



Greetings from the Chair —

The Department of French mourns the loss of a dear friend, and marks the passing of a long and glorious era, with the death of **Jacques Guicharnaud** this last March. For fifty-four years Jacques was a central figure in our department, much loved by generations of both graduate and undergraduate students, from the time he arrived at Yale in 1950 till well beyond his retirement in 1997. I am certain that there is not a single reader of this newsletter who does not treasure many fond memories of Jacques — as a teacher, a colleague, and a friend.

A splendid memorial was held for Jacques on May 14, organized and presided over by **Chuck Porter** and featuring many moving, and some very funny, remarks by family, friends, colleagues, and former students of Jacques's. Philip Rosenthal of the Open End Theater screened an astonishing audio-visual montage he had prepared, consisting of photos of Jacques from the crib to old age, journal entries, lists, and mementos, all accompanied by music Jacques loved best. Mr. Rosenthal has kindly allowed us to put the program up on our web site, which I invite you to visit at www.yale.edu/french.

Happier news from the department begins with the naming of two distinguished members of our faculty to the most prestigious endowed chairs in the university. Late in the spring President Richard Levin appointed **Howard Bloch** as Sterling Professor of French, and **Thomas Kavanagh** as Augustus R. Street Professor of French. We are all gratified by this presidential recognition of our colleagues' standing in the profession and of their value to the university.

Lest there be any doubt that "bonheur ne vient jamais seul," Howard's last book, *The Anonymous Marie de France* (Chicago, 2003) was the winner of last year's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Literary Studies awarded by the MLA. The citation for the award read:

Beautifully written, richly detailed, and fascinating, R. Howard Bloch's analysis of this twelfth-century author, France's first woman writer, reveals that we still have much to learn from her plurivalent work and the ways in which it participates in the cultural transformation and historical upheaval of the late Middle Ages. By paying close attention to the workings of language and the intricacies of the writing subject, Bloch brings to life a highly self-conscious, sophisticated, and disturbing figure. With mastery, elegance, and wit, Bloch demonstrates how Marie's literary corpus sheds important light on a period of profound cultural and political change. This is an invaluable work not only for initiated medievalists but also for scholars and students of modern and contemporary French literature and culture.

Howard spent the entire academic year 2004-2005 in California as a Fellow at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, where he finished yet another book, this one on the Bayeux tapestry. This fall Howard will serve as acting DGS while Tom Kavanagh is on leave.

Tom, meanwhile, published his new book on the cultural history of gambling in French culture from the Middle Ages to the present: *Dice, Cards, Wheels: A Different History of French Culture* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), and began work on a new project, a study of Epicurean Stoicism in eighteenth-century French literature. In April Tom was invited to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, as the Visiting Brittingham Scholar, and in May he led an Association of Yale Alumni tour through the Dordogne.

continued on page 2



Jacques Guicharnaud
1924-2005

Inside this Issue —

In Memoriam: J. Guicharnaud.....	3
Faculty News.....	4
Yale French Studies.....	4
From the DGS.....	5
From the DUS.....	6-8
Alumni News.....	8-11
In Memoriam: Alumni.....	10
MLA Receptions.....	11



Chair's Message *continued from page 1*

The most important public event of a very eventful year was our two-day international colloquium on "Napoleon's Legacies / Le sillage de Napoléon: 1804-2004," held on December 3-4, 2004 to mark (but not necessarily celebrate) the bicentennial of Napoleon's self-coronation as Emperor. The purpose of the colloquium was to reassess from a variety of perspectives and points of view Napoleon's lasting cultural, artistic, and socio-political legacies in France, Europe, and the world. The program featured sessions on European History and Law, Colonialism and Slavery, The Visual Arts, French Literature, and The Making of the Napoleon Myth, as well as a special exhibit of Napoleana from the Sterling Memorial Library, curated by Susanne Roberts and Jeffry Larson, and, for the participants, a special pre-conference performance of Beethoven's "Eroica Variations" by the internationally known pianist Boris Berman, and songs from the Napoleonic era by Yale College musicians Charlotte Dobbs and Timothy Andres. The complete program of the event is posted on the departmental web site under "Events and Conferences."

I am very pleased to acknowledge here that this magnificent Napoleon conference was the first event sponsored by the Department of French to be funded almost entirely by the James T. King Fund for French Studies, generously endowed by Mr. James T. King ('56 MA) as reported in the 2003 Newsletter. With the help of the King Fund, we look forward to many exciting events in the future which, like the Napoleon conference, will enrich the experience of our graduate students.

Another major event of the year was the visit of the Senegalese film maker Ousmane Sembene, who screened his most recent film, "Moolaadé," and answered (in French) questions from a large and enthusiastic audience that filled to capacity the Whitney Humanities Center lecture hall. The department also co-sponsored a colloquium on "The Belgian Illustrated Book: 1918-2004," featuring a key-note address on "Tintin" by Jean-Marie Apostolidès.

The Naomi Schor Memorial Lecture was given this year by Françoise Gaspard, Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and Representative of France to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Professor Gaspard's subject was one very close to Naomi's heart in her last years: "Universalism and Diversity: French Feminism and the Debate over the Veil." Other lectures sponsored by the department included: Boubacar Boris

Diop, "Rwanda: Écrire l'Oubli;" Jean-Michel Espitalier, "De la poésie contemporaine en France: nouveaux enjeux, nouvelles formes;" Alan Williams (Rutgers), "Polarities and Boundaries in French Cinema History;" Richard Cooper (Brasenose College, Oxford), "Editing Marguerite de Navarre: New Poems and Old Prose;" Martine Reid (Versailles, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines), "George Sand au féminin;" François Rouget (Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario), "Ronsard en son œuvre: portraits et auto-portraits;" C. Jon Delogu (Université de Lyon III), "Return of the Native: Notes of an American Visiting Professor from France on Institutional Practices in the Literary Humanities;" and Philippe Lejeune, "Itinéraires autobiographiques."

Alumni of this department will be pleased to learn that in early spring Yale University Press published two books by and about former members and close friends of our department: the selected correspondence of Henri Peyre edited by John W. Kneller ('50 PhD) under the title *Henri Peyre: His Life in Letters*, and *The Yale Anthology of Twentieth-Century French Poetry* edited by Mary Ann Caws ('56 MA).

Your updates and news were abundant this year, and so was your financial support. In the last year alone your contributions to the Graduate Alumni Fund allowed us to underwrite the very successful conference organized by our graduate students last fall (see the Report from the DGS, page 5) and to subsidize campus visits by prospective students admitted to the PhD program, as well as to support many individual students in activities invaluable to their growth as scholars. Thanks to your help one student was able to participate in the Institute of French Cultural Studies at Dartmouth, another to attend a workshop of the Rassias Foundation at Dartmouth, two others to spend the year at the ENS in Paris, three to give conference papers far from Yale (at the MLA, the University of Florida, and Prague!), and four job candidates were able to attend the MLA in Philadelphia for interviews. As always, the faculty and students of the department are extremely grateful to you for your faithful and generous support, and of course to Jean Leblon ('60 PhD) for his long and energetic service as the department's alumni representative.

— Ned Duval



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Your comments, suggestions and news are most welcome!

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IN MEMORIAM

Jacques Guicharnaud

Jacques Guicharnaud, distinguished scholar and beloved teacher of seventeenth- and twentieth-century French literature at Yale for forty-seven years, died in his home on March 5, 2005. Educated in his native Paris during the war years and a student at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in the immediate *après-guerre* (1945-1948), agrégé de lettres in 1948, he came to the United States in 1949 as a young man of 25 to teach for a year at Bryn Mawr College. Before returning to France he was convinced by Henri Peyre to teach French at Yale, where he remained for the rest of his career (with only a brief two-year interlude at Harvard in 1977-1979), rising through the ranks from Assistant Professor (1952-1958), to Associate Professor (1958-1962), to full Professor in 1962, and Benjamin F. Barge Professor of French in 1982.

Of his many publications two books stand out as milestones and lasting points of reference: a summum on Molière – *Molière, une aventure théâtrale* (Gallimard, 1963) – and one of the first introductions to modern theater, written with his wife June Beckelman Guicharnaud: *Modern French Theater from Giraudoux to Beckett* (Yale University Press, 1967). The latter of these was re-edited and reprinted many times, in whole and in part. Jacques Guicharnaud was also the author of *Raymond Queneau* (Columbia Essays on Modern Writers, 1965), and the editor of a collection of critical essays on Molière published by Prentice Hall in 1964. He served as acting Master



Jacques Guicharnaud and his wife, June Beckelman Guicharnaud, in 1973

of Jonathan Edwards College (1968) and Morse College (1972-1973), and as DGS of French (1982-1986).

But the single most important focus of Jacques Guicharnaud's long career at Yale was his teaching – or more precisely, his students, to whom he was ever devoted. Even after his retirement in 1997 he maintained strong friendships with his former students, following their careers and their lives for years beyond their days at Yale, and maintained a presence in the Department of French that drew the admiration and affection of new students who arrived long after he had ceased teaching. Jacques was a man born for the theater and for the classroom, a marvelous witness to the Paris of the 1930s, a great *raconteur*, and a friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

I had the pleasure of taking a course from him and he also served on my dissertation committee. He was a fine scholar and a kind person. It is sad that within the last two years I have lost Georges May, who was my dissertation director, and now Jacques Guicharnaud. Although they were both retired for many years, they still kept in touch with their former students.

– Ed Campion '76 PhD

I took his course on "Voltaire to 1750." M. Guichardnaud was memorably funny, probably without knowing it, when he took up the main points of my exposé on Voltaire: "Comme mademoiselle a dit..., Comme mademoiselle a dit..." I was married and was wearing a maternity dress, albeit a discreet one, necessary for the times. He was wonderful at the first ever reunion discussing "The Peyre years." It was touching when he found himself speaking French after starting in English. "Est-ce que je parle français?"

– Barbara Candee McCarthy '68 MPhD

I fondly remember taking his extraordinary class on Twentieth Century French Theater in 1970. He was brilliant, witty, provocative, and made us love the theater as much as the art of teaching about it. We discovered Artaud, Giraudoux, Jarry and Ionesco in all their scandal and power. He was one of the last of the great scholars and teachers of that generation and he too will be very sorely missed.

– Irene Finel-Honigman '73 PhD

He was the most cordial and supportive of thesis advisors, and before that one of the most extraordinary lecturers and classroom presences I have been privileged to witness. His course on the history of French theatre compelled us to acknowledge how little we had seen in a play that he would then bring to life as though it were being put on right in front of us.

– Ed Knox '66 PhD

He was my thesis director, a mentor, and a friend. He embodied for me the ideal of the "honnête homme" of the 17th century: gracious, open-minded, as elegant on the intellectual as on the social levels, and a human being of immense decency.

– Leonard Rosmarin '67 PhD

I last saw Professor Guicharnaud at the memorial service for Professor May. He didn't seem quite as vigorous as when I took his seminars at Yale lo these many years ago, but the smile and the twinkle in his eye were still much in evidence.

– Dick Terdiman '68 PhD

I still see him as when he first came into the Department – tall, svelte, noble, eloquent. The most unforgettable image I retain is his role of Don Juan, playing against Jean Leblon's Sganarelle, in the Departmental play of the time. What a fantastic, top-flight pair they made!

– William Roberts '55 PhD

Faculty News —

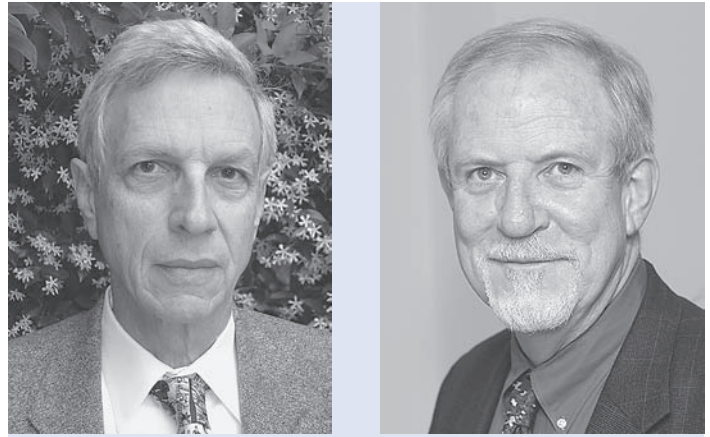
After seven years on the faculty, **Mark Burde** is leaving Yale for the University of Michigan, where he has been named a “Public Goods Postdoctoral Fellow” to teach courses using the resources of the university library’s special collections. During his tenure at Yale Mark taught a broad range of courses inside and outside the department, including graduate and undergraduate seminars in medieval literature and Old French, and most recently two highly innovative and successful undergraduate courses of Mark’s own invention: “French Language: A Social History” and “Franco-American Relations.” Mark also served for two years as the DUS of French.

Ned Duval wrote an 8000-word entry on French Renaissance satire for Blackwell’s forthcoming *Companion to Satire from the Biblical World to the Present*, published an article titled “Wresting Petrarch’s Laurels: Scève, Du Bellay, and the Invention of the *Canzoniere*” in *Renaissance Transactions and Exchanges* (special issue of the *Annals of Scholarship*), and presented a paper titled “Back to Lyric” at a special session of the MLA Division on Sixteenth-Century French Literature on “New Directions in French Renaissance Studies.”

Farid Laroussi was promoted to Associate Professor effective July 1, 2005. His first book, *Écritures du sujet*, was accepted for publication by Vrin/Sils-Maria and is scheduled to appear in January. He published two more articles in *Le Monde* (November 25, 2004 and May 12, 2005) and was invited to participate in a series of conferences on the past, present, and future of Europe, sponsored by the presidency of the European Union.

Having been promoted to Associate Professor in 2003, **Catherine Labio** spent the year on Senior Faculty Fellowship researching and writing her new book on literature and economics.

Chris Miller is nearing completion of his new book on the French Atlantic slave trade.



Two newly chaired professors: Howard Bloch has been named Sterling Professor of French, and Thomas Kavanagh has been named Augustus R. Street Professor of French.

Donia Mounsef completed a number of articles: on “women and the obscene,” “Brecht and Barthes,” and “Sartre and Diderot,” and gave a paper on “torture and representation” at the Cultural Studies Association. In December her first book, *Chair et révolte dans le théâtre de Bernard-Marie Koltès*, was published by L’Harmattan.

Julia Prest published an article on “Cross-Casting and Women’s Roles in School Drama” in *Seventeenth-Century French Studies*, as well as entries on *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* and *Le Malade imaginaire* in the on-line *Literary Encyclopedia*. She continued to perform with the Yale Camerata, the Pro Musica and Recital Chorus, and starred in the title role of Stravinsky’s “Persephone” with the Yale Symphony Orchestra. In November she was married to Eric Meridiano. Julia has been awarded a Morse Fellowship for the coming academic year to work on her new book on “Theatrical Controversies in Seventeenth-Century France.” As the summer ends her book, *Theatre under Louis XIV: Cross-Casting and Women’s Roles*, has just been accepted for publication by Palgrave Press.

Yale French Studies Update

As the new semester begins, it’s often hard to find time for reading anything that’s unrelated to our teaching and our research. But we still need to take a break, and explore areas outside of our specializations. Not a specialist of Haitian Studies? You can learn all kinds of new things from the latest volume (107) of *Yale French Studies: The Haiti Issue: (1804 and Nineteenth Century French Studies)*. Then, clear your calendar over winter holiday break and enjoy the next volume on *Crime Fictions*, available for your delectation in December. Or, if you’re up for a blast from the past, go back to those wonderful earlier volumes of *Yale French Studies*. Discover what was “novel in the novel” (the title of volume 8 from 1951) and read our beloved Jacques Guicharnaud’s insightful article on “Raymond Queneau’s Universe.” Take a look at what Ned Duval had to say about “Lessons of the New World: Design and Meaning in Montaigne’s ‘Des cannibales’ and ‘Des coches’” in 1983 (Volume 64). See what Howard Bloch wrote about “Tristan, the Myth of the State and the Language of the Self” back in 1974

(Volume 51). Find out whether, according to J.M.E. Blanchard, the French Revolution was “A Political Line or a Language Circle” (Volume 39, 1967). Or break out your best bottle of wine and read all of Volume 50 on *Intoxication and Literature*. That volume is from 1974, an intoxicating era indeed! In the meantime, we’ll be working on preparing for you an intriguing look at *Surrealism and its Others*, edited by Katharine Conley and Pierre Taminiaux, with articles on Duchamp, outsider art, surrealism and photography, surrealism and the “Orient” . . . You’ll be surprised how much you’ll learn from this volume (109), in your library or your mailbox in the spring of 2006.

Do let us know from time to time what you’ve found of interest, in the most recent volumes or in the oldest ones. Drop us a line at yalefrenchstudies@yale.edu. And check the French department website’s link to *Yale French Studies* at www.yale.edu/french to discover other articles of interest to you, for your research or your pleasure. — **Alyson Waters, Managing Editor**

From the DGS —

As always, the core of our graduate program this year was the array of seminars offered. During the fall semester they were: “Old French” (Burde); “1532 et ses suites” (Duval); “Sex and Gender in Seventeenth-Century Theater” (Prest); “French Cinema: History, Theory, Pedagogy” (Kavanagh); “Post-Colonial Literature and Its Theory” (Miller); and “Introduction to Modern Poetry” (Poucel). During the Spring semester they were: “Philosophes et libertins” (Kavanagh); “French-Atlantic Triangle: Literature and Culture of the Slave Trade” (Miller); “Mythology and Renewal in French Theater” (Mounsef); “Formes narratives du dix-neuvième siècle” (Avni); and “Literature in Migration” (Laroussi).

Reflecting the interdisciplinary focus of contemporary graduate studies, our students took a wide variety of courses offered in other departments. Among them were “Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain,” in Spanish; “Ideology, Religion, and Revolution in German Thought” and “Plato’s Legacy” in German; “The Medieval Book” in History of Art; “Renaissance Epic” in Italian; “Reformation Europe” in History; “Interpretation and Authority” in Comparative Literature as well as “Germany and Eastern Europe: Literature and Film,” and “Historical Methods in Film Analysis” in Film Studies.

Shira Weidenbaum and Rachael Sterner served admirably as co-chairs of the Graduate Association of French Students (GAFS) this past year. They were especially effective in coordinating the housing of visiting graduate candidates with our current graduate students during the spring semester. This year, for the first time, we tried a new format for campus visits, designating a single day as “Visiting Day” for all students admitted to the graduate program in French. As it worked out, four of our seven candidates were able to visit on that date, March 24, while the other three came at various other times. Opinion is divided as to whether designating a single date as Visiting Day is a good idea.

This year the graduate students, coordinated by Jeffrey Leichman and Jeffrey Boyd, organized a very successful two-day conference on November 12 and 13 titled “Le Mauvais Usage: Transgression and Perversion in French and Francophone Literature and Culture.” Graduate students from Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, Cambridge, Trinity College – Dublin, the University of Montreal and the University of Virginia gave papers on a wide variety of subjects as did our own students (Susannah

Dissertations Completed 2004-2005

J. Marina Davies, “Revoicing the Self: Character Description in Sarraute, Cohen, and Perec” (Ora Avni)

Richard Keatley, “Enjoying the World: Curiosity and the Voyage d’Italie (1568-1606)” (Edwin Duval)

Carson, Marina Davies, Ryan Poynter, Brooke Donaldson, Michael Call, and Jeffrey Boyd). Professor Pierre Saint-Amand of Brown University gave the keynote address, titled “Beaux, Bad Boys, and Performance on the 18th-Century Stage.”

Our exchange program with the École Normale Supérieure continues with much benefit for both institutions. During the 2004-2005 academic year three students from French – Scott Hiley, Larisa Smirnova, and Agnieszka Tworek – spent the year at the ENS, along with Christopher Van den Berg of Comparative Literature. During the coming academic year of 2005-2006, the French Department will be represented at the ENS by Michael Call, John Lytle, Laure Marcellesi, and Brian Reilly.

Four graduate students passed their Oral Qualifying Exams this last year: Jeffrey Leichman, Alexandra Gueydan, Shira Weidenbaum, and Roxanna Curto. Three other students, John Lytle, Laure Marcellesi, and Brian Reilly had their Dissertation prospectus approved and were advanced to candidacy.

First-year student Chung Yoon was awarded a tuition scholarship to the Institut d’études françaises d’Avignon for the summer.

Two Ph.D. dissertations were completed this year: Richard Keatley wrote on “Enjoying the World: Curiosity and the *Voyage d’Italie* (1568-1606)” with Edwin Duval and Marina Davies wrote on “Revoicing the Self: Character Description in Sarraute, Cohen, and Perec” with Ora Avni. Richard Keatley is currently teaching at Georgia State University and Marina Davies begins teaching this fall at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

Turning from completions to beginnings, three new students are joining the graduate program in 2005. They are Anne Linton, who comes to Yale with a BA from Washington University and an MA from the University of Wisconsin; Alexandra (Sasha) Santee, who did her BA at the University of California, Santa Cruz; and Erin Tremblay, who holds a BA from Haverford College and an MA from Bryn Mawr College. We had, of course, hoped to recruit a larger number of in-coming students, but our competitors all too effectively exploited the fact that the department has not yet recruited senior scholars to replace Naomi Schor, Peter Brooks, and Shoshana Felman. These recent losses leave us with a particularly noticeable weakness in the area of nineteenth-century studies. We are, however, hoping to be able soon to announce a major senior appointment and proceed with at least one other senior search in the near future.

Once again, I am much in debt to our Registrar, Shirley Gaddy, for her generous help and unflagging patience.

— Thomas Kavanagh



Second-year graduate students Matthew Landry, Sarah Williams, Susannah Carson, Jessica DeVos and Claire McMurray with the DGS.

From the DUS —

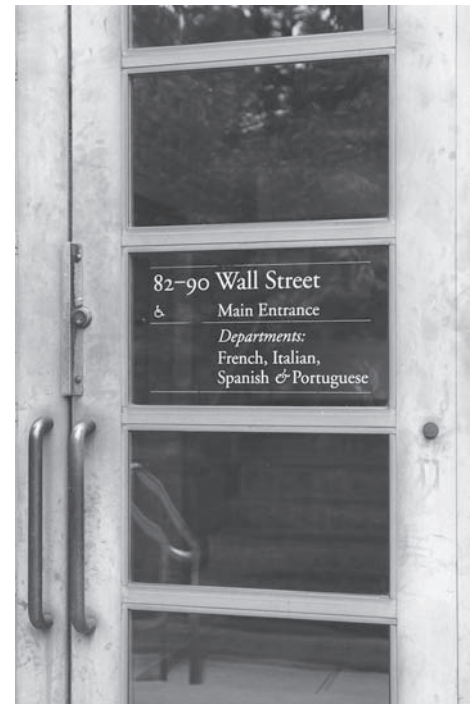
Several years ago, faced with a tiny pool of majors and dwindling seminar enrollments, the French department made important changes to the undergraduate curriculum, adding new content-rich courses and simplifying requirements for the major. This year we reaped the fruits of those changes. Enrollments remained strong in the language sequence, they grew a little in the advanced seminars and, most importantly, our program enjoyed a sizeable increase in majors; we now boast 10, as opposed to the 2 or 3 of previous years.

Given the wealth of options presented to young Elis it is actually quite difficult to attract more than a dozen French majors annually. Nevertheless, like many of my colleagues I remain guardedly optimistic about sustaining our recent rate of growth. We will be able to do this if we can continue to attract double majors as we have recently done, and if we can turn to our advantage changes in the Yale College language requirement that are just about to go into effect.

Under the new Yale College curriculum, every student will be required to take some foreign language. Students who enter Yale

We now boast 10 majors, compared to the two or three of previous years.

with no proficiency in a second language will have to complete only three semesters of foreign language study, one semester less than the previous proficiency standard. However, students who have already attained proficiency in a foreign language (as indicated by a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exam) — as is the case of most of today's best high school graduates — will have to take at least one course in a foreign language at Yale. This is of course a change we welcome, since the old requirement allowed students to “pass out” of the language requirement altogether, with the result that we never saw many of the best-prepared students in our classes at all. There will be no “passing out” under the new regime. The new requirement also contains a provision allowing advanced students to satisfy the requirement by enrolling for a term or two of approved study abroad, which could also have the effect of attracting good students, formerly lost to the department,



to our upper division courses. Although these changes were initially met with some resistance by the faculty of all language departments, because of the “reduction” of the basic requirement from four to three semesters for students who must start a new language from scratch, they present

continued on page 7

Language Courses

- Fr 115 Elementary and Intermediate French – Matuku Ngame
- Fr 120 French for Reading - Maryam Sanjabi
- Fr 125 Intensive French – Anne Ambrogelly
- Fr 130 Intermediate and Advanced French – Ruth Koizim
- Fr 138/9 Advanced Language Practice - Françoise Schneider
- Fr 140 Intensive Advanced Language Practice – Diane Charney
- Fr 150 Advanced Culture and Conversation – Julia Prest and Françoise Schneider
- Fr 155 Advanced Writing Workshop – Donia Mounsef

Gateway Courses

- Fr 160 Introduction to the Study of Literature in French- Lauren Pinzka
- Fr 162 French and Francophone Cultural History Marie-Hélène Girard
- Fr 164 Contemporary French and Francophone Societies and Cultures – Mark Burde
- Fr 165 Literary Analysis and Theory – Jean-Jacques Poucel
- Fr 185 Translation – Alyson Waters

Introductory Topics

- Fr 209 French Language: A Social History – Mark Burde
- Fr 212 Medieval French Literature – Mark Burde
- Fr 219 17th Century French Literature – Julia Prest
- Fr 221 The French Enlightenment – Thomas Kavanagh
- Fr 235 Maghreb Literature and Culture – Farid Laroussi

Advanced Topics (taught in French)

- Fr 375 The 19th Century Novel – Marie-Hélène Girard
- Fr 381 Paris, Capital of the 19th Century – Marie-Hélène Girard
- Fr 388 The 20th Century Novel: Non-French Writers Writing in French – Alyson Waters
- Fr 390 Modernism and the Avant-Garde – Jean-Jacques Poucel

Advanced Topics (taught in English)

- Fr 382 The Modern French Novel in English Translation – Ora Avni
- Fr 411 Novel and Film in the Francophone Postcolonial World – Christopher Miller/ Dudley Andrew
- Fr 412 Postcolonial Theory and Its Literature – Christopher Miller

a real opportunity for the department not only to increase our enrollments but to attract better students to our courses.

Having recognized this opportunity several years ago, our appeal to potential (double) majors now rests on four basic strategies: create opportunities for beginning students to earn credits in the major while they acquire proficiency; develop intriguing advanced-intermediate courses that expose underclassmen to the complexities of French and Francophone studies; offer a bevy of cross-listed seminars that sustain the integrated liberal arts experience coveted by Yale students; and, finally, as always, promote the mastery of analytical thinking and critical writing *in French*. While we reluctantly admit that few of our majors write as well in French as they might in English about history, philosophy, and art, we still contend that learning to think and argue convincingly in French gives students an edge in their current course of study, as well as in future endeavors.

Beginning this fall we will offer a special course for *faux debutants*, created by Marie-Dominique Boyce with the assistance of Soumia Koundi and Anne Ambrogelly. This course will give initiated students a head-start that will allow them to advance more rapidly through our language sequence, and the option of joining the major sooner. Part of the hurry for continuing students, it seems, is to enroll as soon as possible in the

wildly popular “Advanced Culture and Conversation,” chaired this year by Julia Prest and Françoise Schneider. But it is not until students enroll in “Gateway Courses” that they officially enter the major. Consequently, it is at this level of the curriculum that we have focused our most aggressive recruitment campaign. In his last semester on our faculty, Mark Burde devised an interdisciplinary advanced-intermediate seminar entitled “Episodes in French-American Relations, 1776-2003.” The course earned rave reviews from all enrolled students, several of whom have subsequently declared as French majors.



Ousmane Sembene, founder of African Cinema, with Matuku Ngame in April 2005.

The recruitment of majors – clearly an *idée fixe* for this DUS – also takes place in the few literature courses taught in English. This year Dudley Andrew and Christopher Miller team-taught “Novel and Film in the Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial World” and Ora Avni revived Chuck Porter’s crowd pleaser, “The Modern French Novel in English Translation.” The point, as Ora explains, is to show Comparative Literature and English majors, many of whom may have first read Verne, Flaubert, Zola, and Proust in English, that we do it better. This truism was not lost on Stephen Meyers, a former Literature major whose conversion concluded his fantastic junior year abroad.

Thanks to the relentless campaign of Ruth Koizim and Karen Jones we continue to persuade students that studying abroad will enrich, not impoverish their Yale years. And for those who seek to make the most of their time away from campus, we continue to expand summer course offerings in Paris; enrollments soared this year in our second-year language course, courageously led by Soumia Koundi and Laure Marcellesi, as well as in an anthropological version of “Advanced Culture and Conversation,” led by Françoise Schneider, and in “Paris and the Literary Imagination,” an off-season gateway course taught by Lauren Pinzka. We are all grateful to Maria Kosinski and Cristin Siebert, whose attention to our

continued on page 8

Class of 2005 — Senior Essay Titles and Advisors

Kamilla Arku, “Paul Eluard, Francis Poulenc et la transposition de *Tel jour telle nuit*” (Julia Prest)

Emily Breza “*La polygamie dans l’œuvre d’Ousmane Sembene vue d’une perspective économique et anthropologique*” (Christopher Miller)

Sarah Chihaya*, “Si chaotique, si morcelé: History and Fiction in Patrick Modiano’s *Rue des boutiques obscures* and *Dora Bruder*” (Ora Avni)

Awendela Grantham*, “Le paysage antillais et la sensibilité des personnes de couleur” (Christopher Miller)

Soo Won Kim, “La valeur historique et la singularité du *Muséum parisien*” (Marie-Hélène Girard)

Bo Jung Kwon*, “La Représentation du traumatisme et du témoignage dans la littérature algérienne francophone” (Farid Laroussi)

Stephen Meyer*, “Du *Mariage de Figaro* aux *Noces de Figaro*: politique sociale et politique amoureuse” (Julia Prest)

Sibile Morency, “La femme dans le ballet de cour: fiction ou réalité” (Julia Prest)

Carolina Solis*, oral presentation “Comment juger Madame Bovary?” (Marie-Hélène Girard)

Vanessa Wood*, “*Jocs Comuns*: Les jeux d’imitation dans les tons occitanes avec voix féminines et masculines (traductions et analyse)” (Mark Burde)

* *Graduated with distinction in the major.*

summer programs has greatly improved the teaching and housing situation for students and faculty alike.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2005 French majors. Please keep in touch in the years to come. I hereby also thank the entire faculty for advising and thoughtfully commenting on this year's crop of senior essays (see titles and advisors, page 7). Also, I know I speak for all of my colleagues in congratulating Laure Marcellesi (Grd '07), 2005 winner of the prestigious Yale College Graduate Fellow Teaching Prize.

Finally, a brief list of personal thanks: to Catherine Labio for handing me a superbly organized DUS folder; to Anne Ambrogelly and Lauren Pinzka for the extra analyses of 125 and 160; to Farid Laroussi and Ruth Koizim for judging the



Montaigne Prize; to Lauren Pinzka and Françoise Schneider for judging the Scott Essay prize; to Ruth Koizim and Ned Duval for your confidence, advice and humor; to Laurie Ongley for your fastidious attention to detail; and, to Shirley Gaddy and Agnès Bolton for your invaluable help in tending to matters small and great in the everyday life of our department.

—Jean-Jacques Poucel

News from Alumni —

Joseph Acquisto '03 PhD is assistant professor of French at the University of Vermont. His book, *French Symbolist Poetry and the Idea of Music*, will be published in 2006.

Diana Alstad '71 PhD lives in Bolinas, Calif. She and co-author Joel Kramer are working on a new book entitled "Spirituality for Atheists: A Foundation for Morality." Their 1993 book on cultural authoritarianism, *The Guru Papers: Masks of Authoritarian Power*, predicted the current global morality wars. They also have online publications on "A Winning Strategy for Democrats" and on abortion and morality, all posted at www.rit.org.

Patricia Armstrong '00 PhD has recently moved to Nashville to take the positions of Assistant Director of Vanderbilt University's Center for Teaching and Senior Lecturer in the Department of French and Italian. She has recently published a few brief articles on teaching, and is looking forward to doing more writing on the subject.

Richard Beesen '68 MA is advisor to the chairman of a major Russian bank and is in the process of creating one of the few

mortgage banks in that country. Following his studies at Yale, he earned an MBA. He writes, "My first employer, a senior vice president at Citibank New York and a Yale graduate, immediately gave me a job as assistant vice president, telling me if I could speak French, I could also learn Russian rapidly."

Joyce Besserer '71 MPhil teaches French at Brookfield Academy in Brookfield, Wis., and ESL at a technical college in the area. She has a ten-year-old granddaughter, Madeline. She has been a volunteer interviewer for Yale undergraduate applicants for several years.

Jean-Vincent Blanchard '97 PhD, who teaches French literature at Swarthmore College, announces the publication of two books: *L'Optique du discours au XVIIe siècle. De la rhétorique des jésuites au style de la raison moderne*; and an edited volume with Hélène Visentin, *L'Invraisemblance du Pouvoir. Mises en scène de la souveraineté au XVIIe siècle*.

Amy Balser Blumenthal '92 MPhil is working part-time managing the comprehensive campaign at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and raising daughters Emily (7½) and Rachel (5) with husband Edward Blumenthal '94 PhD (neuroscience).

Matilda Tomaryn Bruckner '74 PhD is professor of French at Boston College. She has received an NEH Fellowship for the calendar year 2006 in order to finish a book on Chrétien de Troyes' grail romance and its four verse continuations. She has recently published several articles on women troubadours and romance.

William Calin '57 BA, '61 PhD is Graduate Research Professor at the University of Florida. He spent 2005-06 at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, where he completed a book on "The Humanist Critics, from Spitzer to Frye" and began writing another book on "The French Tradition and the Literature of Medieval and Renaissance Scotland."

Edmund Campion '76 PhD is professor of French at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and is also working as a French linguist for the FBI. He continues to do research on Quinault, Erasmus, and Montaigne. He and his wife Mary Ellen have two children in college: daughter Christie attends Rhodes College in Memphis and son Scott is at the University of Tennessee.

William Carlson '73 PhD writes that he and his wife Lonni Briggs Carlson '72 MPhil have retired after twenty-one years in the Foreign Service and are currently transitioning to their home on Cape Cod.

Christine Cano '97 PhD was recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She is the author of a new book entitled *Proust's Deadline*.

Mary Ann Caws '56 MA is editor of a new book, *The Yale Anthology of Twentieth Century French Poetry*, and the author of *Pablo Picasso* in the Critical Lives Series of Reaktion Press.

Kathryn Crecelius '73 PhD has just been named the first Chief Investment Officer of

continued on page 9



News from alumni *continued from page 8*

the \$2.2 billion Johns Hopkins University endowment.

Catherine Cusset '91 PhD still lives in Manhattan with her husband and her daughter Claire, who started first grade at Nest, a new school on the lower East side. She now has eight novels published by Gallimard, seven of them in Folio, and she is translated into eleven languages. Last year her book *Confessions d'une radine* came out in German, Russian, and Italian.

Marina Davies '05 PhD is assistant professor in residence at the University of Connecticut.

Deidre Dawson '89 PhD is currently associate professor of French at Michigan State University and Secretary General of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. She recently co-edited *France and Scotland in the Enlightenment*, a volume of essays on Franco-Scottish philosophical, literary and cultural exchanges during the eighteenth century. She is also preparing a critical edition of the *Lettres sur la sympathie* (the Marquise de Condorcet's response to Adam Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments*).

Richard A. Deshaies, SJ, '82 MA is Director of Formation for the New England Province of the Society of Jesus. From 1983 until 1999, he lived mainly in Jamaica and Kenya. In Jamaica, he taught English literature at St. George's College and then became president of the school. He also spent two years in Kenya pursuing advanced studies in theology and biblical studies. Since 1999 he has served as a campus minister at Fairfield University, as a pastor at an inner-city church in Bridgeport, and now in the administration of the New England Jesuits. He currently lives in the Boston College Jesuit Community, and his main work is to direct a group of 50 younger men who are in the early stages of full-time ministry. He writes, "Over 20 years later, I still feel that my mind and heart are learning from my three years at Yale."

Richard Dunn '59 PhD retired in the late 1990s as director of Credit Suisse First Boston. He now lives on Long Island and has begun a new career teaching Latin at East Hampton High School.

Rhonda Garelick '83 BA, '91 PhD is on a two-year sabbatical from her job as associate professor of French at Connecticut

College. She is spending the first semester of her leave as a visiting scholar at the Getty Research Institute, working on a new project on "Antigone in Vogue: Coco Chanel and the Neoclassical Stage." She has also received a Guggenheim, an ACLS, and a Dedalus Senior Fellowship for the coming two years. Her second book, *Electric Salome: The Cultural Legacy of Loie Fuller*, is under contract to Princeton University Press. She lives in New York with her husband, Jorge Daniel Veneciano, who is director of the Paul Robeson Gallery at Rutgers.

Peter Hallward '97 PhD has moved to a new job in the philosophy program at London's Middlesex University.

Robert Hammond '52 PhD is co-author with the late Charles Ford of *Polish Film: A Twentieth Century History* published in 2005. Several of his plays have recently been published in French translation. He reports that he and his wife Margie '48 GRD live within 15 minutes' walk of Elizabeth and Buford Norman '71 PhD and Cathy and Phil Lewis '69 PhD in the 13th and 14th arrondissements. Bob and Buford discovered that both of them had Jean Boorsch as their dissertation advisor and were both very happy with his help.

Joe Herlihy '78 PhD writes, "I became an attorney after finishing my studies in the program, and was for a number of years in private practice at Goodwin Procter in Boston. Since 1994 I have been General Counsel at Boston College. It would be a great pleasure to hear from any classmates in the Boston area."

John W. Kneller '50 PhD is general editor of a new book, *Henri Peyre, His Life in Letters*. He is President Emeritus of Brooklyn College, CUNY and professor of French emeritus at the CUNY Graduate Center. He was promoted to Commandeur, Palmes Academiques at the French Embassy in New York a few years ago. He and his wife reside in Westport, Conn.



Maria Kosinski '69 PhD continues to be in charge of the Directed Independent Language Study program at Yale. Her program offers several successful courses in Paris, and hopes to add more in the summer of 2006.

Kathryn Lachman '98 BA/MA is in Paris this year on a Georges Lurcy Fellowship, where she is affiliated with the Ecole Normale Supérieure. She has two more years to complete her PhD at Princeton. Her dissertation, "The Poetics and Politics of Voice in Algerian, South African and Antillean literature," looks at the influence of musical forms on contemporary narrative.

Jean Leblon '60 PhD writes, "Last year I was named Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques; this year I am stepping down from the presidency of the Alliance Française de Seattle; I am starting my third year on the national board of directors of the American Translators Association; I continue to translate French and English documents for the Consulate General of France in San Francisco."

Marie-Rose Logan '74 PhD taught at Columbia from 2003 to 2005 and is now a full professor at Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, Calif., an institution that focuses on East-West cultural relationships. She recently published two articles, "Antique Myth, Modern Mind: Jacques Lacan's Actaeon and the Fictions of Modernism" (*Journal of Modern Languages*, 2004) and "Guilelmus Budaeus's Philological Imagination" (*Modern Language Notes*, 2004). As general editor of *Annals of Scholarship*, an interdisciplinary, transnational journal, she has recently published special issues on John Ashberry, guest-edited by Angus Fletcher, and on Renaissance exchanges and transactions.

Yuliy Masinovsky '02 MPhil is currently living in Los Angeles and working at United Talent Agency, where he is apprenticed to an agent who represents screenwriters, directors, and producers in the studio and independent worlds of movies/cinema. He is acquiring a solid knowledge of the business side of the film industry and appreciating the tranquil moments at Sterling he had to read Kateb Yacine, Zola, and Stendhal.

Richard Meadows '01 PhD writes, "After brief stints at colleges in Florida, Vermont, and Maryland, I'm now in my fourth

continued on page 10

News from alumni *continued from page 9*

year of a tenure-track position at Berea College, near Lexington, Kentucky. In my 'spare time,' I help my Parisian wife of five years, Stephanie, with her antique shop. If all goes well, we'll be having our first child – a little girl – in November."

Jeffrey Mehlman '71 PhD writes that his book *Émigré New York: French Intellectuals in Wartime Manhattan* has been published in French translation along with a preface by Régis Debray.

Cynthia Mesh '94 PhD is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard and working at Brigham and Women's Hospital Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Over the last few years, she has engaged in qualitative research on battered mothers, database development for social work services, and grantwriting to support a health-law collaborative to serve victims of domestic violence within the health-care setting. She and husband Martin Ferguson '92 PhD (MB&B) have two children, Leah (10) and Caleb (8).

Vicki Mistacco '72 PhD is professor of French at Wellesley College. Her anthology, *Les femmes et la tradition littéraire: Anthologie du moyen âge à nos jours*, is about to be published by Yale. Entirely in French and handsomely illustrated, it features 40 women whose writings span eight centuries.

Armine Kotin Mortimer '74 PhD is head of the department of French at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Part of her study of Philippe Sollers' *Paradis* was published as an entire issue of *L'Infini*, and another extract appeared in *La Règle du Jeu*.

Victoria Bridges Moussaron '87 PhD is maître de conférences at the Université de Lille III, where she teaches theories of translation, literary translation, and a seminar on the Caribbean poet Derek Walcott.

Sandy (Donald S.) Petrey '66 PhD is professor of French and Comparative Literature at SUNY Stony Brook. In 2005 his book *In the Court of the Pear King: French Culture and the Rise of Realism* was published by Cornell.

Amy Reid '96 PhD has written a translation of Patrice Nganang's novel *Temps de chien*, due out in spring 2006. She is currently on extended maternity leave from New College of Florida, following the birth in April 2004 of twins Miriam & Benjamin, who join Jacob, 3 1/2.

James Reid '79 PhD has published a new book, *Proust, Beckett, and Narration*. In March he will be going to Cardiff, Wales, as a keynote speaker for a conference entitled "Beckett's Proust/Deleuze's Proust."

Sylvie Romanowski '69 PhD is now full professor at Northwestern University. She has just published *Through Strangers' Eyes: Fictional Foreigners in Old Regime France*. In collaboration with a botanist, she is working on translating Alexander von Humboldt's 1807 *Essai sur la géographie des plantes*, considered to be one of the first texts to look at plant life from an ecological perspective.

Leonard Rosmarin '67 PhD is professor emeritus at Brock University in Ontario. In 2002 the Republic of France decorated him Officier, Ordre des Palmes Académiques for



Show and tell! We would love to hear your latest news, personal and professional. Send your contributions to Agnès Bolton, P.O. Box 208251, New Haven, CT 06520, or email french_department@yale.edu.

outstanding services in the cause of French letters. In 2004 he published a new book, *Liliane Atlan ou la quête de la forme divine*. His English adaptation of Liliane Atlan's finest play, *Les Mers Rouges*, was produced at the Toronto Fringe Festival this past July and will be turned into a film.

English Showalter '57 BA, '64 PhD is retired from the Rutgers University at

continued on page 11

IN MEMORIAM: ALUMNI

Marie L. Hubert '50 PhD died March 2, 2005, in Columbus, Ohio, at the age of 90. In 1940 she entered the Novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus. From 1942 to 1956 she taught at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, and 1956 to 1971 she served as the college's president. She then served as Director of Institutional Research at the college from 1972 until her retirement in 2001.

Keith H. MacFarlane '65 PhD died May 12, 2005, at the age of 70. For 28 years he was professor of French at the University of California, Riverside, retiring in 1996.

Mary E. Vassel '36 GRD died April 1, 2005, in Edmund, Okla., at the age of 96. In the 1930s she taught French and music at Miss Day's School for Fine Ladies in New Haven. Subsequently she

lived in Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Illinois, Brazil, Florida, and Utah. While living in Sao Paulo, Brazil, she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and remained an active, contributing member for the rest of her life. She is survived by three children, 21 grandchildren, and 45 great-grandchildren.

Robert H. Wade '42 PhD died January 26, 2005, in North Chatham, Massachusetts, at the age of 88. From 1964 to 1969 he served as a US Permanent Representative to UNESCO, and from 1969 to 1973 he was assistant director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Susan M. Whitebook '69 PhD died November 21, 2004, in Burlington, Vermont. She was professor of French at the University of Vermont from 1969 until her retirement in 2000.

News from alumni *continued from page 10*

Camden, but he continues to work on Mme de Graffigny. In the past year, he has published a biography, *Françoise de Graffigny: Her Life and Works*; an article, “Madame de Graffigny en 1752”; and the ninth volume in the edition of her letters, *Mme de Graffigny. Correspondance*.

Marilyn Schuster '73 PhD writes, “My partner, Susan Van Dyne, and I are going to be married on October 9 in a small ceremony at our home in Williamsburg, Massachusetts.”

Paul Schwartz '71 PhD writes, “I am in my eighth year (!) as Dean of Arts and Humanities at SUNY Fredonia. My 2003 novel, *L'Art de vivre*, was the subject of a master's thesis submitted this fall at Marseille-Aix, but still hasn't made any best seller lists. If any former colleagues are teaching at or near universities where the Aquila Theatre Company is performing Hamlet, they should be sure to go see it to check up on the activities of our older son.”

Patricia Siegel-Finley '69 PhD writes from SUNY Brockport, “After being an ACE Fellow in 1974-75, I told myself that I would never serve as department chair. Now after all these years of avoiding it, here I am in the most unwanted seat imaginable! My life took an unexpected turn when our daughter was born handicapped, but once she is through graduate school at RIT, I will have more time to devote to my new scholarly interest, Saint François de Sales. We were able to spend seven years in Tours, where I founded and directed our study abroad program. I could write reams on the superiority of French medicine!”

Virginia Swain '78 PhD is the author of a new book, *Grotesque Figures: Baudelaire, Rousseau, and the Aesthetics of Modernity*.

Richard Terdiman '68 PhD has recently published *Body and Story: The Practice and Ethics of Theoretical Conflict*.

Camelia Tumminello '98 BA, '01 MA is currently living in Miami with her architect husband, Anthony. She is teaching middle-school language courses, including Spanish, Latin, and French, at Ransom Everglades School.

Pom Vattasingh '79 MPhil writes, “2005 is a year of change in our family. My husband and I recently returned to the US after 10 years in Thailand, where I had been working for Société Générale. We are now making New York City our new home,

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:

Thursday, December 29, 2005

5:15 – 6:30 pm

Washington Hilton Hotel – Lincoln Ballroom West
1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC

The Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences also invites you to its annual reception for alumni, faculty and students in all departments associated with the MLA:

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

5:15 – 6:30 pm

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel – Washington Room 4
2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC

and I will continue with the bank, being responsible for its European and Asian clients in the US. Our son just entered UC Berkeley, so this move has met my primary objective of keeping the family on the same continent. I would be pleased to see any and all colleagues who happen to be coming through NYC.”

Philip Walker '45W BA, '56 PhD is Professor Emeritus of French Literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He writes, “I have just uploaded onto the internet a collection of seventeen of my articles on Zola: www.EssaysonZola.com. They were all previously published, and they treat various aspects of the Zola behind the naturalist mask: the craftsman, the mystic, the myth maker, the anguished doubter, the would-be new messiah, the literary theorist whose chief objective was nothing less than literary immortality.”

Richard Watts '98 PhD has written a new book, *Packaging Post/Coloniality: The Manufacture of Literary Identity in the Francophone World*. He examines the ways in which the “paratext” – the covers, illustrations, promotional summaries, epigraphs, dedications, forewords, or prefaces that enclose a text – mediates creative works by writers from sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. He is assistant professor at Tulane University.

Caroline Weber '98 PhD left the University of Pennsylvania to accept a position as associate professor at Barnard College. Her new book, *Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore to the Revolution* is slated to come out in September 2006.

Jonathan Weiss '72 PhD is the author of a biography of Irène Némirovsky, published in Paris in 2005 and to be published in English translation in 2006. He is director of Colby College's fall study program in Dijon, returning to teach at Colby each spring.

Frank Yeomans '79 PhD, '81 MD writes, “I will be starting a new psychotherapy training program for doctoral students in psychology at the Université Laval in Quebec this Fall. I remain based in New York, but have increasingly frequent teaching engagements in Montreal and Quebec. I also have a new book coming out next spring, co-authored with Drs. John Clarkin and Otto Kernberg: *Psychotherapy for Borderline Personality: Focusing on Object Relations*.



Le temps perdu



Jacques Guicharnaud and colleagues on stage, from a theater production at Yale in the 1950s. If you can identify this event in more detail, please let us know by emailing french.department@yale.edu.

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