

# *The Department of French University of California, Berkeley*

## *The 2020 Newsletter*

After a tradition of issuing our annual newsletter in early winter, the Department of French decided to reserve its release for March — “Big Give” time. Rest assured that this spring edition contains all of the updates on our many activities that have kept our community busy in the 4200-4300 block of Dwinelle Hall. Big Give is a suitable time for this, because much of what we’re able to do for our majors and graduate students is made possible by friends like you. So [please use this link to send a gift to the French Department on Thursday, March 12, 2020](#). And if you’re an alum who’d like slightly more regular news from us, don’t hesitate to [like us on Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#), or contact Carol Dolcini at [fredept@berkeley.edu](mailto:fredept@berkeley.edu) to let us know if you would like to be added to the French Department announcements email list!

Nick Paige, Professor and Chair of French



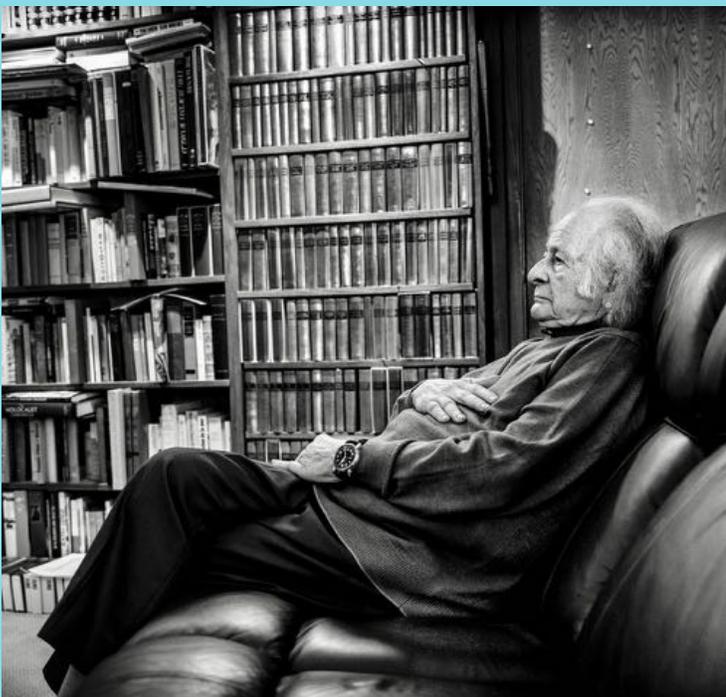
Big Give Greetings from the Staff and Chair  
(Carol Dolcini, Nick Paige, Mary Ajideh, and Lydia Yoon; not pictured, Aman Sandhu)

## *The Library of French Thought*

Such is the name we sometimes now use for the good old French Library. It's simply a translation of the name used to refer to a collection of books that the French government sent to the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition, held in San Francisco. These books were supposed to represent the best of French thought, over the centuries, in all domains of knowledge, and they were housed in an elegant room at the exposition called the "Bibliothèque de la pensée française." With the outbreak of the First World War, there was no hope for repatriating the collection, and it was sent to UC Berkeley. At that time, books having to do with French literature were separated out and formed the kernel of the French Library. (Others, I believe, were simply integrated into the main collection of Doe.)

As noted last year, we now have a new on-line catalog called TinyCat, accessible via our website. It doesn't have all of our holdings (especially more bibliophilic items, and we're working on those) but it does have most. And to reprise my horrible pun from last year: I hope you'll check it out.

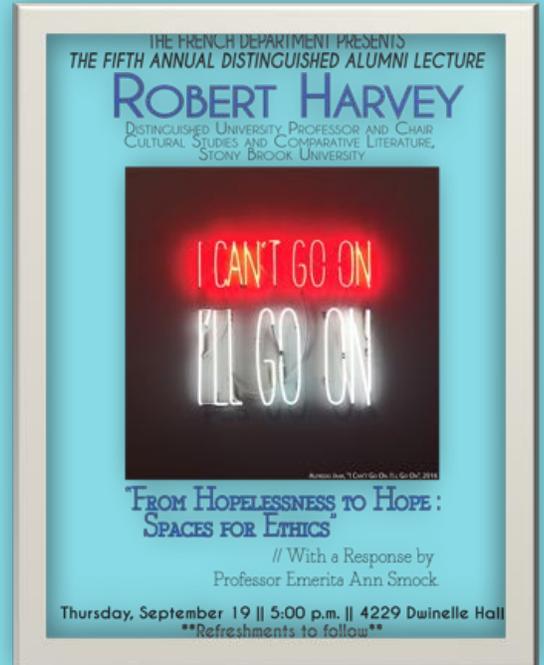
I'd like to acknowledge here some gifts to the library from past alums. Paul Schwarzbart, a 1963 MA, donated his entire collection of the famous leather-bound Pléiade volumes — 235 of them. We've integrated some into our non-circulating collection of Pléiades from the Torczyner estate, and merged duplicates into our regular stacks. (Mr. Schwarzbart also gave us a copy of his heartbreaking holocaust memoir called *Breaking the Silence*; it's on TinyCat.) And two French majors — Barbara Shapiro, '67, and Claudine Jones, '73 — gave us many boxes of French books from their libraries. We'll be sorting through those, keeping the ones we need for our stacks and giving away others to our Graduates and Undergraduates. Thank you, alums!



Paul Schwarzbart (MA '63),  
before and after  
the donation of his beloved  
Pléiades...

## *The Fifth Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture*

In September, we were joined by Professor **Robert Harvey**, who earned his Ph.D. in 1988 under the direction of Denis Hollier. And in fact, Robert is our second “double alum” to deliver this lecture (after Christophe Wall-Romana a few years ago): he received his B.A. from us, too, class of ‘72. Robert has taught at SUNY Stony Brook since leaving Berkeley — but not always, interestingly, in the same department. Initially hired into French, he migrated from there into Comparative Literature, and from there, in 2014, to the Department of Philosophy. He also spent six years in the early 2000s as a *directeur de programme* at the Collège International de Philosophie. Recent major books of his include *Witnessness: Beckett, Dante, Levi and the Foundations of Responsibility*, from 2010, and *Sharing Common Ground: A Space for Ethics* of 2017; both have been translated into French, and the latter into Japanese. A good portion of his scholarship has been dedicated to Marguerite Duras, Michel Deguy, and Jean-François Lyotard, all figures he has translated, edited, and directed collective volumes on. He is currently writing a book on what he calls “semantic perversion” for MIT entitled *Scare Quotes*.



Robert Harvey’s lecture was the occasion for another happy homecoming: Professor Emerita Ann Smock was good enough to join us as a respondent.

The UCB French Department  
presents  
the second annual  
**Rex Lecture**



**Morgane Cadieu**  
Yale University

Rastignac in the Twenty-First Century: The  
Emancipation of a Literary Character

5 p.m., March 19 • Library of French Thought  
Refreshments will be served

On March 20, Prof. Cadieu will also be offering a lunchtime seminar on developing a critical framework for the PhD dissertation: 12 p.m., 4125A Dwinelle Hall

## *The Second Annual Rex Lecture*

The spring pendant to the fall Alumni Lecture is the Rex lecture, named in honor of the late Professor Walter (“Ted”) E. Rex III. The Rex lecturer is chosen and invited by the Department’s graduate students, whose welfare is supported by the Rex bequest. Last March, we were very happy to welcome Assistant Professor Morgane Cadieu of Yale, who spoke of social climbing in contemporary French literature.

*Some other lectures and events*



A Lecture:  
“Wilde,  
Zola,  
Dreyfus,  
Christ:  
Fin-de-siècle  
Passions”

Andrew Counter  
University of Oxford

Thursday, February 14, 4 p.m.

Library of French Thought, 4229 Dwinelle

Professor Counter will lead a follow-up seminar for graduate students on Friday, February 15 from noon to 1:30 in 4125A Dwinelle. Two brief background readings are available in the French Department Library or from [mlucey@berkeley.edu](mailto:mlucey@berkeley.edu).

Sponsored by the Department of French.

Truth, Lies, and  
Cultural Appropriation:  
CHRISTOPHER L. MILLER  
ON IMPOSTORS

Christopher L. Miller, Frederick Clifford Ford Professor of African American Studies and French at Yale University, will give a public lecture related to his most recent book, *Impostors* (Chicago University Press, 2018).

Co-Sponsored by the Department of French, the Department of Comparative Literature, and the Townsend Center for the Humanities



Wednesday  
October 23rd  
5:00-6:30 p.m.  
220 Stephens Hall  
(Geballe Room)

The UC Berkeley French Department Presents

**LEARNING TO SWIM:  
OCTOBER 17 AND THE SEINE'S 'EXCEPTIONAL BODIES'**

PROFESSOR LIA BROZGAL  
University of California, Los Angeles

4:00pm || Thursday, February 6 || French Library (4229 Dwinelle)  
Refreshments will be served

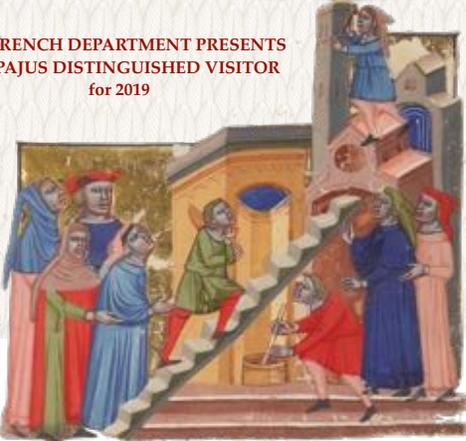
## *Pajus times two!*

Thanks to the Pajus bequest, made to the Department of French in the late 1990s, we are able every year to invite a distinguished guest, typically from France or the UK, to come visit for a series of talks, seminars, and roundtables. Past guests include Jacques Rancière, Gisèle Sapiro, Jocelyne Dakhlia, Christopher Prendergast, Wendy Ayres-Bennett, and Frédéric Worms.

Because of the longer-than-usual time covered in this newsletter, we've in fact had two Pajus Distinguished Visitors since last I wrote.

👉 Simon Gaunt of King's College London was 2019's Pajus visitor

THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
THE PAJUS DISTINGUISHED VISITOR  
for 2019



# SIMON GAUNT

Professor of French, King's College London

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 AT 5 PM  
"Babel and the Language(s) of Universal History in the Middle Ages"  
4229 Dwinelle Hall (French Department Library)

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 FROM 12-2 PM  
"Supralocal Literary Cultures before the Nation-State"  
Roundtable with Nasser Meerkhan (UC Berkeley),  
Diego Pirillo (UC Berkeley), and Marisa Galvez (Stanford)  
Geballe Room (220 Stephens Hall)  
Lunch will be served at 12; Roundtable will begin at 12:30

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 FROM 4:30-6:30 PM  
"Doing Digital Research in Literary Studies: A Practical Seminar for  
Graduate Students and Faculty"  
4125A Dwinelle Hall

Image: the tower of Babel from BnF Lfr. 686, f. 14r. Source: Gallica.bnf.fr

THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
The Pajus Distinguished Visitor for 2020

# MARIELLE MACÉ

EHESS, CNRS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 5 PM  
"Écouter les oiseaux dans l'anthropocène"  
With a response by  
Prof. Anne-Lise François  
(UC Berkeley)  
French Department Library  
(4229 Dwinelle Hall)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 FROM 4-6 PM  
"What About Us?"  
Poetics and Politics of a Pronoun"  
A Seminar with Prof. Marielle Macé (in English)  
4125A Dwinelle Hall  
Optionally, please contact [sanyal@berkeley.edu](mailto:sanyal@berkeley.edu)  
for a copy of Macé's essay, "Let Us Connect"

Professor Macé will also be holding open office hours on  
Wednesday, February 12 from 10 to 11  
Friday, February 14 from 11 to 12  
(4212 Dwinelle Hall)



And Marielle Macé (EHESS/CNRS) just wrapped up her visit a couple of weeks ago 👉

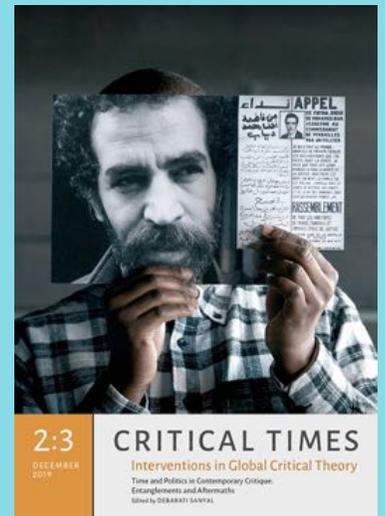
## Comings and Goings: Professors and Lecturers

From A to Z, here's a round-up of what some of the research activity of our faculty.

**Karl Britto's** essay on the place of Paris in Vietnamese diasporic fiction appeared in the edited volume *Paris and the Marginalized Author: Treachery, Alienation, Queerness, and Exile*. A second piece on gender and colonial military service in Phạm Duy Khiêm's *La Place d'un homme* will be out soon in *French Studies*. Fresh off his widely-reviewed book on Bob Dylan's songs and undaunted by his duties as director of the Townsend Center for the Humanities, **Tim Hampton** has wrapped up another book, *A History of Cheerfulness from Shakespeare to Facebook*. It will be coming out with Zone Books in 2021. He also participated in the Villa Finaly translation workshop, described on the next page. **Michael Lucey** has been working hard to finish his latest project, a book tentatively called *Talk's Work: Proust and the Novel's Ethnography of Speaking*, and is looking forward to a sabbatical year in 2020-2021 to launch a couple new projects; a preview of one of these recently appeared as an article in *College English* called "Real-Time Literary Texts." He'll be splitting his sabbatical time between Paris and Oxford, where he will be affiliated with Merton College and St. John's College. **Susan Maslan** spoke at an exciting fall symposium at NYU on "Rewiring Democracy." **Mairi McLaughlin's** second book, *La Presse française historique: Histoire d'un genre et l'histoire de la langue*, will be appearing with Garnier later this year. She also co-authored, with a student in the Romance Languages and Literatures Program, a soon-to-appear chapter on Gallo-Roman syntax. At present, she's writing a couple of articles about translation. Along with Tim, she was part of the Villa Finaly program last summer. **Nicholas Paige's** new book *Technologies of the Novel* will be coming out this year with Cambridge. He bills it as the first quantitative history of the novel's evolution, written with the tools and perspectives provided by the Digital Humanities. He has been lecturing widely, including visits to Zurich and Göttingen; a forthcoming piece on Diderot's salons will be coming out in *Diderot Studies* by the end of the year. **Vesna Rodic** has continued to develop second- and third-year curriculum on environmental

sustainability, both as a Fellow at the Berkeley Language Center and as a returning Digital Pedagogy Fellow at the Center for Teaching and Learning. She has presented her work at a Library of Congress Symposium on Teaching with Primary Sources. Based on the redesigned curriculum, French 3 students engaged in videoconferencing exchanges with

students from Aix-Marseille Université in Spring 2019. **Debarati Sanyal** guest-edited an issue of the journal *Critical Times*, entitled "Time and Politics in Contemporary Critique: Entanglements and Aftermaths." This past June she was in Madrid for the Memory Studies Association



conference, where among other things she participated in a plenary session with Pulitzer prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen; and at the MLA in Seattle both she organized a panel on Stateless Memory and spoke on Hannah Arendt and aesthetics. **Maya Sidhu's** article "Reconsidering Jean Renoir's La Marseillaise through editor Marguerite Renoir" will be coming out in *French Screen Studies*; she'll also be presenting her research on the director Nina Companeez in Paris this May. Foodie alert: **Margo Szarke** has an article in *French Studies* coming out next month called "Modern Sensitivity: Emile Zola's Synaesthetic Cheeses." And **Soraya Tlatli** has had a couple of articles published in the past months, one on Assia Djebar's oeuvre, the second on *Qui se souvient de la mer* by Mohammed Dib.

Here's Mairi McLaughlin's report on the Villa Finaly 2019 Program in Translation:

In spring and summer 2019, two faculty members and six graduate students took part in the Villa Finaly Intensive Programme in Translation in Florence, Italy and Paris, France. This is a new international program run jointly by three universities: UC Berkeley, Paris VIII and the Università degli Studi, Florence. It is an ambitious attempt to improve the way that translation is taught, studied and carried out by bringing together students and faculty from three different disciplines: comparative literature, contrastive linguistics, and translation studies.

During the spring semester, the students worked together in small teams to translate a set of short stories between English, French and Italian. Using a new online collaborative translation tool, TraduXio, the students worked on their translations, sharing ideas and working out problems digitally, from afar.

Then in early June, everyone came together at the Villa Finaly in Florence, Italy for a week of seminars followed by two conferences, one in Florence and the other in Paris. Each student took three 2-hour seminars per day, one in each of the three disciplines. In the two conferences, the students presented their translations in teams, working through the difficulties they faced (for example, translating humor, or translating philosophical vocabulary) and some of the decisions they made.

Both of the day-long conferences were interesting and innovative. We had a different slate of visiting speakers and faculty contributors at each of the two conferences, and in both cases lively conversation ensued. We are now moving ahead with a project to publish the collaboratively-translated stories as an annotated anthology of texts and commentaries on collaborative translation, thus providing each student with a publication and generating what will become, we can assume, a touchstone text in the field of translation studies. The whole program was such a success that we will be taking part again in summer 2020 (COVID-19 permitting)!



And finally, the happy announcement (at least happy for him!) that **David Hult**, who came to Berkeley in 1997 after teaching at Yale, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Virginia, will be retiring at the end of this spring. COVID-19 permitting, the Department will be hosting a celebratory conference on May 4<sup>th</sup>; a number of David's former students will be coming in from far and wide. We're thankful that David has agreed to be "recalled" next year for the teaching of a seminar, giving us a little more time to find a replacement.

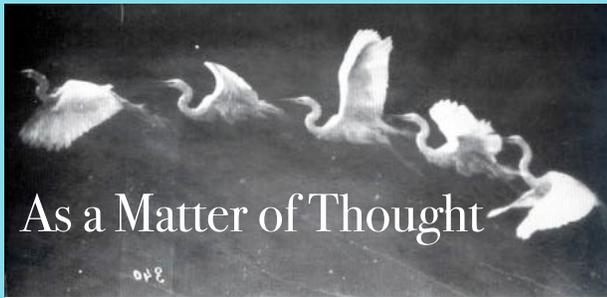
## *Au revoir!*

I am happy-sad to announce the retirement this past spring of two longtime, indispensable faculty members.

For many of you, **Seda Chavdarian** has become virtually synonymous with the Department of French. She'd often said that she could never conceive of retiring; but life, not to mention an increasingly intolerable commute, made the unimaginable imaginable. Seda completed her dissertation on Michel Butor in 1981 here in Berkeley, under the direction of Denis Hollier. She started as lecturer in 1988, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer (a designation reserved for those who have offered extraordinary service to UC Berkeley) in 2006. For nearly twenty years, until her departure last June, Seda served as Acting Director of the Lower Division; she also directed the Summer Session program in Paris from 2002 to 2007. In 2008, she was given the Faculty Award for Outstanding Mentoring of GSIs, after having received, in 2001, the campus's highest accolade for pedagogy, the Distinguished Teaching Award.



Seda Chavdarian and friends



## A Celebration in Honor of Suzanne Guerlac

**1:30 p.m.**

**David Pettersen** (University of Pittsburgh), "Neorealist Casting Practices in French Minority Cinemas"  
**Victoria Bergstrom** (UC Berkeley), "Inscription & Erasure: Lithographic Time in Francis Ponge's *Matière et mémoire*"

**2:30 p.m.**

**Elisa Russian** (UC Berkeley), "Self and Milieu in the Late Foucault"  
**Trevor Sanders** (UC Berkeley), "Why We Read Germaine de Staël"

**3:30 p.m.**

**Catherine Talley** (Skidmore College), "Reading and the Time of Thought"  
**Livi Yoshioka-Maxwell** (St. Olaf College), "The Elevator Speech: An *Hommage* to Professor Guerlac"  
**Pierre Saint-Amand** (Yale University), "Forgetting Time: Rousseau"



And after two decades teaching with us, **Suzanne Guerlac** took her roll-top desk and moved up the Mendocino coast to live and write. Joining us for a celebration of her scholarship and mentorship were past PhDs **David Pettersen**, **Catherine Talley**, and **Livi Yoshioka-Maxwell**; present ABDs **Victoria Bergstrom** and **Trevor Sanders**; and longtime friend and erstwhile colleague **Pierre Saint-Amand**. Don't be a stranger, Suzanne!



Suzanne and Pierre Saint-Amand (behind them, a portrait of Georges Gerard, an extraordinary Department benefactor; a copy of his autobiography, *Ariadne's Thread*, can be found in our Library)

## *Comings and Goings: Graduate Students*

We're delighted to announce the arrival of four (more) amazing students this year, **Thomas Corbani**, **Erin Dunbar**, **Cameron Flynn** (RLL), and **Alan Yeh**. A very warm welcome, with special thanks to Alan for already stepping up to become head designer of our *atelier d'affiches* (you'll see some of his handiwork in the newsletter). News of some of those around for longer is as follows. **Ben Beitler** was awarded a 2020-21 Berkeley Language Center fellowship for a project aiming to get students to think about their own learning by familiarizing them with the history of language learning techniques as taught over the years at Berkeley. **Victoria Bergstrom** is delighted to announce the acceptance of her "*Entre signal reçu et crypté: Pierre Alferi's Poetics of Remediation*," which will be appearing in *French Forum*. **Sarah Christofides**, who has been researching in Paris this year thanks to our ENS exchange, published an article this fall. See the insert! 📖 **Sarah Hastings-Rudolph** participated in the Villa Finaly intensive translation studies workshop over the summer. This involved a week of seminars in Florence, followed by a conference presentation at Université Paris 8. As part of the program, she worked on a collaborative translation of George Sand's "*Les Visions de la nuit dans les campagnes*," which will be published by Florence University Press in a collective volume. Thanks to a generous award from the David N.K. & Aileen Wang Family Fellowship, **Alexis Stanley** was able to spend the past summer taking coding courses under the auspices of UC Berkeley's Digital Humanities Summer Certificate Program. **Emily Linares's** article "*Ces grandes dames, ça ne va pas souvent à l'église: A corpus-based investigation of dislocation featuring co-referent clitic ça*," based on a study carried out in Prof. McLaughlin's Advanced French Syntax seminar, appeared this fall in *Journal of French Language Studies*. We're also thrilled to announce that Emily also received the 2020 Multilingual Matters award from the American Association of Applied Linguistics for best paper proposal by a graduate student; she is accepting the award at the AAAL conference this month. **Patrick Lyons** has stepped down from the editorial board of Berkeley's graduate-run journal *Qui Parle* after two years at the helm. **Rachel Weiher** has been extremely busy, presenting at both the MLA and the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, and traveling to Paris last summer to work on-site in the Laboratoire Lattice (CNRS/ENS/Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle). While there, she assisted the lab in the creation of online tools for language teachers, at the same time she conducted her own sociophonetic study of a phenomenon characteristic of Parisian French known as phrase-final vowel devoicing. Rachel has also been awarded a Berkeley Language Center fellowship for 2020-21.

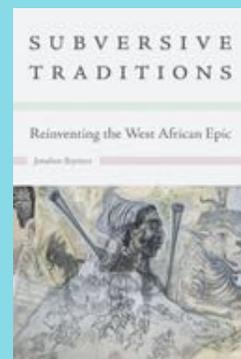
Sarah Christofides, "Inclusive Writing *avant la lettre*: Linguistic Feminization in the Nineteenth-Century French Press." *Women & Language*; Fall 2019, Vol. 42 Issue 2, p227-262.

Professeure or professeur? At the height of contemporary debates on *écriture inclusive* (inclusive writing), my article examines the language of two nineteenth-century French newspapers, the *Journal des débats* and the *Constitutionnel*, demonstrating how the relationship between language use and codification is more collaborative than previous studies of historical linguistic feminization have contended. I show how approaching the study of linguistic feminization from the angle of language use allows us to consider the contemporary debates from an alternative perspective: one that understands linguistic feminization as a fundamental element of language change that accompanies social development.

And as they do each year, many students stepped up to present their ongoing work at our Works In Progress series: **Mike Arrigo**, Sarah Christofides, Emily Linares, Patrick Lyons, **Simon Rogge**, Trevor Sanders, and Margot Szarke.

Hearty congratulations to this year's filers, who've proved that there is life after ABD-dom: **Marion Philips, Sokrat Postoli, Brock Imel**, Kathryn Levine, and **Elyse Ritchey**. Woo-hoo!!!!

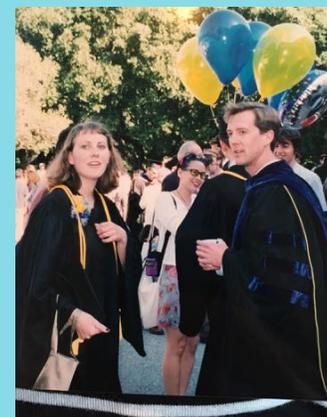
As for relatively recent alums or soon-to-be-alums who have left "the nest": **Vanessa Brutsche** has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Utah. Elyse Ritchey started as lecturer in French Linguistics at Queen's University Belfast. **Corine Stofle** is in her first year of a visiting assistant professorship at Reed College. And we received two marvelous bits of news: **Maya Smith** has been granted tenure at UW; and **Jonathon Repinecz's** book *Subversive Traditions* was awarded a coveted ACLA First Book Subvention (an honor he shares with Damon Young, whose *Making Sex Public* was a previous winner of the award).



Nice work! And as always, every one of us extends profuse thanks to Mary Ajideh for keeping all these moving pieces ... in orderly and productive movement!

## *The Future of French*

Every year we invite high-schoolers in the area studying French to come take a look at the campus and our classes. This past year, we had a few groups in. One was Dougherty Valley HS, accompanied by their teacher Madame Moriya. And Monte Vista HS came with class of '98 major Allison (Firestone) Sass, who has obviously done something with her French degree!



🎓 Allison Sass and Nicholas Paige, Commencement 1998!

👉 Mme Moriya's class from Dougherty Valley. Keep up your French!

## *Undergraduate News*

To start things off on a practical note, here's a quote from an alum: **"French keeps getting me hired or getting me job offers; no joke. It's one of the most marketable skills I have. If you speak French, you can get a job in international development!"** • Our language courses are

going strong, supported, as always, by the lower division tutoring program, coordinated by Rick Kern, Vesna Rodic, and **Daniel Hoffmann**: 8 tutors—who are French majors themselves, taking French 197, "Field Studies"—offer a combined 16 hours of free, drop-in French 1 and 2 tutoring per week. • I was hoping to have photos of our new Undergraduate Resource Center for Students of French and Comparative Literature, where that tutoring takes place; unfortunately, the contractors ordered the wrong door, so we must wait a bit longer. • **Le Cercle Français**, run last year by **Claire**

**Combredet** and now by **Marian Joyce** (with officers **Lawrence Chang**, **Marcus Jimenez**, and



**Erick Gonzalez**), offers UC Berkeley students the unique opportunity to further engage in French language and culture outside of the classroom. Some of the events LCF hosts include weekly meetings at café FSM, an afternoon tea time with a professor, karaoke night, monthly excursions to the Maison bleue crêperie with l'Alliance française, a movie night, and a meetup with UC Davis's French Club (see photo 📷). This month, they will hold a reception for a cohort of business students visiting from l'Institut Universitaire Technologique, situated in Draguignan • French came out strong for Cal Day, with majors staffing our table, Seda Chavdarian running the ever-popular "French in a Flash!" lessons — lecturer Daniel Hoffmann will carry on the tradition this coming Cal Day — and Nicholas Paige delivering a standing-room-only lecture, "A History of Paris in 45 Minutes." This year, an Eiffel Tower marked the spot of our events (📷 Chair Paige and his son Wyatt).



2010 French BA Stacey Peterson writes, “My exciting news is that I just graduated in December 2018 with my Ph.D. in Linguistics from Georgetown University. Thanks to all the faculty and staff that were great at Berkeley and led me to this peak in my academic career. My dissertation, *Accounting for Diphthongs: Duration as Contrast in Vowel Dispersion Theory*, examines cross-linguistic trends in diphthong production and perception properties at different speech rates and evaluates them in current linguistic theory of vowel dispersion. I now work in computational linguistics for a government contractor in Washington, DC. Thanks to everyone for help on this tremendous journey!” Alums, please send in your news!

### *Jamais deux sans trois*

Actually, I don’t know what proverb is appropriate to introduce the Hanzalik sisters. Danielle, Bridgét, and Sydney Hanzalik are three sisters who have all “had the pleasure” — their words! — of majoring in French at UC Berkeley. Danielle graduated from Cal in 2015 with a double major in English and French. She then went on to spend three years in France, teaching English with TAPIF and working for a Christian student group called Agapé. She is now in her first year in the Ph.D. program at UCLA in French and Francophone Studies. Bridgét graduated from Cal in 2017 with a double major in Linguistics and French and the Department Certificate of Distinction in French. She has been running Estelle Bakery & Pâtisserie, a French pâtisserie in Sacramento, and hopes to apply for graduate school in Speech Language Pathology in the next two years. Sydney is currently a student in the French department. She will be graduating from Cal in Spring 2020 with a double major in Cognitive Science and French. *Sacre bleu! Incroyable!* “We are grateful,” they write, “to have all been able to benefit from Berkeley’s French department and bond over this special connection.”



Danielle, Bridgét, and Sydney Hanzalik

## *Global interns!*

Twelve students participated this past summer in the Global Interns Program through the French Department. Two were **Gloria Fung** and **Chinwendu Ononuju**. Here's a little testimony.



I was placed at the Hôpital Franco-Britannique in Paris, France where I shadowed physicians and other hospital staff in the pediatrics, neonatal, maternity and labor/delivery wards. I interned for 28 hours/week, and I used my French every day! After the internship, I definitely felt more comfortable speaking French, but I still have room to improve. The best part of my experience was being able to see and learn so many different things at the hospital. For example, I got to watch a caesarean section operation and multiple live births! Also, being able to explore Paris and other cities in France for the first time by myself was an incredible and exciting experience. The least positive aspect was transitioning into the new environment during the first two weeks since it was my first time in France, but after these first weeks I began to feel much more comfortable. I would highly recommend this program to other students! It was truly one of the highlights of my college career because I learned and explored so much, and I gained more independence and motivation for my career. I would advise other students considering the program to make the most out of their experience: no matter what internship you are placed in, be open to all the opportunities to explore the country and its culture! — Gloria Fung

I was placed in an NGO called Fondation Scelles. Fondation Scelles conducts research and collects global data in an effort to combat human trafficking and prostitution. Part of my work involved translating some of the articles on the organization's website from French to English. My main project involved my own specialized research project on the neurological impact of trauma. For me the most positive part of the experience was just having some many opportunities to get out of my comfort zone and to just believe in myself a little more. I would absolutely recommend this internship to other students! If you are reading this and you are considering global internships, go for it! You may have other opportunities to travel to Paris but the experience you will get through study abroad is one of a kind! Seize the moment and the opportunity because you will only be this young once! Also, it's okay to be nervous and uncertain about what your experience will be like! — Chinwendu Ononuju



## *Money money money money!*

14 current majors benefited from Paul Brun Memorial Scholarships this year; these need- and achievement-based awards, made possible through the generosity of a donor, are a little-known perk of majoring in French! (For the first time, Brun Scholarships were also distributed to 6 of our graduate students with demonstrated need.)

## *Books books books books!*

I announced last year a pilot initiative in French 102, our “gateway” class to the major, which eases students out of our language classes into full-on courses in linguistics, literature, and culture. With resources

provided by Department benefactors, we started offering all 102 students — free of charge — a copy of the full-length work read in the class. (It’s often Molière’s *L’école des femmes*, but this year we’ve had instructors choose Ionesco’s *Rhinocéros* and Beauvoir’s *Mémoires d’une jeune fille rangée* as well.)



Since the measure has been appreciated both by students and instructors — who now have everyone “on the same page” — we’re continuing what I hope resources will allow to become a tradition. (Pictured: students in **Vesna Rodic’s** Spring 2019 102, Molière in hand!)



👉 Students performing Yasmina Reza’s *Le Dieu du carnage* in Prof. Susan Maslan’s French 103

## *Thanks to YOU*

I've mentioned before that many of the things you read about in the newsletter are not actually paid for through state appropriations (i.e., by California taxpayers!) or tuition. Inviting speakers, keeping up the French Library, buying refreshments for Le Cercle Français or copies of *L'école des femmes* — these are some of the things that donors big and small make happen. And along these lines:

The **2019 Mousseau Prize for best undergraduate paper in French** was awarded to **Annabel Jankovic** for her essay, “*Sur la synergie entre l’homme politique et l’homme littéraire: La vision partagée de l’empereur et du poète.*” Annabel wrote this as her final paper for Professor (Emerita) Suzanne Guerlac’s Senior Seminar on Victor Hugo. The Prize Committee was deeply impressed by the eloquent intensity of her intellectual involvement with Hugo’s *oeuvre*. Congratulations to Annabel on the prize, which comes with a \$250 award.

The **Study Abroad Flight Fund** is the default beneficiary of contributions we receive, whether at Big Give or throughout the year. We’re delighted to announce that we were able to make our first such awards this year! Four students benefited from \$250 awards from the fund, which helps to defray travel costs that are not covered by financial aid. They are: **Harsimran Bhandal**, who participated in Summer 2019 “France for the Pre-Med” in Nice; **Heather Breaux**, who studied in Bordeaux for fall 2019, and in Paris for spring 2020 on a research/internship program with the Institute for Field Education (IFE); **Molly Pinder**, who is spending Spring 2020 in Strasbourg, also on a research/internship program with IFE that will combine her dual interests in French and Linguistics; and **Amy Zhang**, who participated in the Summer 2019 Paris Global Internship program.

Harsimran Bhandal and friend, during his study abroad in Nice. 📷

Harsimran writes, “The program was fantastic! I not only learned so much French related to medicine, but I gained invaluable experiences with my friends and with my host family. I had such a wonderful experience in France, and I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to study there. It was definitely an adventure getting there with the waiting, but I was finally able to experience the language and culture for myself.”



## *Disparitions et parutions*

I'm saddened to announce two deaths in the Departmental family.

Former faculty member **Jacqueline Lichtenstein**, a specialist of early modern aesthetics and art history, passed away on April 3, 2019. Prof. Lichtenstein first came to Berkeley as a visiting lecturer in 1984, before being hired to the professorial ranks the following year, as she was finishing her dissertation under the direction of the celebrated theoretician Louis Marin. In 1991, she started teaching at Paris X Nanterre, and officially separated from Berkeley in 1996. In 2004, she took up the post of professor at Paris IV Sorbonne. It was while she was at Berkeley that published her widely influential *La Couleur éloquente*, in 1989. Those who remember her tenure here were marked by both her chain-smoking intensity and her above-and-beyond generosity.



Patrick Reily, who did his BA and PhD in the Department from 1984 to 1996. Currently Associate Professor of French at Colgate University, Patrick sent in the following appreciation of Jacqueline's influence

As an undergraduate, Jacqueline was my honors thesis director, and I was one of her graduate research assistants in the PhD program. I doubt I would be doing what I do today without Jacqueline's mentorship, friendship, and above all, her extraordinary intellect. She was a riveting teacher, a brilliant writer, and a true exemplar of a commitment to the humanities. Pretty much all my training in 17th-century literature and culture came from Jacqueline. I would like to think that continuing to teach French Classical literature to new generations of students is a tribute to everything she taught me, and in a small way, is part of her legacy. Long may it live.

Jacqueline did live in a cloud of smoke. Classes would often begin with a rhetorical "*si je fumais?*" She brought a sliver of France with her to California. Out of the smoke would emerge a gravelly voice and pure, Pascalian French. Invariably, at some point she would say "*j'ouvre une parenthèse...*" and often would not say "*je ferme la parenthèse*" until an hour later, after a brilliant detour through Descartes, Poussin, Deleuze, the iconography of a frontispiece, the freeway, anything. And it was always captivating.

It pains me to think that Jacqueline closed her last parenthesis. But she has left an enduring mark on the study of art, literature, and philosophy; through her unfailing generosity and kindness, she helped many others along their way in the profession. I just wanted to take this moment to say: Thank you, Jacqueline.

And we were very sad to learn in December 2019 of the death of our former graduate student, Will Bishop. Will received his PhD in 2003 with a dissertation on "Alliances in Translation: Beckett, Genet, Rimbaud, and Celan." He lived in Paris, writing, translating, and teaching. For a number of years he was a great help to Berkeley students while serving as the academic

coordinator of the UC Center in Paris. In recent years, Will translated a number of important philosophical works by Peter Szendy and Élizabeth de Fontenay into English. Will had a lovely smile, a luminous intelligence, and a wonderful capacity for friendship, all of which means he will be sorely missed. Memorials in his memory may be made to The Lexington School, 1050 Lane Allen Road, Lexington, KY 40504



And given these losses, I'm all the more happy to be able to announce the birth of Amaia Sofía Linares, born on November 7, 2019 to graduate student (and French BA) Emily Linares and her husband Miguel. Congratulations mom and dad!

## *Give to French*

Ours is a dynamic and growing program of study that encompasses culture, politics, current events, and translation. We are constantly developing new approaches and programs to enhance the experience of our extraordinary Cal students. But as you've seen here, we cannot do everything they deserve without financial support from our friends.

If you're able to [give to French at Berkeley](#), the Study Abroad Flight Fund is the default beneficiary for your contribution; but if you'd like to earmark your donation for a different cause (e.g., merit-based prizes, graduate student support, library acquisitions and upkeep), simply indicate as much in the space provided for this purpose. If you should be thinking about estate planning, please [contact me directly](#) (npaige@berkeley.edu) and I'll be happy to help connect you with the Letters and Science Development Office.



And if you can, don't forget to remember us during Big Give, on March 12, 2020!



Things are always looking up for students of French at Cal!