

Annual Report
Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures
2008-2009

Prof. Elizabeth Emery, Interim Chair

I. Staffing

New Hires

- Dr. Jefferson Gatrall, Assistant Professor of Russian (tenure track position starting September 2008)
- Mazooz Sehwal, Instructor of Arabic and Coordinator of the Arabic program (Full-time one-year replacement position)

New Adjuncts and Visiting Specialists

- Mustapha Dargal (Arabic)
- Annaelle Koubemba, from the University of Nice, spent a year in the department as Research Scholar and adjunct in French.
- Mohamed Mesloub (French)
- Samira Ait-Jafour (French)
- Madhuri Mukherjee (French)
- Nicola McGill (French)
- Anna Jaroch-Obremski (German)
- Irina Mashinski (Russian)

Graduate Assistant

- Ashley Hansberry

II. Curriculum Development:

New Course Approvals

- ARAB118 - Spoken Arabic
- FREN270 - Advanced Composition as the general writing course for the Teacher Education Concentration
- FREN 502 - Theories and Approaches to Teaching French as a Second Language
- FREN 519 - Teaching French in P-12: Practice
- FREN 529 - Seminar in Enlightenment and Revolutionary France
- FREN 533 - 18th Century French Civilization Seminar
- FREN 535 - Nineteenth-Century French Literature Seminar

New Minor

- Minor in Arabic Studies

III. Programs, Projects, Special Events:

- Guest lecture by Professor Daniel Purdy, Penn State University, Spring 2009.
- Talk by Leslie O'Keefe, Superintendent of Schools of Rutherford, NJ school district about the process of applying for French teacher positions.
- Talk by Steven Albin, Vice Principal of Pierrepont School in Rutherford, NJ, about Special Services and French classes and the "special learner" in the French class (both gifted and students with learning disabilities and emotional problems).
- Translation Program event (Spring 2009). Dr. Daniel Mengara read from his new novel, *Le Chant des Chimpanzés* (in French), while student translations (in English) were projected behind him.
- Cercle Français tribute to Nobel-prize winning author/filmmaker J.-M.-G. Le Clézio: screening of *Mondo* with an introductory lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Emery
- Cercle Français trip to attend an NYU program about the Lascaux cave paintings in conjunction with FREN302 (Origins of French Civilization).
- NYC Broadway excursion: *Spring Awakening* (Cercle Français and German Club), Fall 2008.
- German Club trips to see and discuss adaptations of German-related performances at Kasser Theater: Peter Weiss' *Investigation* and an adaptation of Kleist's *Homburg*.
- Year-long Cercle Français film series
- Year-long Russian Club film series
- The new Arabic Studies Club gained a charter from Student Government and the Cercle Français was rechartered.
- The Montclair-Graz exchange program is one of the most important components of the German Program at Montclair. This academic year German minors Kirsten Huze and Dino Livakovic are spending a year at the Karl-Franzens Universität in Austria.
- MSU in Nice program involved the Broadcasting Department (Summer 2008) and Université de Nice professor Serge Milan, and added a trip to the Gorges du Verdon.

IV. Other Department/Program Achievements and Endeavors:

- Ms. Diomie Johnson, Department Secretary, earned a B.A. with a major in General Humanities.
- French major Marie Théberge was awarded a Montclair State University Alumni Citation Award.
- J.J. Blumer, a Music major and a German minor, won a full-tuition plus housing and monthly stipend award and will be spending the year 2009-2010 studying in Austria on the Montclair-Graz exchange scholarship.
- William Scheideler, a Fine Arts Major and a German minor, also was awarded a Montclair-Graz Scholarship and will be spending 2009-2010 in Graz.
- Jamie Doughty has been selected to work at the Université de Nice as a "lecteur d'anglais" for the AY2009-2010 year.
- Winners of the Arabic essay prize: Marriam Sidky Beshay and Omar Y. Awawdeh.
- Winner of the French essay prize: Katherine Kotacska.
- Winner of the Hebrew prize: Lai Auco.
- Lillian Szklarczyk Graduate Scholarship award: Chedia Ayari.
- Zareen Thomas-Bell has been awarded an MSU outstanding student employee award.

V. Activities of Administrative Units within Departments [if applicable]:

- The journal *Romance Studies*, jointly edited by Prof. Elizabeth Emery and Prof. Lloyd Hughes-Davies, published double issues, one entitled *The Cultural Currency of Nineteenth-Century French Poetry* (26:3-4) and the other *Cultural and Literary Translation* (27:3-4). Volume 27.1 was dedicated to Norah Borges and her work.

VI. Faculty Achievements

Scholarship

Dr. Bettina Brandt

Publications

- “‘Attempts to Read the World’: A Conversation with Barbara Honigmann” In: *Rebirth of a Culture. Jewish Identity and Jewish Writing in Germany and Austria Today*. Eds. Hillary Hope Herzog, Todd Herzog and Benjamin Lapp. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books, 2008.

- “Scattered Leaves: The Artist Book and Migration,” In: *CLS (Comparative Literature Studies)* 45.1, special issue on “East-West: Diasporic Writings of Asia,” Eds. Saburo Satô, Kimiko Takahashi, and Reiko Tachibana, 2008.
- Doron Rabinovici. “Mishmash or mélange.” Trans. Bettina Brandt and Daniel Purdy, In: *Rebirth of a Culture. Jewish Identity and Jewish Writing in Germany and Austria Today*. Eds. Hilary Hope Herzog, Todd Herzog and Benjamin Lapp, Berghahn Books, Oxford and New York, 2008.
- Esther Dischereit. “Behind the Tränenpalast.” Trans. Bettina Brandt and Daniel Purdy, *Rebirth of a Culture. Jewish Identity and Jewish Writing in Germany and Austria Today*. Eds. Hilary Hope Herzog, Todd Herzog and Benjamin Lapp, Berghahn Books, Oxford and New York, 2008.
- Jeannette Lander. “Germans are least willing to forgive those who forgive them. A case study about myself.” Trans. Bettina Brandt and Daniel Purdy, *Rebirth of a Culture. Jewish Identity and Jewish Writing in Germany and Austria Today*. Eds. Hilary Hope Herzog, Todd Herzog and Benjamin Lapp, Berghahn Books, Oxford and New York, 2008.
- “Entpuppung und Verpackung. Yoko Tawadas *Das nackte Auge*,” *Waseda Blätter*, vol. 15, nr. 3, 2008.

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- “From the Dutch Mountains. Early Modern Translation and the Awkwardness of Dutch-German Relations in Edo Japan,” *Modern Language Association*, San Francisco, 2008.
- Tawada auf Holländisch-Tawada und die Hollander, Université François Rabelais, Tours, France.
- Literary reading with writer and critic Yoko Tawada, Institute for German Cultural Studies, Cornell University, Spring 2009

Dr. Elizabeth Emery

Publications

- “Colonial Gothic: The Medievalism of America’s ‘National’ Cathedrals.” *The Other Medievalisms*, ed. by Nadia Altschul and Kathleen Davis. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.
- “Misunderstood Symbolism: Rereading the Subjective Objects of Montesquieu’s First *Maison d’un artiste*.” *Subjective Objects*, ed. by Claire O’Mahoney. High Wycombe: Rivendale Press, 2009.
- “The Martyred Cathedral: American Interpretations of Notre-Dame de Reims after the First World War.” *Medieval Art and Architecture after the Middle Ages*, ed. by Alyce Jordan and Janet Marquardt. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009. 312-39.
- “Medievalism and the Middle Ages.” *Studies in Medievalism* 17 (2009). 77-91.

- “*Aux mères heureuses: Zola’s Compassion for Working Mothers.*” *Excavatio* XXIII:1-2 (2008): 169-82.
- “Cédez le Passage: A Chronicle of Travel in France with a Disability.” *Worlds Apart: Disability and Foreign Language Learning*, ed. by Tammy Berberi, Elizabeth Hamilton, and Ian Sutherland. New Haven, Yale University Press: 2008. 181-201.
- Louis-Pierre Sardella. “Mgr Mignot, le moderniste par excellence?” Trans. Elizabeth Emery. *By Those who Knew Them: Modernists Left, Right and Center*. Ed. Harvey Hill, Louis-Pierre Sardella, and C.J.T. Talar. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2008. 150-186.

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- "Edmond de Goncourt and his *Maison d'un artiste: A Poetics of Economy.*" University of Florida Paris Research Center workshop, “Economies sociales et politiques.” Paris, France, 4-5 June 2008.
- "Lunch with Maeterlinck: Pilgrimage in Adolphe Brisson’s *Portraits intimes.*" *Aller(s)-Retour(s)*, Société des Dix-Neuviémistes Annual Conference, Bristol, UK, March 27-29, 2009.
- “‘At Home’ Photography and the Development of the Celebrity House Museum.” Western Society for French History, Québec, Canada. November 6-8, 2008.
- "*La Mort de Philae: The Decadence of Loti’s “Egyptian Letters.”* Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, October 16-18, 2008.
- "*Notre-Dame de Reims as Martyr: A Cathedral's Life in Early Twentieth-Century American Visual Culture.*" Lecture for the inauguration of the Doudna Art Center, Eastern Illinois University (“If These Walls Could Talk: The Lives of Celebrity Buildings”). Charleston, IL, October 4, 2008.
- “*Aux Mères heureuses: Zola’s Compassion for Working Mothers.*” Woman under Construction: Female Representations in 19th-Century French and Scandinavian Realism and Naturalism Conference. University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 14-15 August 2008.

Dr. Jefferson Gatrall

Publications

- *Alter Icons: The Russian Icon and Modernity.* Co-edited with Douglas Greenfield. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania University State Press (in press).
- “The Color of His Hair: Literary Portraits of the Historical Jesus.” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction.* 42.1 (2009): 109-30.
- “Peasant Sins and the Infantilizing of Evil in Tolstoy’s *Power of Darkness.*” *Theatre Survey.* 49.2 (2008): 253-75.

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- “Lev Tolstoy: The Destroyer and Creator of Canons.” 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, March 2009.
- “Inadvertent Icons in Vasilii Perov's ‘Aunty Marya’ (and Other Stories).” 40th Annual American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Conference, Philadelphia, November 2008.
- “Time Forward! Artists of the Russian Revolution” for MSU's *Humanities in the School Day*, December 2008.

Dr. Kathleen Loysen

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- “How the *Exemple* Exemplifies: Narrative Generation and Transformation.” Panel on “Reforming the Exemplum.” 2008 Meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Society. St. Louis, Missouri. October 2008.
- “The Querelle des femmes and Quarreling Women: The Case of the *Caquets de l'accouchée*.” Session on “Female/Queer Identities.” 41st Annual Conference of the North-American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature. New York University. May 2009.

Dr. Daniel Mengara

Publications

- *Le chant des chimpanzées* (a novel in French). Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008.
- Non-refereed articles published on the DP-Gabon Nouveau Website (<http://www.bdpgabon.org>), a political activism organization for which Dr. Mengara serves as president. These are a selection of pieces with significant analysis and insights into the Gabonese political situation (culled from among the many he has written): "Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau présente ses condoléances aux familles durement éprouvées par la disparition de Madame Edith Lucie Bongo Ondimba" (16 March 2009); "Le Dr. Daniel Mengara répond à Gabonews/Omar Bongo: « Ne confondez pas diaspora gabonaise et diaspora gabonaise prostituée »" (11 March 2009); "Gabon: L'affaire Cardona avait été romancée par Daniel Mengara dans son roman “Le chant des chimpanzées”" (2 March 2009); "Gabon - Exclusif : M. Sylvain Ndong exclu de l'UPG pour avoir participé aux travaux de la Coalition Gabonaise du Refus et de Salut National" (28 February 2009); "Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau salue la saisine par la justice française des comptes bancaires du dictateur gabonais et demande qu'Omar Bongo soit déclaré coupable de crimes économiques contre l'humanité des Gabonais" (27 Feb. 2009); "Des membres du congrès américain condamnent la dérive dictatoriale du régime Bongo au Gabon" (23 January 2009); "Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau condamne la répression meurtrière et les inhumanités du régime Bongo au Gabon" (19 January 2009); "Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau annonce la création et la réunion de la « Coalition Gabonaise du Refus et de Salut National » à Paris du 20 au 22 février 2009" (18 January 2009); "Gabon: Discours à la nation du Dr. Daniel Mengara: “Vous pouvez, Monsieur Bongo, vous mettre votre ouverture

dans le trou que vous voulez” (4 January 2009); "Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau condamne le terrorisme d'état au Gabon et exige la libération immédiate de Marc Ona Essangui et des leaders de la société civile incarcérés" (31 December 2008); "Discours du 17 août du Dr. Daniel Mengara: « Monsieur Bongo, quand le piment prend 41 ans pour mûrir, il finit par pourrir »" (1 September 2008); "Affaire ALABA FALL: Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau appelle à la démission des vrais coupables" (6 August 2008); "Arrestation de Marc Ona Essangui: Le BDP-Gabon Nouveau condamne cet énième acte de forfaiture du régime Bongo" (29 July 2008).

- Political articles about the 2008 election self-published on a political blog in support of the Obama candidacy (“Unofficial Barack Obama Advisory Council”). The blog is accessible through: <http://www.obamaco.com> and several articles were submitted to more renowned blogs: "Day of Reckoning 2: Why John McCain Will (Probably) Lose (Tonight)" (November 4, 2008); "Day of Reckoning 1: Why Obama Could Still Lose" (November 2, 2008); "Of Sex, Libido and the \$150,000 Clothing Spree: Notes on the Incredible Arousal of Sarah Palin" (October 24, 2008); "Of John McCain and His America: It Is Apocalypse Now" (October 17, 2008); "Watch: What if John McCain wanted to lose?" (October 16, 2008); "Obama Won Third Debate, But Failed (or Chose Not?) to Go for the Jugular" (October 16, 2008); "Here Comes The McCain/Palin Kitchen Sink: Obama Must Duck, This Way" (October 5, 2008); "The Eight Things that Will Win (or Lose) This Election for Barack Obama" (September 16, 2008); "Small Lines Barack Obama Could Use Against John McCain to Beat Him to The Punch" (August 31, 2008); "Two things Hillary Clinton could say and do at the Convention (and thereafter) to get her supporters to back Barack Obama" (August 25, 2008); " To John McCain: Beware What You Wish For Obama" (July 25, 2008).

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- « Quel panafricanisme pour quelle Afrique? Pourquoi la renaissance culturelle de l'Afrique ne pourra pas se passer de la mondialisation ». Colloque à l'occasion du quarantième anniversaire du Festival Panafricain de 1969, Ministère Algérien de la Culture, 14-16 juillet 2009.
- “Community and Death of the Gods in Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* and *Arrow of God*.” Canadian Association of African Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. May 4-7, 2009.
- “Pour que le Gabon change, il faut que le pays ne soit pas trop calme et que le régime Bongo ne soit pas laissé tranquille dans son animalisation du Gabon.” Allocution du Dr. Daniel Mengara, Président du BDP-Gabon Nouveau, lors de la tenue du premier meeting constitutif de la Coalition Gabonaise du Refus et de Salut National à Paris les 20, 21 et 22 février 2009.

Dr. Lois Oppenheim

Publications

- "Life as Trauma; Art as Mastery: Samuel Beckett and the Urgency of Writing," *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, Summer 2008.
- "Guilt," Panel Report Winter Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association, in *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association* 56/3 (Sept. '08).
- Review of Lincoln Center Gate Theater Beckett Plays in *The Beckett Circle*, fall 2008.
- "Re-Visiting Stasis in the Work of Samuel Beckett," forthcoming in *Samuel Beckett Today/Aujourd'hui*
- "A Discrete Irony of the Schizotypal Mind"— forthcoming in *Philoctetes*, spring 2009.
- "A Twenty-First Century Perspective on a Play by Samuel Beckett," forthcoming in *Journal of Beckett Studies*, spring 2009.
- Review of *Awakening the Dreamer*, by Philip Bromberg, *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association* 57/2, April 2009.
- "The Lexicographer's Nightmare," forthcoming in *From the Couch to the Lab: Psychoanalysis, Neuroscience and Cognitive Psychology in Dialogue*, eds. Aikaterini Fotopoulou et al., Oxford University Press.

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- Samuel Beckett Festival: Introduced a series of plays on film and organized and moderated round-table with Edward Albee, John Turturro, Alvin Epstein, and Tom Bishop: November 22, 2008, The Philoctetes Center for the Multidisciplinary Study of Imagination.
- April 14, 2009: [Modernists that Matter: Mallarmé and Apollinaire](#)--Lois Oppenheim in Conversation with Mary Ann Caws and Nancy Kline, The Philoctetes Center for the Multidisciplinary Study of Imagination
- May 13, 2009: [Surrealism and Beyond: Paul Eluard and René Char](#)
- Paper presentation, Paris: Neuro-psychoanalysis Conference: "The Lexicographer's Nightmare," June, 2009.

Dr. Rabia Redouane

Publications

- One article in the Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics
- Four book reviews in *The French Review*.
- Four articles accepted for publication: at *la Revue "La Lettre R"* in a special issue on "Arts et artistes. Vices et passions", *Romania*, 2009; at Les presses de l'Université d'Istanbul, Turkey, 2009; at *la Revue "Cahiers de l'Echinox*, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2009; and at the Université de Bosphore, Turkey, 2009.

Lectures, Conference Presentations, or Performances

- AATF Gala, Chapter of New York.

- Code Switching Workshop, Tampa, Florida.
- L'Alliance française de Montclair.
- Central States Conference for Teaching Languages (CSC), Dearborn, Michigan
- South Conference for Language Teaching (SCOLT), Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- Association internationale de la linguistique appliquée (AILA), Essen, Germany
- Texas Foreign Language Conference (TFLA), Houston, TX.
- 2009 South West Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT), Norman, Oklahoma.

A. Grants/Contracts/Awards

Dr. Bettina Brandt

- Goethe Institute Translation Grant for the Dutch translation of Yoko Tawada's *De berghollander*.
- Japan Foundation Translation Grant for the Dutch translation of Yoko Tawada's *De berghollander*.

Dr. Elizabeth Emery

- Election into Phi Kappa Phi.

Dr. Kathleen Loysen

- MSU CHSS Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching

B. Professional Distinctions

Prof. Bettina Brandt

- Regional Delegate (Middle Atlantic) to the MLA Delegate Assembly
- Elected Member of the Executive Committee, MLA Netherlandic Language and Literature Discussion Group (2006-2011).

Prof. Elizabeth Emery

- Joint Editor, *Romance Studies*
- Editorial Board, *Excavatio*

Dr. Kathleen Loysen

- French Subject Editor, *Romance Studies*.

Dr. Daniel Mengara

- President of BDP-Gabon Nouveau, a political activist group of Gabonese expatriates and exiles seeking to promote democracy in the Republic of Gabon.

C. Pro-bono Work, Community Outreach, Service to MSU

Dr. Bettina Brandt

- Reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Reviewer for the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada
- External Grant Reviewer PSU-CUNY Grants
- Manuscript Reviewer for five journals
- Book Reviewer for three journals
- Reviewer for Prentice Hall Publishers
- Member of Montclair-Graz Scholarship Committee
- Faculty Advisor Montclair-Graz Exchange
- Faculty Advisor of German Student Club
- Member Dean's Awards Selection Committee
- Department Representative at the CHSS Majors and Minors Fair

Dr. Elizabeth Emery

- Interim Chair, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures
- President of the Board of Trustees of the Margaret Holz Scholarship Foundation,
- Study Abroad Advisor
- CHSS Dean's Search Committee
- University Distinguished Teacher Committee
- Reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Tenure, Promotion, or Grant Reviewer for five institutions
- Manuscript Evaluator for four presses and three journals

Dr. Jefferson Gatrall

- Departmental Travel Committee
- CHSS Research Committee

Dr. Kathleen Loysen

- Chair, Departmental Personnel Action Committee
- Translation Program Coordinator
- Cercle Français Faculty Advisor
- At-Large Representative, University Senate; Member of Senate Student Affairs Council
- Departmental Representative to CHSS College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee; Member of CUCC Subcommittee to Prepare Committee Bylaws
- Departmental Middle States Assessment Coordinator

Dr. Daniel Mengara

- Graduate Program Coordinator and Certification Advisor for the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
- Department Representative to the CHSS Graduate Council.
- Department Alternate to the CHSS Tech Council
- Member of the Department of Modern Languages' DPAC on Reappointment and Tenure
- Member of the Department of Modern Languages' Department Sabbatical Review Committee
- Executive Director of SORAC, the Society of Research in African Cultures
- CHSS Representative to the Multicultural Awareness Sub-Committee (MAR)
- Member of the Advisory Committee of *CERAF (Center for Economic Research on Africa)*.
- Member of MSU's Disciplinary Hearing Committee
- Member of MSU's African American Caucus
- Member of the Montclair State University Senate
- Member of the Senate Elections Committee
- Member of the Senate Administrative Affairs Council

Dr. Lois Oppenheim

- Organized conference: "Minding the Gap: Freudian and Interpersonal/Relational Psychoanalysts in Dialogue"--New York Psychoanalytic Institute, Feb. 28, 2009.
- Visiting Scholar, COPE, New York State Psychiatric Institute (Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center), fall 2008
- Research Committee – International Society for the Psychological Treatment of the Schizophrenias and other Psychoses
- Scientific Program Committee - New York Psychoanalytic Institute
- Reader for book evaluation for Palgrave Macmillan