the Crusades, Remembering the Self” at Fordham University’s Remembering the Crusades: Myth, Image, and Identity conference; “Authorship, Authority, and Gender in the Middle Ages” at the Women in French Conference in Fort Worth, where he also chaired two panels; and “Denis Sauvage: Editing Medieval Historiography in Sixteenth-Century France” at the University of Leiden (Netherlands) conference entitled “Early Modern Medievalisms: The Interplay between Cultural International de Cerisy la Salle’s Décade de Cerisy la Salle.”

Esther Larson (M.A. NYU-in-France 2003) taught entry level French for the European and Classical Languages and Cultures Department at Texas A&M University, while completing her Master of Public Administration. After completing her degree, she moved back to New York City and is currently working for a non-profit organization, the NYC Coalition Against Hunger (www.nyccah.org). Though not using her French everyday, passion for agriculture issues, local farming, and sustainable agriculture began in Paris when she attended le Salon International de l’Agriculture, after her professor, Anne-Marie Van Bockstaele, highly recommended she attend. So thank you, Anne-Marie for planting that seed for her! She has also recently started attending the French department’s various activities and looks forward to being more involved in the future!

Peter Green (M.A. NYU-in-France 1984-85) is now an editor at Bloomberg News in New York.

Tom Radigan (“ABD”) is starting his 6th year as Chair of the Language Department at the Friends Seminary in Manhattan. They will be introducing Arabic next year in addition to French, Spanish, and Latin.


Laura Reec (Ph.D. 2001) continues to teach at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. 2007-2008 was not a teaching year: first semester, she was on maternity leave and Nicholas (3) now has a brother, Simon (1); second semester, she was on a research leave to work on her manuscript, Writing, Self-Authorship, and Commitment in Beur Literature. She has recently published two reviews of translations (Mouldou Feraoun’s The Poor Man’s Son and Azoug Begag’s Shantytown Kid) in the Journal for North African Studies. An article entitled, “Mohamed Razane: The Re-generation of Beur
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Carrie Landfried (Ph.D. 2007) has just finished a year as a visiting Assistant Professor of French at Goucher College and will be returning to Goucher in the Fall for a second year.

Alison Albino (M.A. 2004) will be going into her third year as a French teacher at Packer Collegiate Institute. All is well with her three cats and dog!


Downing Thomas (Ph.D. 1991) began a 3-year term as Associate Dean of International Programs at the University of Iowa, and is also currently director of the UI Center for Human Rights.

Lyn Thompson Lemaire (Ph.D. 2003) gave birth to Eliot; her older son, Edgar, will be 3 in October. She is enjoying life in South Park Slope, spends her summers in Provence, and will be teaching French at Poly Prep Country Day School in the Fall.

James Dahlinger, S.J. (Ph.D. 1999) was just granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, New York. He teaches all levels of French as well as English composition. His book, *Étienne Pasquier on Ethics and History*, appeared with Peter Lang Press in June 2007.

Scot Self (M.A. NYU-in-France 2002) and his wife Daphne had their first child, a baby girl called Juniper Claire Self on December 7, 2007. He was promoted to Senior Bilingual Help Desk Analyst at Motion Industries, North America’s largest industrial distribution company. He is in a support position for assisting and troubleshooting for 6000+ users at over 500 branches in the U.S. and particularly Canada, where he is the only full-time French-speaker supporting the Québec branches at the corporate office. He is also still working part time as a contractor for the 20th Special Forces Group, an Alabama Army National Guard Airborne group, as their language contractor, where he works for MI Languages out of Altamonte Springs, FL and coordinates their language training programs as they come up and manage the language lab at the armory in Birmingham.

Brian Kennelly (Ph.D. 1996) has been promoted to Professor at Cal Poly and published “Reading Differently, Reading for Difference in Rimbaud’s *Mouvement*” in the *Journal of Literature, Language and Linguistics*.

Jeanne LaVallée (M.A. German 1998) is retournée à sa ville natale en Massachusetts après une absence de 26 ans. Elle est en train d’enseigner des ‘Langues du Monde’ (i.e. l’allemand et l’espagnol) – pas de français puisque le français a été éliminé du programme régional, quel dommage – au lycée de Newburyport, à Newburyport, MA. La clientèle est naturellement très différente que celle de l’année dernière au lycée East Side Community High School dans le Village Est (de Manhattan).

Sylvie Waskiewicz (Ph.D. IFS 2003) is now living in San Francisco and enjoying her new career as Development Editor at McGraw-Hill, where she has finished editing her first book (www.mhhe.com/pausecafe). Her current project is the 3rd edition of *Détours: An Introduction to French* (currently used at NYU!) and will then begin working on a new film studies textbook by David Bordwell. She finds that she is still using incredible amounts of her grad school training, from her research on film and civilization to all the teaching she did. She spends her days researching cultural items, reworking classroom activities, and verifying all those picky little language details particular to French.

Pierre-Alexandre Sicart (Ph.D. 2005) moved to Taiwan last semester to work as an Assistant Professor of French at Zhongguo Wenhua Taxue: Chinese Culture University. Since he doesn’t speak Chinese, there have been many obstacles to overcome but he has received enough friendly help that his life is currently going in the right direction.

Shanny Peer (Ph.D. 1991) has left the French-American Foundation to take up a new position with the Families and Work Institute. This is a non-partisan research organization that works on the “changing family, the changing workplace, and the changing community,” and her new position will allow her to be involved in research projects and program work on issues with a strong potential for impact on public debates, policymaking, and evolving social norms around work and family.

Jaime Enrique Martínez (B.A. 1965, M.A. 1966), who now uses the name Jaime Martínez-Tolentino, earned his Ph.D. in French at the University of Madrid, Spain, in 1970. In 1993, he also earned an M.A. and another Ph.D., this time in Spanish, from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst, MA.). From 1966 to 1984, he taught French at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, during which he also published three books on French and French literature. From 1990 to 2002, Jaime taught Spanish and Latin American literature at SUNY’s Buffalo State College. During that period, he authored seven books in Spanish and was the editor of five others. Four of those seventeen books are original works of fiction: three collections of short stories and a drama. His works of fiction have earned him several literary awards. Since retiring from college teaching, Jaime has moved to Florida and is now a full-time writer. He may be reached at jaimema@msn.com.
La Maison Française Highlights

Special Events

Continental Shifts: The Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié
Edouard Duval-Carrié in conversation with Edward J. Sullivan, Michael Dash, and Sarah Lewis

Collège des Bernardins: A New Center in Paris for Cultural Dialogue on 21st Century Issues, presented by Father Patrick Dubois

Concerts

Raphael Mostel
Composing for Babar

Promenade avec Gertrude Stein with Sylvie Robert and Dimitri Vassilakis

Jayn Rosenfeld, flute, and Bernard Rosen, piano

Mirror Visions Ensemble
French Jewels with Tobé Malawista, Scott Murphree, Richard Lalli, and Alan Darling

The Dan Tepfer Trio
Improvisational Contemporary Jazz
with Dan Tepfer, piano; Jorge Roeder, double bass; and Richie Barshay, drums

Exhibition

Duende: Visages et Voix du Flamenco, photographs by Ariane Delacampagne

Round table

Publishing French Fiction and Non-Fiction in the U.S. with Olivier Nora, Eric Vigne, and Lucinda Karter

Theater

A staged reading of La Musica by Marguerite Duras, with Astrid Bas and Daniel Pettrow

Cinema

A special screening of A Hero’s Welcome: A Story of Friendship, Gratitude, and Remembrance, directed by Robin Massee and presented by François Delattre, Consul General of France in New York

Rendez-Vous with French Cinema 2008:

Her Name is Sabine/Elle s’appelle Sabine, followed by a Q&A with director Sandrine Bonnaire, moderated by Professor Ludovic Cortade

Ain’t Scared/Regarde-moi, followed by a Q&A with director Audrey Estrougo, moderated by Professor Robert Stam

French Filmmaking and Globalization
Filmmaker Arnaud Desplechin and Jean-Michel Frodon (editor, Cahiers du Cinéma)

To join the Maison Française e-mail Events Announcement list, please send a blank e-mail to:
join-maisonfrancaise-events@lists.nyu.edu

More information is available on the Maison Française website:
www.nyu.edu/maisonfrancaise
Lectures

Larry W. Bowman
Collecting the Indian Ocean


Serge Guilbaut
The Other Side of the Square: Post-World War II French Art Scenes and All That Jazz!

Christine Angot
Lecture de textes

World Literature Night with Tahar Ben Jelloun and Edem Awumey. This event was part of the Rolex Arts Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

Mario Gradowczyk
Joaquin Torres-Garcia in Paris and Cercle et Carré

Anka Muhlstein
Napoleon and the Burning of Moscow

Kareen Rispal
La Diplomatie culturelle

André Schiffrin
A Political Education: Coming of Age in Paris and New York

Sylvère Lotringer
Baudrillard’s Homage to Foucault

Lise Schreier
Au Secours des inépousées: colonialisme, féminisme et consensus national (1897-1903)

Pierre-Marc de Biasi
Erotisme: l’art et les techniques dans l’histoire des représentations du plaisir

A Conversation with novelist Jerome Charyn

Sylvain Cypel
France, Israel, and the U.S.: Shifting Debates (co-sponsored with the IFS)

Yaël Dagan
La Nouvelle Revue Française et l’oubli de la Première Guerre mondiale

Timothy J. Reiss
“From the birds I learned...”: Jean de Léry on Violence, Religion, and the Colonial (co-sponsored with Comparative Literature)

Linda Nochlin
Courbet’s Realism

PEN World Voices: The New York Festival of International Literature with Michel Tremblay, Linda Gaboriau, and Michael Moore
Gisèle Sapiro
La sociologie de la littérature : état des lieux et pistes de recherche

Christine Helot
La place des langues de l’immigration à l’école en France : des politiques linguistiques éducatives aux pratiques dans les classes

Véronique Dimier
Recycleurs d’empire: la reconversion des administrateurs coloniaux français et leur rôle dans la mise en place d’une politique de développement européenne

Marc-Olivier Baruch
D’un régime l’autre. Les élites de l’État et le passage à la République gauloise

Judith Lyon-Caen
Réflexions sur les usages de la littérature au XIXe siècle

Blaise Wilfert
Nation et littérature en France autour de 1900

Damien Babet
La fabrique de l’enchantement : jeunes travailleurs à Disneyland Paris

Xavier Zunigo
Le chômage des jeunes en France aujourd’hui : ethnographie des politiques publiques

Mary D. Lewis
Migrant Rights and the Limits of Universalism in France, 1918-1940. Lessons for Today from Yesterday

Laurent Mucchielli
Violence en France : L’évolution des réalités et des représentations

Laura Lee Downs
What’s Feminist Theory Got to Do with it? Republicanism, Liberalism and the Politics of Childhood in France, 1919-1945

Vincent Duclert
La France : une identité nationale ou une identité démocratique?

Bernard Lahire
La condition littéraire ou la double vie des écrivains

Eric Fassin
The Rising Significance of Race in France

Vincent Debaene
Les deux livres de l’ethnologue : littérature et anthropologie en France au 20ème siècle

Pierre Bouvier
Crise des banlieues, crise du lien social post colonial entre inclusion et exclusion

Yarimar Bonilla

Pierre Merciklé
La sociologie, une science expérimentale ? L’œuvre de Charles Fourier entre utopie et sciences sociales

Camille Robcis
Family Politics and the Circulation of Psychoanalysis in the French Public Sphere

Gilles Pecout
Se battre pour des idées : les Français, le volontariat militaire et l’amitié internationale depuis le 19ème siècle

Robert Stam
Comparative Multiculturalism: France, Brazil, and the United States

Jane Kramer (co-sponsored with la Maison Française)
France and the Rest of Us. A Conversation about Nicolas Sarkozy’s First Six Months in the Elysée

Nancy Erber and William A. Peniston
Queer Lives: Men’s Autobiographies from 19th-Century France

Sihem Habchi
Le Mouvement Ni Putes, Ni Soumises aujourd’hui

Colloquium

Film-screening and panel discussion: Les Statues Meurent Aussi (by Alain Resnais and Chris Marker) With Awam Ankpa, Ludovic Cortade, Denis Hollier, Susan Vogel, and Alisa Lagamma (co-sponsored with Africa House and La Maison Française)

“The Making of the Cité nationale de l’histoire de l’immigration” with Nancy L. Green, Ruth J. Abram, and Jeffrey L. Trask (co-sponsored with the Program in Museum Studies, NYU)
Degrees Conferred and Awards

M.A. in French Studies & Journalism

Clémentine Gallot
Suzanne Krause
Amy van Vechten

Joint Ph.D. in French Studies & Anthropology

Jelena Kranovic
Wendy Leynse

Joint Ph.D. in French Studies & History

Arthur Plaza

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Esther Benbassa is Directrice d'études at l’École Pratique des Hautes Études. She will teach “France and the Maghreb: Colonization, Modernization and Secularization of the Jews in Islamic Lands (XIXth-XXth Centuries).”

Rosemary Wakeman of Fordham University will teach “Topics: Cities and Urbanism in 20th Century France.”

David Lepoutre is Maitre de conférence in sociology at the Université de Picardie-Jules Vernes. He will teach “Topics in French Culture and Society: Urban Anthropology.”

Brigitte Gaiti, Professeur de science politique at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, will teach “French Fifth Republic.”
NYU-in-France is expanding! Our center at 56 rue de Passy has grown to include a new annex (the former écuries, henceforth to be known as la petite maison), including two new classrooms and additional office space, as well as a new Graduate Center across the courtyard, with classrooms, offices, and a reading room.

As we grow, we look forward to welcoming new students. This spring we have worked closely with colleagues from the Liberal Studies Program (formerly GSP) to solidify a new partnership, and are now poised to receive 30 LSP freshmen in the fall. In addition to pursuing their regular core curriculum, these students will enroll in our regular French language classes with NYU-in-France upperclassmen, and will participate in our cultural activities.

We are also pleased to announce the official launch of our new Master’s degree in Teaching French as a Foreign Language, a joint two-year degree in partnership with the Steinhardt School of Education. The first cohort of students in this program arrives in the fall. This is the first master’s degree of its kind, and we are particularly pleased to be able to offer an English language assistantship in a French secondary school to each of our incoming students. Negotiated through the Centre international d’études pédagogiques, these assistantships will provide valuable professional experience to these future teachers while easing the financial burden of this two-year program.

Finally, and in addition to the above, it has been a productive and exciting year, as we continue to build our undergraduate and graduate programs with new and innovative courses, and engaged, talented, and stimulating students. Our Groupes de recherche are firmly established and have helped develop the reputation of NYU-in-France as an interesting and original center for intellectual exchange in Paris.

Highlights from the year include guests Eric Rohmer and Marc Fumaroli discussing Rohmer’s new film Les Amours d’Astrée et de Céladon, organized by the NYU-in-France research seminar Littérature et Cinéma. In the fall, Visiting Professors Henriette Goldwyn and Timmie Vitz organized a highly successful colloquium on Performance et l’Ancien Régime. And as part of our year-long tribute to Simone de Beauvoir (in honor of her centenary), NYU-in-France students performed an original play based on her texts at the residence of the American ambassador in France. The play was created and directed by NYU-in-France professor Cécile Cotté, and will be re-created for the upcoming New York Beauvoir symposium organized by the Department of French in the fall.
Socialist Party spokesman Julien Dray on Le Parti Socialiste à l’ère Sarkozy

Historian Alain Corbin on his new book Hommes et Masculinité de 1789 à nos jours

African folktales with griotte Esther Kouyaté

Yann Moulier-Boutang on his book Le capitalisme cognitif, les nouvelles formes du capitalisme moderne

Sheila Malovany-Chevalier and Constance Borde on their new translation of The Second Sex

Danièle Sallenave on her new book on Simone de Beauvoir, Castor de Guerre, in collaboration with the Maison des Ecrivains.

Jean-Pierre Le Goff, Virginie Linhart, and Patrick Rotman on “The Spirit of May: May ’68, a shared heritage”

Screenings organized by the NYU-in-France Ciné-Club included Two Days in Paris by Julie Delpy, and L’Esquive by Abdellatif Kechiche, followed by a discussion with sociologist and filmmaker Nabila Amghar

“Traduire, se traduire, être traduit,” a colloquium on literary translation with Hédi Kaddour, Patricia

Dept. of French/Maison Française Upcoming Events

French Literature in the Making - journalist Olivier Barrot in conversation with writers Sylvain Tesson (9/8) and Benoît Duteurtre (10/13)

Simone de Beauvoir Week (9/15-20): Simone de Beauvoir: A theatrical production by NYU-in-France students (9/15), films on Simone de Beauvoir (9/16-18), and International Conference (9/18-20)

ALL SAID AND DONE / TOUT COMPTE FAIT: Simone de Beauvoir 1908-2008

Denise Epstein on the work of her mother, Irène Nemirovsky (9/25)

Education of a Chef: What does French training mean for chefs today? Part of NYU interdisciplinary conference, Feeding Frenzy: Explorations in Food and Culture (9/26)

Memory and Trauma: The Stakes of a Memorial Museum Conference organized by the IFS, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and Le Mémorial de Caen (10/3-4)

Writer Frédéric Valabrégue in conversation with Emmanuelle Ertel, Using Vernacular Language (10/6)

The 50th Anniversary of the French New Wave: The Crossroads of Film and Politics with Dudley Andrew, Philip Watts, Alan Williams, Ivone Margulies, Sam Di Iorio, and Ludovic Cortade (10/9)

Edouard Glissant on Aimé Césaire (1913-2008) (10/14)

Lecture/concert with composer Tristan Murail and pianist Marilyn Nonken (10/16)

Benoît Bolduc, Jouer vrai: pratiques actuelles de déclamation, gestuelle et scénographie “baroques” (10/21)

Pascal Bruckner, Faut-il aimer son pays? (10/27)

Vincent Debaene, Claude Lévi-Strauss. A propos d’une Pléiade et d’un centenaire (10/28)

Guy Walton, When Versailles Was Furnished in Silver (10/30)

A new architecture series, co-sponsored with the AIA-NY:

Presentation on the Viaduct at Millau by Alistair Lenczner (Foster + Partners) (9/22)

Maison Tropicale - A film by Manthia Diawara (10/2)

Full details on the programs are available on the Maison Française website: www.nyu.edu/maisonfrancaise
L’Arc

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