This has been an exciting and sometimes hectic year, marked by major transitions in both the department and the university. With a new President and Provost at the helm, and an entirely new team of officers in the department and at NYU Paris, we have needed to learn fast on the job while at the same time adapting to rapidly changing circumstances. Much of the year has been spent thinking how to improve our French undergraduate Major and promote enrollments to our upper-level undergraduate courses more generally. As Director of Undergraduate Studies, Phillip Usher has shown inspiring leadership in negotiating the tough decisions needed to make our program more flexible, transparent, and achievable within the shrinking time to graduation that is being promoted as part of President Hamilton’s initiative to increase affordability at NYU. Despite or because of such challenges, the department continues to maintain and even increase its size. Our search for a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Early Modern period was crowned by the appointment of Sanam Nader-Esfahani (PhD Harvard), whose self-portrait is sketched on p. 7. We are thrilled to have her join us in the fall. Our French language program continues to flourish under John Moran’s expert direction; and the number of our dedicated language lecturer faculty will be swelled by the arrival next fall of Jonathan Cayer (PhD Yale). We are also very happy to have recruited six new students for our PhD program, which continues to flourish under Denis Hollier’s guidance. Most students are now defending their dissertation within six years of entering the program, and although this was a tough year on the job market two of our recently graduated students obtained tenure-track jobs, at Vassar College and UC Irvine, while at least four others secured post-doctoral appointments at NYU and others have been renewed in continuing positions elsewhere. Throughout the year our busy tasks have not impeded our commitment to furthering and advocating for French cultural life. In the last year of Tom Bishop’s historic leadership, the Center for French Civilization and Culture, together with the department, the Institute of French Studies, and the Maison Française, have maintained a vibrant program of academic and cultural events that demonstrate how, whatever the turmoil in Europe and the challenges of higher education, NYU remains a beacon of French culture in the public arena of New York City.

Sarah Kay

Editorial note
This edition of L’Arc comes out less than a year since the last one. Our aim going forward is to review the academic year that has just passed, i.e. 2015-16. As a result there may be some overlap with the last issue, which appeared at the very end of 2015.
FACULTY NEWS

EMILY APTER had her first year chairing the Department of Comparative Literature at NYU. She was awarded a Global Institute of Advanced Study award for a workshop on “Political Concepts” and organized a conference on the topic in April 2016. She served as Vice-President of the American Comparative Literature Association as well as on the MLA Executive Council. The French translation of her book The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature was published by Fayard. Lecture highlights included speaking at the New York Humanities Institute panel on Houellebecq’s Submission the George Steiner lecture at Queen Mary, University College London; and a keynote at Oxford on “Translation and the Right to Language in the Europe of Migrations,” for a conference on rethinking cosmopolitanism. She did a keynote with David Damrosch at the International Comparative Literature Association Conference in Vienna in July, the continuation of a public dialogue commenced at a special forum at MLA. She continued to lecture and teach at the Whitney Independent Study Program and published nine articles/book chapters.

CLAUDIE BERNARD published three articles: “Contre l’erreur française : le roman selon Paul Bourget” in Monia Kallel et al., ed., Création et discours social a l’ère de la littérature industrielle (Tunis 2015); “Le Juif errant et l’erreur de l’Histoire” in Noriko Taguchi, ed., Comment la fiction fait histoire (Champion 2015); “Fin de race, fin de siècle : Le Crépuscule des dieux d’Elémir Bourges” in Pascale Auraix-Jonchière, ed., Balzac et consorts, scénographies familiales des conflits historiques (Rodopi 2016). She was invited Professor at Université Paris7-Diderot in October 2015, where she co-organized a colloquium, “L’Histoire épitaphe,” whose first part took place at Université Paris 7, and the second part at NYU Paris. In October, she gave the introductory lecture “L’Histoire épitaphe, le vif ressaisit le mort” and in May, a lecture entitled “La morte saisis le vif, Une page d’histoire” at Barbey d’Aurevilly.” Claudie Bernard gave several talks: “Le vindicatif et le vindicatoire dans la fiction du XIXe siècle” in October at Université Paris 7; “Vingt ans après, la recomposition du Passé recompose” in October at Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier; “Sur quelques décapitées de jadis (on Charles Nodier)” at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies colloquium in Princeton in November; “Ne touchez pas à la hache : Sous la hache d’Elémir Bourges” at Université Paul Valéry in May. She delivered the keynote address, “Le roman historique et les morts,” at the congress of the Association Canadienne des Etudes Francophones du XIXe siècle at University of Calgary in May. She gave a lecture “Jules Michelet et les morts,” at Universität Wien in June.

CÉCILE BISHOP writes: My first year at NYU has been both busy and incredibly stimulating. Being in touch with the wealth of debates and theoretical thinking currently going on in the US on Critical Race Theory has been a powerful source of inspiration for my own work, opening up new areas of intellectual reflection. During this year, I completed two journal articles – one on representations of the blush and black skin in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century literature, and the other on race, aesthetics and humanism in the work of Denise Colomb. I was invited to present my current research in the French Studies Seminar Series at the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, I presented my work on Denise Colomb at the Tropical Exposures conference at Tulane University – where I also encountered the legendary hospitality of New Orleans. One of the most rewarding activities of the past year was launching a new graduate course entitled ‘Race and the Modern Self’, which led to many fascinating discussions. Meanwhile, I have very much enjoyed getting to know new colleagues and students. I served as the department’s job placement officer, helping our graduate students and recent PhDs to secure employment, and look forward to working with the next cohort this year. Finally, I am very excited to have recently joined the jury of the French Voices translation competition.

TOM BISHOP co-organized two major conferences during his final year as Director of the Center for French Civilization and Culture: the first, in collaboration with Colette Fellous, was entitled INSIDE BARTHES (BARTHES TEL QUE LUI -MÊME). The second, organized with Lise Landeau, was an HOMAGE TO JEAN-CLAUDE CARRIERE entitled SCREENWRITING AND LITERATURE. Bishop hosted Florence Gould events with Pierre Assouline, Atiq Rahimi, Chantal Thomas, Camille Laurens as well as the programs of French Literature in the Making directed by Olivier Barrot, with Florence Aubenas, Laurent Sek-sik, Pierre Bayard, Laure Adler, Jacques Mougnot, and Olivier Frébourg. He also participated at a round table on Michel Houellebecq’s Submission with Emily Apter, Eric Banks, Adam Shatz and Lorin Stein. He was the founding editor of The Florence Gould Lectures at New York University. He presented a lecture at the Barthes conference entitled “New York: A Final Glance.” Tom Bishop served on the French Department Advisory Committee and is a member of CASH. He taught “Metaphors of Modern Theater” (undergraduate) and “Beckett” (graduate). He co-directed Anna Raff Miller’s dissertation and was a first reader for Michelle Lanchart’s. He hosted the annual luncheon at the Senate in Paris, honoring Guy Sorman and Camille Laurens, both of whom were awarded the Medal of Honor of the Center. Bishop raised $24,000 from the French Government, $50,000 from the Florence Gould Foundation.
Benoit Bolduc is currently director of NYU Paris. His new book, La Fête imprimée: spectacles et cérémonies politiques (1549-1662), was published by Classiques Garnier in Paris.

Ludovic Cortade enthusiastically taught several undergraduate courses including “Readings II : French Literature from Romanticism to the Present Day” and a Senior Seminar : “The Politics of Images in Contemporary France.” He spent Spring semester as a Visiting Faculty at NYU Paris. He was also a Visiting “Maitre de conférences” in the Department of Media and Cinema Studies at the University of Paris III Sorbonne-Nouvelle where he conducted a semester-long graduate seminar entitled “Myths and Collective Beliefs in French Film Criticism” in conjunction with the writing of his next book project. In addition, he delivered a few talks including “The Identities of France” (NYU Paris), “Cartography and Film” (Ecole normale supérieure, Lyon), “Bodies, Absorbition and Landscapes in Contemporary French Cinema” (University of London Institute, Paris). While in Paris, he undertook archival research in several institutions including the “Bibliothèque littéraire Jacques-Doucet” and the “Bibliothèque du Saulchoir.” He wrote several articles in which he respectively discusses the notion of “pre-cinema” in Bernard Palissy’s writings, the concept of “negative ontology” in André Bazin’s film criticism, the influence of Raymond Aron’s Introduction to the Philosophy of History on film theory, the intersection of the “École des Annales” with French film criticism, and Jean-Luc Godard’s reading of Paul Valéry. Ludovic Cortade served on the Fulbright Scholar final committee of the Commission Franco-Américaine d'Echanges Universitaires in Paris.

Michael Dash writes: During the past academic year I published the following article – “The Painted Word: Painting, Poetry and Haiti’s Other Avant Garde,” Francosphères, Vol.4, No.1, 2015, 21-32 as well as the book reviews - Carole Boyce Davies, Caribbean Spaces: Escapes from twilight Zones in Research in African Literatures, Vol. 46, No.3, 2015, and Marlene Daut, Tropics of Haiti: Race and the Literary History of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World in Postcolonial Text Vol.11, No.2, 2016. In the Fall 2015 semester I taught the core course “(Dis)placements” at NYU Abu Dhabi. In the Spring 2016 semester I moderated the Special Session at the MLA in Austin on “Edouard Glissant’s “Histoire de negre.” I also participated in the adjudication of the Prix Carbet in Guadeloupe in January and was a chief judge for the BOCAS prize for the best work in Caribbean literature in Trinidad at the end of April.

Stéphane Gerson devoted much of the year to revising his book, Disaster Falls: A Family Story, which Crown will release in January 2017. He published “L’historien américain et ses publics” in the journal Écrire l’histoire as well as a French translation of his book, Nortradamus: Le prophète de nos malheurs, XVIe-XXe siècle (Tallandier). This translation received a Grant-in-Aid from the NYU Humanities Center. Speaking at the Contemporary French Civilization 40th Anniversary Conference, he presented a paper on personal family histories as an emerging genre among French historians. In the spring, he spearheaded the IFS’s first doctoral alumni symposium, a two-day affair with panels on new research and pedagogical directions, professional outcomes, and the future of French Studies. He organized three events at the Maison and the IFS: a roundtable around Richard Keller’s Fatal Isolation: The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003 (Chicago), a discussion of Tyler Stovall’s Transnational France: The Modern History of a Universal Nation (Westview), and a conversation with author Fiston Mwanza Mujila (and his translator) around Mujila’s novel Tram 83 (Deep Vellum). Gerson continued to sit on the French Voices translation committee, served on the UT-Austin Department of French and Italian’s external review committee, and began a three-year term on the Society for French Historical Studies’ Research Travel Award committee.

Sarah Kay writes: Most of my year has been dedicated to taking over the reins of the French department and preparing to assume direction of the Center for French Civilization and Culture in September. Working closely with colleagues and students is always rewarding; I’ve also enjoyed getting to know and appreciate other administrators and leaders, in the department and beyond. But alongside these commitments I was happy to be able to find the time to complete my book on bestiaries, now in press with the University of Chicago, and to give talks at Indiana University, Hamilton College, CalTech, the Medieval Academy of America, as well as other venues. Co-teaching a graduate seminar on the troubadours with Susan Boynton, chair of Music at Columbia, was an inspiring and invigorating experience. It has been exciting to explore new lines of research that will expand my thinking beyond the textual and visual to the domain of sound.

Judith Miller, back from being a dean in Abu Dhabi, has been on sabbatical leave since September. This has allowed her to refuel and recommit to her work in French and Francophone theatre. She has consequently
traveled to the Limoges Francophone theatre festival, to Senegal, and to Côte d’Ivoire, where she interviewed writers and gave the keynote address at the 30th anniversary of Werewere Liking’s Abidjan-based KiYi theatre. She has also seen a good deal of theatre work in France where Joël Pommerat’s new extravaganza on the French Revolution (Carlos: la fin de Louis) inspired an article with Christian Biet to be published in the Tulane Drama Review. TDR is also publishing her translation of Kofi Kwahulé’s play about Burundian rape victims: Massacre for the Wounded. Invited to the University of Tokyo to speak on globalization, she met some 100 educators from around the world who have also been engaged in thinking about what it means to globalize a university; the complexities of academic globalization in the UAE was also the subject of a recent contribution to a round table on the global at the ADE-ADFL meeting at NYU. Her article on the memory of slavery in Cameroonian writer Léonora Miano’s play Red in blue trilogy will appear in a forthcoming volume from Palgrave on colonial and postcolonial memory; and she is translating for The Feminist Press Les Rêits, a novel by Guadeloupian writer Gerty Dambury about the violently suppressed construction workers’ strike in Pointe à Pitre in 1967. She will return to Abu Dhabi to teach next spring.

John Moran was very happy to return from his position as Director of NYU Paris to resume his responsibilities in New York last fall, both in the French Department and in Lipton Hall, where he is once again a Faculty Fellow in Residence and a Faculty Affiliate for the French Floor. He continued his work with the College Board, which includes chairing the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) French Language Test Development Committee and serving as a Question Leader for the Advanced Placement (AP) French Language and Culture exam scoring. This year John and Melanie Hackney proposed the first CAS course to include an Alternative Spring Break component: From Cocomo to CODOFIL. After half a semester this past spring spent in New York studying Francophone Louisiana history, literature, and language, John and Melanie took nine students on a study, research, and service trip across south central Louisiana.

Eugène Nicole’s activities and publications included: “In Memoriam Jacques Garelli,” Chaissm International, Vol 17, p. 23-27; Séminaire d’édition génétique des brouillons de À la Recherche du temps perdu animé par Nathalie Mauriac-Dyer. Le Cahier 51. École normale supérieure, invited guest; a conversation with Maryls de Kerangal at the Maison française; publication of Le silence des cartes, Éditions de l’Olivier; invited author at the Salon du Livre de Paris; an interview on Le silence des cartes for France Ô Television; a round table: “Page d’histoire à la découverte de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, with Thierry Colombié and Hubert Artus”; “History, geography and Poetry”: 200 years ago, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, the only French Territory in North America, was returned to France, an event commemorated at La Maison Française with a lecture by Prof. Bill Marshall (U. of Stirling, Scotland) and a reading from Le silence des cartes; invited author at the “Premier Festival littéraire de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon”; a discussion with students from the Lycée Émile Letournel; “Visions of Saint-Pierre” : an encounter with Yann Queffélec, President of the Festival; a digital version of Le silence des cartes with the Bibliothèque des Amériques; and, with Senator Karine Claireaux on France Ô : “Le 200ème anniversaire de la restitution définitive de l’archipel Saint-Pierre et Miquelon à la France.”


Phillip John Usher writes: This has been a busy and fabulous year. (1) As part of my larger project on the “Humanist Anthropocene,” most of my research time has been focused this past year on a book, tentatively titled “On the Exterranean,” that puts early modern texts and images in dialogue with the theories and conceptual apparatus of the Anthropocene, in order to trace out an ecology and a phenomenology of extraction. In other words: mining, mines, mined matter. I have presented various parts of the book at NYU, UCSB, the University of Vermont, the SCSC in Vancouver, Harvard University, the MLA in Austin, the RSA in Boston, Université Paris-Sorbonne, Washington University in
Saint-Louis, and elsewhere. I hope to finish the book by the end of 2016. (2) I got tenure! It took 12 years after the PhD, 2 monographs, 4 other books, dozens of articles, and over a hundred conferences—but now, finally, I can take a sigh of relief and get back to research! (3) I am on sabbatical leave (2016-17) thanks to an ACLS Fellowship. I’ll be splitting my time between New York (where I will don an invisibility cape!), Paris, and (probably) Berlin. I’ll be finalizing “On the Exterranean,” writing about Robert Garnier, and starting work on several new projects. (4) I was a Visiting Professor at Harvard University in Fall 2015, where I taught a new course about early modern giants. (5) I published articles on various topics, ranging from one on Montaigne’s “soldierly masculinity” in ‘Montaigne Studies’ to another about a strange film from 1966, Philippe de Broca’s Le Roi de Coeur in a book about “French Cinema and the Great War.”

**Timmie Vitz** was on sabbatical in the Fall 2015. She submitted two books for publication, *Invitations à la performance de récits français médiévaux: Virtuosité, spectacle, érotisme* to Paradigme, and *In the Presence of Power: Court and Performance in the Premodern Middle East*, co-edited with Maurice A. Pomerantz, to NYU Press. Both have been accepted for publication. She published an article titled “Muslim and Christian Emotions and the Issue of Alterity in the Crusade Epic Les Chétifs in *The Epic Imagination in Medieval Literature: Essays in Honor of Alice M. Colby-Hall*” edited by Philip Bennett, Leslie Morgan, Regina Psaki, University of Mississippi, Romance Monographs, 2016. A Hungarian translation of her TDR article “Tales with Guts: A ‘Rasic’ Esthetic in French Medieval Storytelling” appeared as “Zsigeri történetek”: [http://www.jatekter.ro/?p=15280](http://www.jatekter.ro/?p=15280), 2016. She reviewed William W. Kibler and R. Barton Palmer, eds., *Medieval Arthurian Epic and Romance: Eight New Translations for Arthuriana* in 2016. In spring 2016, in collaboration with some former students, she launched a new performance platform via YouTube: “Medieval Tales in Performance.” Several talks at conferences included “Laten IV: Impact on Medieval French Literature” (invited participation in roundtable at Columbia University’s Medieval Seminar, fall 2015) and “Awe in Medieval Literature”—and a parody paper (for the Pseudo-Society) titled “Toward a Poetics of Beast(l)iness” at the medieval conference at Kalamazoo. Timmie Vitz was an invited participant at a roundtable on marriage, International Conference on Marriage, Vienna (Schloss Trumau), Austria, in April 2016. In spring 2016 she served on the review board of the Curricular Challenge Fund, and has accepted to serve on the review board of Brepols, for a new series of publications.

FROM COCODRIE TO CODIFIL

A new course, entitled “From Cocodrie to CODIFIL: A Francophone Louisiana Immersion Program” was piloted in the Spring semester. The first of its kind to be offered at NYU, this two-credit course introduced students to the linguistic, historical, and cultural context of francophone Louisiana. Co-directors Melanie Hackney and John Moran, who created the course, worked in partnership with the Office of Student Activities, Leadership and Service to design a program that broadens traditional notions of community service by adding an academic component, community outreach, and a broader service learning component to an Alternative Break trip. After seven weeks of coursework and meetings, John and Melanie accompanied a group of nine students on a Spring Break immersion trip to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Arnaudville, Louisiana. The entirety of the trip was conducted in French, and it included guided visits of a Creole Plantation and of the Atchafalaya Basin, visits to the French Quarter and the State Capitol, scholarly lectures on francophone identities in Louisiana, cooking classes and workshops on Cajun traditions, museum and restaurant visits, and more. Most notably, students interviewed and recorded native Louisiana French speakers, the results of which will be included in an oral histories website that will feature student transcriptions and translations, as well as a lexicon for the interviews. The course will be offered in the Spring 2017 semester.
If it had not been for a number of fortuitous moments – my high school calculus teacher giving me my first reading list of canonical French and Italian authors; a schedule change while studying abroad forcing me to choose between a course on probability and a class in literature – I would have been on a very different path. As an undergraduate, I began as a double-major in mathematics and Romance Languages, envisioning that my studies would culminate in a PhD in math. Instead, I completed a degree in Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard, specializing in early modern France and Italy. Convinced for the longest time that I would pursue the sciences or mathematics, the decision to do a doctoral degree in literature was certainly a departure from the original plan. The diversion, however, proved to be more of a detour, as I found a way to reconcile the literary and the scientific in my research. My PhD dissertation (2016) focused on the optical theories and technologies that were introduced in the early decades of the seventeenth century. What began as a curiosity about optical illusions developed into a more general exploration of vision, its history, and its instruments. I was immediately drawn to the period of Kepler and the inverted retinal image, of the telescope and of Galileo’s celestial observations, for it announced a significant number of changes, both scientifically and epistemologically. I was also fascinated by the many parallels between scientific and literary texts in their representation of vision’s authority as a source of knowledge. Both sources depicted two visual modes – seeing with the naked eye or through an instrument – and presented them as existing in tension, with differing degrees of reliability in apprehending reality. The scientific considerations about the dynamic between eye and instrument, about the quality and accuracy of visual perception, would, in effect, provide the theoretical framework by which I approached the literature. What was especially striking, however, was that literature’s preoccupation with the discrepancy between appearance and true form, or with different ways of seeing the world, preceded these scientific theories and technologies. As a result, literature was not being formed by the science, but rather, informed by it, recognizing the potential of new instruments as emblematic of its own role. As I work on transforming this study into a monograph, I will be thinking about mechanisms of vision as they relate to controlling knowledge, and therefore, as instruments of power. I will also be undertaking a second project, which will look at identifying “early modern wearable technologies,” objects invented during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that became an extension of the human body. For me, the way in which these texts from a distant past resonate with our own times, in addition to the broad definition of literature, are among the more exciting aspects of studying the early modern period. Their inherently interdisciplinary quality naturally invites the pursuit of curiosities in other fields, encouraging digressions that in reality are worthy detours.

VISITING PROFESSORS

Christian Biet (Paris-Ouest Nanterre) will teach “Comédie, Roman : Mœurs, transgressions et droit des familles sous l’Ancien régime” in the fall 2016.

Global Distinguished Professor Philippe Roger (EHESS) will co-teach an undergraduate senior seminar with Denis Hollier in the spring 2017.
DEGREES AND AWARDS (SEPT. 2015 - AUGUST 2016)

**PHD IN FRENCH LITERATURE**
Daniel Benson  *Resonances of Revolution: The “Social Question” between Literature and Journalism, 1830-1848*
Suzy Cater  *Relating the Real: Édouard Glissant’s Avant-garde Poetics*
Manoah Finston  *Encountering the Object in the Novels of Honoré de Balzac*
Laura Hughes  *“For Life”: Cixous’s and Derrida’s Shared Archives*
Youna Kwak  *The Intimacy Effect: Life After the Death of Roland Barthes*
Michelle Lanchart  *The Re-emergence of the Fantastic in French Novels after 1990*
Virginie Lauret  *Jacques Rivette et le Romantisme noir: doubles fonds*
Julie Sage  *Vies horizontales: Figures de l'homme couché chez André Gide, Paul Valéry et Henri Michaux*

**MA IN FRENCH LITERATURE**
Marybeth Banks
Pauline Chu
Athena Fokaidis
Caitlyn Garcia
Elizabeth Kirby
Emelyn Lih
Emily O’Brock
Emily Shuman

**MA IN TRANSLATION**
Aimee Marie Ashcraft
Talia Pauline Behrend-Wilcox
Laurel Allison Hogan
Cecelia Marie Ramsey

**GEORGES LURCY FELLOWSHIP**
Michael Krimper

**ANDREW DULAU FELLOWSHIP**
Erika Hendrix

**MICHEL BEAUJOURS FELLOWSHIP**
Aubrey Korneta
Raina Levesque

**ENS EXCHANGE**
Gabriella Lindsay
Pierre André
Emily Kate Price

**MAINZER SUMMER FELLOWSHIP**
Kaliane Ung

**FRENCH DEPARTMENT SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS**
Pierre André
Downing Bray
Manoah Finston
Caitlyn Garcia
Erika Hendrix
Gabriella Lindsay
Tina Montenegro
Emily Kate Price
Claire Reising
Rachel Watson

**BRADLEY RUBIDGE PRIZE**
Camilo Frias
STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Pascal Quignard’s The Hatred of Music was translated by two former graduate students of the department, Matthew Amos and Fredrik Rönnpäck, published by Yale University Press and was favorably reviewed.

Daniel Benson successfully defended his thesis in May 2016, entitled: “Resonances of Revolution: the ‘Social Question’ between Literature and Journalism, 1830-1848.” He also co-organized the conference “Dissecting Society. Social Movement, Literature, Social Science” at the Remarque Institute in April, 2016, where he also presented a paper, “The Revolutionary Transformation of the Social Sphere.” He provided English subtitles to the upcoming documentary on the filmmaker Jean-Pierre Mocky, entitled “La Loi de l’albatros,” directed by Charles Schnaebele and Virgile Tyrode.

Spécialisée dans les questions de représentation de sexualités et de genre, Iris Brey a écrit un ouvrage sur les séries Sex and the Series, Sexualités Féminines une révolution visuelle sorti en Avril 2016. Elle est journaliste cinéma-série en presse écrite, web et radio et donne régulièrement des conférences au Forum des Images et à la Fémis. Au printemps 2016, elle enseignait le français sur le campus parisien de l’University of Californie.

Alexandre Bonafos (Ph.D. 2014) is an Assistant Professor of French Studies at the University of South Carolina. He participated in international conferences in Orléans and Copenhagen on the themes of travel in the Centre region in France and on cultural memory. He presented in a panel on Parisian society as spectacle at the recent Society for French Historical Studies convention in Nashville. His article “L’horizon du savoir. Prosper Mérimée et l’archéomanie celtique” was published in the 2015 issue of Cahiers Mérimée and shortlisted by the Society for French Studies (UK) for the Malcolm Bowie prize.


Anna Miller was awarded a Mellon Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities for her final year of writing. Her dissertation, “Craving Exchange: The Theatre of Bernard-Marie Koltès,” focuses on how the playwright represents the difficulty of satisfying desire for emotionally meaningful interaction in contemporary culture and the harsh and isolating realities of globalization. In the spring, she presented a paper on Koltès as part of a panel on Contemporary French and Francophone Literature at the Northeast MLA Annual Convention in Hartford and this summer, she taught an interdisciplinary undergraduate course entitled: “Craving Connections: Modern French and Francophone Theatre on the Page, Stage, and Screen.”


Cathy Webster (Ph.D. French 2005) had a busy year, presenting papers at the MLA in Austin (on the film Quai d’Orsay) and at the Contemporary French Studies Colloquium in St. Louis (on the film La Famille Bélier), in addition to continuing her work as Department Chair at the University of Central Oklahoma. On July 1st, she will begin work as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Central Oklahoma, overseeing one school and seven departments.

In 2016, Aurora Wolfgang (Ph.D. 93) will be leaving California State University, San Bernardino to join the Department of Romance and Classical Studies at Michigan State University as a tenured full professor.

Mimi Zhou and Emily O’Brock are happy to be initiating an Old French reading group to meet every other week starting in Fall 2016. Each meeting involves translating an Old French text and is fortified by snacks. They will also occasionally welcome a guest speaker, so if there are any medievalist alums who will be in the area, please reach out to them if you’d be interested in stopping by!
FRENCH DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FLORENCE GOULD EVENTS
Le prix Goncourt: France’s Top Literary Prize with Pierre Assouline (writer, critic, member of the Academy Goncourt) and Atiq Rahimi (writer, winner of the Prix Goncourt in 2008).
Co-sponsored with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy

Chantal Thomas (writer) Casanova à Paris

Camille Laurens (writer) Ecrire, vivre: Lectures commentées

LECTURES
Lydie Moudileno (U. Pennsylvania, NYU) La Bibliothèque postcoloniale: inventaire, figures, débordements

Anne Deneys-Tunney (NYU) and Yves-Charles Zarka (U. Paris 5-Sorbonne) Rousseau, entre Nature et Culture
Co-sponsored with Université de Paris V and Philépol

Peter Szendy (Paris-Ouest Nanterre, NYU) Money, or the Other Side of Images: Towards a Deleuzian Iconomy

Paul Audi (philosopher, critic) Sortons-nous jamais de l’adolescence? Considérations indirectes sur la crise actuelle

FRENCH LITERATURE IN THE MAKING
Literary program hosted by Olivier Barrot

Fall 2015
Florence Aubenas
Laurent Seksik

Spring 2016
Pierre Bayard
Laure Adler
Jacques Mougenot
Olivier Frébourg

Sanam Nader-Esfahani (Harvard, NYU incoming Visiting Assistant Professor) The Instrument and the Eye: Mechanisms of Vision in 17th-Century France

TRANSLATION NIGHT
An evening of new translation by the students of the French Department’s M.A program in Literary Translation.
Readers: Talia Behrend-Wilcox, Aimee Ashcroft, Hannah Leffingwell, Laurel Hogan, Cecilia Ramsey

NEW FRENCH PHILOSOPHY
Literature and philosophy: Roman/Romanesque
Alain Badiou (philosopher, playwright, writer) in conversation with Emily Apter (NYU)
Co-sponsored with the department of Comparative Literature

SPECIAL EVENT
Assia Djebar, A Commemoration
June 30, 1936 - February 6, 2015

A memorial organized by Judith Miller (NYU), with readings by Henriette Goldwyn (NYU), Marjolijn de Jager (translator), Tom Bishop (NYU), Annie Brancky (Vassar) and graduate students Gabriella Lindsay, Kaliane Ung, Rachel Watson, Suzy Cater and Pierre André. Speakers included panelists Cécile Bishop (NYU), Hafid Gafaîti (U. of New Mexico), Brigitte Weltman-Aron (U. of Florida), Clarisse Zimra (Southern Illinois University) and Dan Simon, publisher of Seven Stories Press.

Atiq Rahimi
Chantal Thomas

Paul Audi

Sanam Nader-Esfahani

Olivier Barrot and Florence Aubenas

Laurent Seksik

Laure Adler

Left to right: Cécile Bishop, Hafid Gafaîti, Brigitte Weltman-Aron, Clarisse Zimra, Judith Miller, Tom Bishop

Left to right: Pierre André, Cécile Bishop, Gabriella Lindsay, Marjolijn de Jager, Hafid Gafaîti, Judith Miller, Rachel Watson, Brigitte Weltman-Aron, Suzy Cater, Clarisse Zimra, Réda Bensmaïa
FLORENCE GOULD CONFERENCES

INSIDE BARTHEs
BARTHEs TEL QU’EN LUI-MÊME

An international conference directed by
Tom Bishop and Colette Fellous
To mark the centenary of Roland Barthes, the Center for French Civilization and Culture presented a three-day conference. Writers and scholars, colleagues, friends and former students discussed who Roland Barthes really was, what he brought to those who knew him and who read him, what role writing played in his life, and how he lived in Paris and abroad.
Speakers included Emily Apter, Jean-Claude Bonnet, Tom Bishop, Antoine Compagnon, Denis Hollier, Colette Fellous, Julia Kristeva, Françoise Gaillard, Lawrence D. Kritzman, Avital Ronell, Tiphaine Samoyault, Chantal Thomas, Philippe Roger.

SCREENWRITING AND LITERATURE
HOMAGE TO JEAN-CLAUDE CARRIÈRE
An international conference organized by
Tom Bishop and Lise Landeau
Acclaimed screenwriter and Academy Award honoree Jean-Claude Carrière has written over 100 screenplays, novels, and works of criticism. By revisiting some of his most significant collaborative works, this conference brings together renowned filmmakers, critics, and artists to highlight his invaluable contribution to world cinema, and to honor this exceptional storyteller.
The conference featured screenings of The Unbearable Lightness of Being and Belle de Jour.

Tom Bishop and Colette Fellous
Left to right: Chantal Thomas, Françoise Gaillard, Philippe Roger, Colette Fellous
Antoine Compagnon and Julia Kristeva
Philip Kaufman, Jean-Claude Carrière, Annette Insdorf
Left to right: Richard Peña, Jean-Claude Carrière, Tom Bishop, Philippe Kaufman, William Wolf
Jean-Claude Carrière and Julian Schnabel
Elizabeth Emery (Montclair State University) ‘Vanity Fair’: At Home with Writers of the Belle Epoque

Philippe Apeloig (graphic designer) Graphic Design and Literature

Matthew Affron (Philadelphia Museum of Art) and Deborah Rosenthal (painter, writer) Double Rhythm: The Painter Jean Hélion in France and America

An evening with Maylis de Kerangal (novelist) introduced by Eugène Nicole (NYU)

Lisa Alther (writer, novelist) in conversation with Françoise Gilot (painter)

Cécile Alduy (Stanford) How New is Marine Le Pen’s “New” National Front?

Larry Miller (NYU Steinhardt) and Fabrice Sergent (co-founder and CEO, Bandsintown Group) Evolution and Revolution in the Music Business

Luc Sante (writer) The Other Paris

Co-sponsored with the New York Institute for the Humanities

Linda Nochlin: The Art Historian as Seen by Artists

Ron Padgett (poet, essayist, editor) A New Apollinaire

SPECIAL EVENTS

Freedom and Equality for All
A lecture by Christiane Taubira
Former Minister of Justice of France

Michel Houellebecq’s Submission, round-table with Emily Apter (NYU), Eric Banks (New York Institute for the Humanities), Tom Bishop (NYU) Adam Shatz (London Review of Books), Lorin Stein (The Paris Review)

Nick White (Cambridge) The War of 1870 and its Reconstruction by the French Media, or the Cultural History of Europe before the First World War

Linda Nochlin (IFA, NYU), Maura Reilly (National Academy Museum), Kathleen Gilje (artist), moderated by Jovana Stocik (Shool of Visual Arts) Linda Nochlin: The Art Historian as Seen by Artists

Eliane Viennot (Université Jean Monet, Saint-Etienne) Et la modernité fut masculine
In May 2016, the annual Maison Française Gala Benefit honored **Tom Bishop**. Friends and colleagues shared stories about Tom’s lifelong contributions to the department and the Center. With special guest jazz pianist Bill Charlap.

**CONCERTS**

**Calligrammes**

A song cycle celebrating the visual poetry of Guillaume Appolinaire.

**Ariadne Greif**, soprano

**Albert Behar**, composer/accordionist

Quatuor Fontainebleau Contemporain

**Music of** Robert Casadesus, David Bird, Philip Lasser, Missy Mazzoli

Elizabeth Derham, Mariam Machaidze, violins; **Jessica Garand**, viola; **Mitchell Lyon**, cello

Co-sponsored by the Fontainebleau Association

**EXHIBITIONS**

Jean-Robert Dantou

**Vivre avec (Dealing with it)**

A series of photographs by Jean-Robert Dantou documented a decade of ethnographic research to understand how people with disabilities across the life course and throughout France are able to manage using different circles of support.

Co-sponsored with IFS

**PEN WORLD VOICES FESTIVAL**

* A Literary Conversation with Andreï Makine of the Académie Française.

Co-sponsored with PEN

**Changes at La Maison Française**

Lisa Chow joined the staff of LMF in June after several years of working in the publishing industry and living in France.

Annie Degioannini, the Maison’s secretary, has retired after sixteen years at NYU.
**NYUPARIS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Program News:** NYU Paris welcomed its largest cohort of students in the spring of 2016, including its first students in Jazz and Classical music. NYU faculty Dave Schroeder (director of Jazz Studies) met with the students at the beginning of the term and performed with his Franco-American group “Atlantico” at the Studio de l’Ermitage in Paris. Music and Cinema students were also invited to a screening of “The Grim Game,” a recently rediscovered silent film directed by Irvin Willat and starring Harry Houdini. Tisch Professor Brane Zivkovic, who composed a new score for the film, introduced the film and led a discussion. Professor Claudie Bernard organized, in collaboration with CÉRILAC U. Paris-Diderot, a conference on “L’Histoire épitaphe.”

**Faculty News:** New instructors joined the faculty: Dr. Noga Arikha taught Fashion and Power; Dr. Ines Crespo taught a new course on the Philosophy of Language; Dr. Charles Croustille taught a summer course on May 68; Dr. Nele Putz taught Monuments and Political Power; and Dr. Karen Ralph taught a new course on French Medieval Art. In December, the NYU Paris community honored Professor Gérard Gengembre, who decided to retire after teaching at NYU Paris for twenty-seven years.

**Staff News:** NYU Paris welcomed two new staff members: Joël Kasongo-Hubert, Finance and Operations Assistant, and Kalil Sacko, Residence Hall receptionist (Montsouris). After ten years of dedicated work, Amanda Herold-Marme decided to leave NYU Paris Academics department to focus full time on her dissertation. In May, friends and colleagues raised a glass in her honor to wish her all the best for her future projects.


**Annual Senate Luncheon**
In June 2016, Tom Bishop hosted his annual luncheon at the Senate in Paris, during which he presented economist, writer and president of *France-Amerique* Guy Sorman, and novelist and playwright Camille Laurens with the Center’s Medal of Honor.
MA IN FRENCH STUDIES
Mary Grace Bernard
Melissa Brabri
Lauren Calvello
Laura Castro
Thibault Charlet
Spencer Hunt
Ben Lang
Georgiana Perelka
Nick Roknich IV
Brent Rosenstein
Katherine Schnakenberg
Come Souchier

JOINT MA/JOURNALISM
Thomas Brant
Carmen Cuesta Roca

VISITING PROFESSORS
Dominique Kalifa
Sylviane Larcher
Patrick Simon
Florence Weber

BOOK EVENT
In the Heart of Darkness of the "Friendly Island": Migration, Culture, and AIDS in St Martin by Catherine Benoit (Connecticut College)

FILM SCREENINGS
Je ne suis pas féministe, mais... directed by Florence Tissot and Sylvie Tissot
Roundtable discussion: Christine Delphy's Work and Activism
Florence Tissot (Cinémathèque française)
Sylvie Tissot (U. Paris 8), Sarah Schulman (CUNY), Ann Snitow (New School)

Pôle Emploi, ne quittez pas! Job Center, Please
Hang On! directed by Nora Philippe
followed by discussion with Nora Philippe, John Krinsky (CUNY), Frédéric Viguier (IFS)

LECTURES
Quentin Deluermoz (Paris 13-Nord) 1971: La Commune, l'ordre public, la modernité politique
Dominique Kalifa (Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne) La Véritable Histoire de la Belle Epoque
Silyane Larcher (CNRS, NYU) L’égalité, mais pas trop! Citoyenneté et fabrique de la race après l’esclavage aux Antilles françaises 1848-1890

PANEL DISCUSSION
Richard Keller's Fatal Isolation. The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003 with Richard Keller (U. of Wisconsin-Madison), Julie Livingstone (NYU), Frédéric Viguier (NYU), Florence Weber (ENS); moderated by Stéphane Gerson (NYU)

CONFERENCE
Envisioning Accessible Futures: American and French perspectives
Worshops and photographic exhibitions on disability, caregiving, and photography
Co-sponsored with the Dept. of Anthropology; Center for the Humanities; Global Research Initiatives; Office of the Provost; Council for the Study of Disabilities and ENS-Collège de France/PSL Research University.

Panel discussion:
Disability, Caregiving, and Accessible Futures
with Lyndsay Eales (Concordia), Eva Kittay (SUNY Stony Brook), Danielle Peers (Concordia), Florence Weber (ENS); moderated by Ryana Rapp (NYU), Edward Berenson (IFS)

Too black to be French?
followed by discussion with Isabelle Boni-Claverie (director) and Patrick Simon (sociologist)
Co-sponsored with NYU Department of French and Institute of African American Affairs

Isabelle Boni-Claverie and Patrick Simon

Colin Giraud (Paris 10- Nanterre) Peut-on être gay loin de Paris? Ethnographie de la vie homosexuelle dans un département rural français
Olivier Wievorka (ENS)
New Perspectives on the Resistance in France
Luc Boltanski (EHESS) and Arnaud Esquerré (CNRS) La forme “collection” du capitalisme: l’établissement de la valeur du passé et ses effets

Frédéric Viguier presents the master’s essay prizes at the IFS graduation party

Attendees at the IFS Alumni Symposium
New York University
Department of French
19 University Place, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10003

L’Arc