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Mr. Mike Messitt, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences,  
CAS 217, Albany, NY 12222

For more information call: 518-437-3626, e-mail: mmessitt@albany.edu

## Undergraduate Students Cont.

Amy Savage, valedictorian for the graduating class of December 2006, who has since been accepted into the Graduate Program, is active in humanitarian causes, such as the Alternatives to Violence Project. Her interest in foreign languages and multicultural studies has greatly influenced her work and travels.

Two new study abroad venues in Brazil and Italy offer students wonderful opportunities to develop their intercultural and linguistic skills.

Our summer program with the University of Montpellier in France now includes a course taught on site by Professor Jean-François Brière about Contemporary French Society and Culture. The course gives students a unique opportunity to carry out observations and field work in France.

Albany students increasingly choose to study abroad to meet the world demand for people who understand each other's languages and cultures. Student Sara Ramirez, writing from France, remarked how well she was able to withstand cultural shock: "thought you [...] would like to know that Albany has prepared me for French immersion. Most of the foreign students here have never studied French History, literature or anything to do with France other than the language [...] they are having to deal with a great deal of cultural shock!"



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*Shifting Sands*  
Donated to LLC by Terri Boor



## From the Chair



Eloise Briere

Sophie was fundamental in shaping the Russian Program's reputation for turning out graduates with a superb mastery of the language. Her Russian language textbook is well known and used in many programs across the United States. In addition, her outstanding work as a lexicographer is recognized and appreciated world-wide, as the many users of her Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms attest. Not only a fine teacher and researcher, but also among University at Albany's concerned citizens, Sophie assumed many leadership roles, particularly in the faculty Senate, during her tenure here.

Like all of us, Sophie worked tirelessly against the rising tide of monolingualism and provincialism, releasing into the world many generations of students like Maureen Baginski, the FBI's Senior Intelligence Advisor,



Sophie Lunenky

Marjorie McShane, Research Assistant Professor, University of Maryland - Baltimore County, and Erika Haber, Associate Professor of Russian, Syracuse University. As Sophie ends her teaching career, her dedication to language will forever live on in all that have had the honor and privilege of being influenced by her work. She will be missed for all these reasons and many more. We wish her well as she settles into her new life in New York City, enjoys its many cultural offerings, and continues her very active research and writing.

Желаем Вам здоровья,  
счастья и дальнейших  
творческих успехов!

# LLC News

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES

## International Symposium

Hélène Cixous, Women's Studies Pioneer

April 23rd thru April 24th 2007

"Written Initials - Ultimate Plays"

An International Symposium

Renowned French writer Hélène Cixous will be visiting the University at Albany on April 23rd thru 24th of 2007 for a series of events open to the public. It is co-sponsored by LLC and co-organized by French Studies faculty member David Wills and English Department graduate student, James Fox. Professor Cixous is the author of over 60 works of fiction, theatre and criticism. She is especially known for her groundbreaking experimental writing as well as for giving voice to women by means of what she called *écriture féminine* (feminine writing). She established the first University program in Women's Studies in Europe and led the commission to develop an open university in the late 1960's, along with leading intellectuals such as Michael Foucault and Gilles Deleuze. In more recent years she has worked closely with Jacques Derrida, writing a series of books on or in dialogue with him, work that she is continuing after his death. The other notable area of her work is as official playwright of Ariane Mnouchkine's Théâtre du Soleil, France's leading experimental theatre. Cixous will give public lectures as part of an international conference on her work with the participation of experts in the field from Barcelona, Leeds, Sussex and Montreal. Well known scholars from Florida, Harvard, Emory, USC and, DePaul will also attend.

For further information regarding this event:

<http://albany.edu/cixousconference>

Co-organizers:

David Wills <dwill@albany.edu>

James Fox <jmfx403@aol.com>

Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Monday, April 23rd

9:45-Noon Session 1: Standish Room, Science Library

3:00 Keynote Address with Hélène Cixous

Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Tuesday, April 24th

9:30-11:30 Session 2: Standish Room, Science Library

2:00-4:00 Session 3: Standish Room, Science Library

8 pm Public Reading with Hélène Cixous: Assembly

Hall, Campus Center, New York State Writers Institute

**Merci! Grazie! Gracias! Dank u!  
Vielen Dank! Shukran! Obrigado!  
Gratus!**

**A Special Note to Alumni and LLC  
Supporters**

We would like to thank those of you who have contributed gifts to the LLC Department. Donations enable us to sponsor internationally known visitors like Hélène Cixous who will be with us in April. They also enable us to support students. For instance, this year we have been able to help two international graduate students attend conferences where they gave papers.

**LLC gets a new look!**

We are grateful to sculptor and benefactor Terri Boor whose statue *Shifting Sands* now graces the second floor entrance of the Department. *Shifting Sands* (photo on back page) stands for the educational process which continually challenges students as they add new languages and cultural understandings to their sense of self. Like the young woman in the sculpture, they emerge from the process ready to be more fully formed by life. We would also like to thank Professor Ann Marfey who was instrumental in securing the Boor sculpture.

**...and a new language!**

The LLC Department enters its second year of offering Arabic to our community of languages. Many thanks for the support received from the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program and to Professor Lotfi Sayahi, Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies, who developed our Arabic course.

## Aurevoir Charleen!

Charleen Hoffman, departmental secretary for many years, retired in December of 2006. We will miss the quiet strength she brought to everything she did during her twenty two years of service with the French Department and LLC. A loyal person who could be relied upon for discretion, and dedication, she exuded a sense of calm and her presence will be missed.



Editor: J. MacMillan

Designer: Stefanie Schaefer

## New Faces

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to LLC:

Professor **Hilde Hoogenboom** who joined the Slavic and Eurasian program, grew up in the Albany area before obtaining her Ph.D. at Columbia University. She is contributing to the Department's unique graduate translation program in Russian. Her expertise also extends to women's writing and Russian literature and culture. She is the co-author of the definitive translation of the memoirs of Catherine the Great, published in June of 2006 with Modern Library at Random House. Reviews have been glowing and she was featured on national television: A&E's History Channel biography of Catherine the Great on March 16th, 2006.

**Ilka Kressner** who is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Spanish program presented a paper at the international colloquium on "*Teorías y construcciones de lo femenino/masculino*" in *La Havana, Cuba at Casa de las Américas*.

Professor **Brett Bowles** who joined the French Studies Program, comes to us with strong credentials in cultural studies and French cinema. His research project on the use of cinema by Vichy France: "Filmed News, Politics and Public Opinion in France, 1940-44." was supported by a grant from National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and his book on Marcel Pagnol's cinema was published by Manchester University Press in its "French Film Directors" series.

**Jacinto Fombona** who is also a Visiting Assistant Professor in Spanish has been invited to teach a seminar on travel literature and theories at the Universidad Nacional in Bogotá.

Professor **Michelle Chilcoat** who visits us from Union College is teaching a French graduate course on the Legacy of French Colonialism this semester.

## Faculty News

### Publications

● **M.B. Winn**, Thomas crequillon: *Opera Omnia. Vol. XVII: Cantiones Quatuor Vocum* (Hänssler-Verlag, 2005).

● **Herman Prins Salomon**, "O que tem de judaico a Menina e Moça?" (What is Jewish about Menina e Moça?) *Cadernos de Estudos Sefarditas*, 4, 2004, 185-223. His book-length study on The Religion of the Marranos Reconsidered, which is to appear serially in the next two issues of the prestigious Spanish journal SEFRAD (Madrid), is dedicated to the memory of our late colleague Professor Manuel Alvar of the Royal Spanish Academy.

● **Joana Sabadell-Nieto** is general coordinator of: *Cien años de poesía. 53 poemas en catalán, gallego y vasco: estructuras poéticas y pautas críticas*. She edited the book's 20 essays dedicated to Catalan Poetry which was co-edited with Jon Kortazar, José M. Paz Gago and Lucía Fraga, and is the author of the introductory essay. Peter Lang Publishers: Berne, Switzerland, 2007.

● Prof. **Sabadell-Nieto's** essay: "El erotismo de la subjetividad: escritura, mirada y deseo en las flaneuses del cambio de siglo" is published in *Las políticas del deseo en la literatura y el cine de mujeres en España* (1995-2002) Editorial Icaria. Col. Mujeres y Culturas: Barcelona.

● **Jacinto Fombona** "Tanco Armero in China, Agent of Empire(s), Post-Colonial Businessman" is to appear in *Writing East Asia* (Hong Kong University Press) edited by Paul Smethurst and Steve Clark.

## Alumni News

● **Dr. Armando Gonzalez-Salinas** (Ph.D. in Spanish, 2003) was honored at convocation for his University of Albany Ph.D. dissertation on the reduction in use of the subjunctive, in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. Dr. Gonzalez-Salinas's research was judged "the best and most complete work in the Humanities: by an evaluation panel of reviewers in Mexico and the U.S., and he was the only recipient whose research was not the result of a collaborative undertaking. Dr. Gonzalez-Salinas is currently a professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon.

● **Dr. Lisa Nolan**, currently Lecturer in Spanish has published "A Politics of the Body: José Antonio Primo de Rivera's Fascism and Federico García Lorca's Benjaminian Response" in The journal: *Modern Drama* (University of Toronto Press, Spring 2007). She has also published: "La Mediterraneidad de Eugenio d'Ors y la Unión Europea: El nacionalismo entrópico" in a collection of essays: *Oceanografía de Xènius: Estudios críticos en torno a Eugenio d'Ors*. (eds: Carlos X. Ardavin, Eloy E. Merino, y Xavier Pla.)

● **Dr. Juan Thomas**, currently a lecturer in Spanish, presented "Hispanisms in Neapolitan: linguistic footprints left during the Viceroyalty" at the Third Annual Robert Dombroski Italian Conference. University of Connecticut at Storrs, October, 2006.

● Former University at Albany goalkeeper **Bouna Coundoul** (B.A.) has signed a developmental contract with Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids and saw the first action of his professional career in 2006. In the Reserve Division the Senegalese goalkeeper had three solo shutouts and split three others with Matt Jordan. Coundoul earned his undergraduate degree in information science with a minor in French.

● **Donna Aguiar Keegan** (B.A., M.A.) continues to co-chair the Department of World Languages at Albany Academy for Girls and on rare occasions, can be spotted in the old job she had as an undergraduate, taking admission at the Spectrum Cinema.

● **Mary de la Torre** new Mom to baby Lilas, writes from Paris, telling how useful French has been in her travels throughout Europe and even in exotic places such as the Tamil area of India.

## The Tournées Festival

Thanks to a competitive grant obtained by Professor **Brett Bowles**, a highly successful film festival of five award-winning films from France and Belgium was held at the University of Albany's Uptown campus. Shown on April 13th thru the 15th, these films each featured a theme of redemption.

This event was sponsored by FACE, U Albany College of Arts & Sciences and The Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures. For information about the films, please see [www.facecouncil.org/tournees/featuredselection.html](http://www.facecouncil.org/tournees/featuredselection.html). Also contact Brett Bowles [bbowles@albany.edu](mailto:bbowles@albany.edu).

## Student News

### Post-Doctoral Fellows

**Vasyl Starko** was sponsored by the Fulbright program, to work on his lexicographic project with Professor Sophie Lubensky. His research project culminated in the compilation of a comprehensive English-Ukrainian phraseological dictionary. In August 2006, he gave a paper at EURALEX 2006 International Convention in Turin and won one of the prestigious Laurence Urdang EURALEX Awards.

Thanks to a grant from the International Association of Quebec Studies, another post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Nevine El Nossery, (Ph.D., University of Montreal), taught a course on Quebec film and literature in the Department and carried out research on new immigrant literature in Quebec.

## Graduate Students

● **Ana Ameal** was recently hired as Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UC Berkeley.

● **Elise Bouet** and **Lauren Englisbe** passed their French M.A. exams in March: Félicitations!

● **Noris Gilbert** has taken a position as "Community Interpretation Specialist (Spanish language) with the New York State of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), Translation Unit." ¡Felicidades!

● **Evellyn Kohr**, French Studies graduate student and Teaching Assistant, has been selected to spend next year as an ESL instructor at the University of Grenoble, France, a position held this year by Roxanne McRae.

● **Dora Ramirez** and **Emilia Sciarra-Laos** have both been hired at Skidmore College as full-time Lecturers in Spanish.

● **Lou Stelling** obtained a travel grant from the American Dialect Society to present a paper at its annual meeting in January. The paper, "Language Maintenance and Shift in Two Franco-American Communities," is part of his dissertation-in-progress.

● **Lou Stelling**, **Geneviève Fortin**, **Véronique Martin** and Professor **Cynthia Fox** co-authored "L'identité franco-américaine: tendances actuelles dans le sud de la Nouvelle-Angleterre" which will be published this spring in the *Canadian Journal of American Studies*.

## Undergraduate Students

In a recent Student Satisfaction Survey conducted on campus, students showed clear appreciation for the close individual attention that is a hallmark of our programs. Our Spanish Language program was rated amongst the highest in student satisfaction at the University.



International exchange student, **Valentina Marturano** (left) from Italy, who is studying at the University at Albany says, "I am really fond of University of Albany's teaching system and its employees! The Campus Center staff and the Library staff have all been friendly. The Faculty all seem to be experts in their field. They always smile. In Italy, it is different. The relationship between students and professors is uncomfortable. It is almost impossible to talk with them!" Marturano visits us from the University of the Sacred Heart in Milano, Italy.

(continued on back)

## Faculty Honors



**Mary Beth Winn** is invited to be a Visiting Professor at the Ecole des Chartes in Paris in the spring of 2008. This is due to her expertise on early French publishing The Ecole des Chartes (The National School of Paleography and Archival Studies) is a university level institution (grande école) that prepares students to be France's archivists and curators.

**Herman Prins Salomon** was invited to give the key-note lecture at the symposium celebrating the hundredth birthday of the late French Prime Minister Pierre Mendes France in the Senate of France on January 22, 2007.

In "Les Ecritures au service de la perversion inquisitoriale: l'épisode Luis Mendes de França", Professor Salomon detailed the Portuguese Inquisitorial Trial (1683) of Luis de France who was Pierre Mendes France's direct paternal ancestor

**Charles Rougle** of the Slavic and Eurasian Studies Program was a Fulbright Teaching Fellow in Moscow from 2005 to 2006. He was Academic Co-Director of the SUNY Center on Russia and the United States at Moscow State University. He taught courses and seminars in translation at the Philological Faculty, the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Regional Studies as well as at Volgograd Pedagogical University. He also presented papers on translation at conferences in Petersburg, Moscow and Voronezh.

**Joana Sabadell-Nieto** has been invited to become an Associate Researcher at the University of Barcelona's "Centre Dona i Literatura". At the center philosophers, historians, geographers and literary and cultural studies professors work on projects of common interest.

**Henryk Baran** received a grant from the Nevas Family Foundation for a project on "The Struggle Against the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion,' 1920s-1930s".

**Brett Bowles** was awarded the 2006 annual International Association for Media History (IAMHIST) prize for best article, "Jean Renoir's Salut à la France: Documentary Film production, Distribution and Reception in France, 1944-45", published in the March 2006 issue of the *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*.