

# The French Connection

Summer 2000

Department of French • College of Liberal Arts and Sciences • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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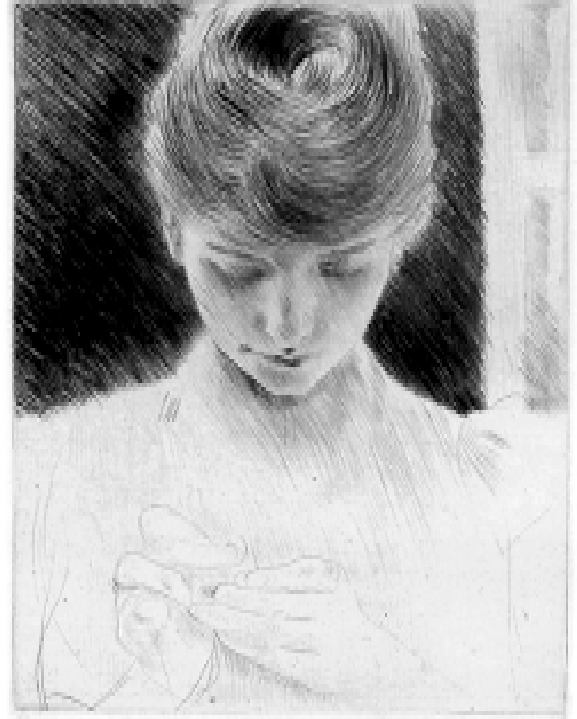
### Urbana Research and the French CNRS

## Proust on the Prairie

At Illinois, this is the year for Marcel Proust. As part of the University's celebration of the year 2000, the Proust 2000 symposium gathered a distinguished group of invited speakers for a brilliant reassessment of Proust. Held April 13 to 16 at the Krannert Art Museum, the symposium has begun to send reverberations around the world. We'll reserve a full report for next year's *French Connection*.

Two other cultural events initiated the Proust fervor in Champaign-Urbana. The first, on March 26, was a very unusual concert given at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts by the Da Camera of Houston under the artistic direction of Sarah Rothenberg, who conceived the program and also played the piano. "Marcel Proust's Paris" brought together texts, music, and texts set to music, in just the kind of artistic presentation that Proust might have attended during his most worldly period. Richard Howard, the distinguished poet and translator of many French novels and poetry, read two famous passages from *À la recherche du temps perdu*. The first, from *Un amour de Swann*, described the Vinteuil sonata, and it was followed by a performance of Fauré's lovely violin sonata in A major, one of the models for the Vinteuil sonata. The tenor John Aler contributed eight French songs by Reynaldo Hahn, Proust's great lover and friend, and by Debussy and Fauré, and the American String Quartet brought the concert to a warm conclusion with the lush quartet by César Franck. Only a real salon setting was lacking to make the event a return to Proust's time and his experience of music and declamatory art.

On March 31, the Krannert Art Museum opened its exhibition, "Marcel Proust: Memories, Mockeries, and Medievalisms." Curated by Eunice Maguire, this exhibition brought together works of medieval art in the Museum's collection, a lovely settee from Proust's sitting room, and manuscripts from the University Library's rare book room, among others. Proust



### *Helleu's wife threading a needle.*

Etching, Paul-César Helleu (1859-1921). Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Martin A. Ryerson. 1939-3-3. Courtesy Krannert Art Museum.

took an intense interest in medieval art and architecture, especially of churches and statuary, and studied and translated the art historical works of John Ruskin. Those who read *Combray* in college may recall Proust's description of the church in Combray and of thirteenth-century frescos by Giotto. The settee now belongs to Mrs. Dorothy Kolb, widow of former French Department professor Philip Kolb and a life-long Proust scholar. It was thanks to Professor Kolb's efforts that the library now owns a famous collection of Proustiana.

For his great work of literary art, *À la recherche du temps perdu*, Marcel Proust drew on his knowledge of other arts and his passion for sensual expression across all the forms of art. These Proustian cultural events in Champaign-Urbana replayed for us the architectural and musical metaphors so characteristic of Proust's novel.

## A Word From the Head

# Big Changes Afoot!



Doug Kibbee



*The French Connection* is published annually by the Department of French at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Suggestions and correspondence may be sent to the

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Produced for the Department of French by the  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of  
Publications.



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Dear friends,

This is my last letter from the head, as I will be leaving my corner office for more modest accommodations at the end of the spring semester. Such times usually call for retrospection, as did the recent Proust conference held here. What struck me most as we prepared for that wonderful event was how one thing builds on another, and how, through long cumulation, great achievements are attained.

The legacy of Proust and of Phillip Kolb here at the University of Illinois has touched us all, as some reminiscing about the last decade clearly reveals. At the beginning of the decade, Phillip Kolb was putting the finishing touches on the final volumes of his edition of the correspondence of Marcel Proust.

With Professor Kolb's passing, the future of the archive he had created was in doubt. But at the same time, faculty in the humanities and the arts who were interested in using new technologies in their research and creative work were joining to form the Advanced Information Technologies Group.

What better challenge to theories of the organization of information in the digital age than the incredibly rich and varied files compiled by Phillip Kolb during his illustrious career? Nurtured by the Advanced Information Technologies Group, the idea of a digital Proust archive began to take shape in the French Department.

These efforts led to a major grant from the Vice Chancellor for Research, within the framework of the Critical Research Initiatives program. At this point we could add the services of Caroline Szyłowicz, and the digital archive began to take shape.

These activities attracted the attention of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and helped to make the University of Illinois one of only two universities in the United States with a global agreement with the CNRS. When the head of the US office of the CNRS, Mme Dominique Martin-Rovet, could hold a letter by Proust in her hands, here in the middle of the corn fields, she was sold on the University of Illinois. Now the

Department of French is actively participating in exchanges relating to Medieval and Renaissance studies, within the framework of the CNRS agreement.

From the exposure to the power and capabilities of new technologies came another idea: offering French courses online to students around the world. With the help of another generous grant from the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Department of French launched the first such courses in the humanities last fall, with students from San Jose, California, to Vienna, Austria.

In recognition of such developments in the Department of French at the University of Illinois, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy have now awarded the department a "Centre d'études pluridisciplinaires," one of only fifteen in the country. This program by the French government Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers support for programming to universities that have proven themselves bastions of French culture. Of the fifteen universities in this club, most are elite private universities of the United States. The University of Illinois is one of only three public universities so honored.

Each of these centers receives financial support to promote contacts with France for a broad segment of the university and the general population. Among the special attractions of the University of Illinois is our experience in training and continuing education for K-12 teachers of French and in offering a program in business French. We are the only university in the centers program that has this type of record and this abiding interest.

So it is that one thing leads to another, from Phillip Kolb's solitary passion for Proust to a wide variety of exciting projects that reinforce the stature of our department as one of the finest in the country. Who can guess where this will lead next?

## Innocents Abroad

Liana Verone, Maryam Zarnegar, and Adam Hemphill have something in common.

They all spent a year in France. Their experiences represent the myriad study abroad opportunities currently available to students. While the department's Illinois Program in Paris still thrives, as Adam Hemphill can attest, internships like the one in which Maryam Zarnegar participated and immersion programs like Liana Verone's year in Avignon are new and exciting options for undergraduates at the University of Illinois.

### Liana Verone

Liana Verone, who has just accepted an offer of graduate study at Columbia University, says she is "passionate about



Liana Verone (right) and a friend enjoy a Muscat in Beaumes de Venise (Provence).

literature." Starting to read at three, and inspired by a mother who read a book a day, Verone says much of her free time is still spent in reading. Her passion for language was also a birthright. Although she grew up in suburban Chicago, Verone was raised by Neapolitan parents and has been bilingual in English and Italian since she began to talk. Her summers as a child were spent in Naples, so when it came time to choose a study abroad program, the sunny Mediterranean air of Provence was the first thing to appeal to Verone.

Liana spent last year in Avignon in an advanced study course offered by the Institute for American Universities. When the academic year ended Verone was not ready to leave, so she secured a job in a well known restaurant. She found that this was the real-life test of her French and the informal immersion she had always dreamed of. Verone says "by the end of the summer, I felt there was no

reason for me to leave, I had a wonderful French family, friends and even a job! I'm still having trouble adjusting to life in the U.S., even after six months."

Verone plans to study 19th century literature in graduate school, focusing on Baudelaire and Mallarmé, although she also has a keen interest in Romance linguistics, particularly dialects. Not content to stop with French, she is currently studying Spanish and German and says her next language will be Russian, because "I want to read

all of these literary masterpieces in the original language.... There is always something lacking in the translation. It will take me forever, but I'll do it!"

### Adam Hemphill

The Illinois Program in Paris is the study abroad program run by the University of Illinois Department of French, with study programs at Paris III or Paris IV. Adam Hemphill, a Bloomington, Illinois, native, has been working in the French department for the last year as the Illinois Program in Paris assistant, encouraging his undergraduate classmates to travel abroad to deepen their language skills and gain cultural perspective.

Hemphill spent his year abroad studying literature and literary history at the Sorbonne (Paris IV) with seventeen other students. He found that his language skills improved immeasurably,

but, more importantly, his confidence level was tremendously boosted by the experience. Hemphill's interest in French began when his older sister started studying French in eighth grade; she tutored him in basic words and phrases



Adam Hemphill with Maryam Zarnegar at Place de la Concorde in Paris.

until he was old enough to enroll himself. Hemphill does a lot of odd jobs in the French department, such as posting signs or distributing applications, but his forte is answering students' queries and allaying their fears regarding the most practical aspects of the Paris program. Adam can tell them about his favorite pastimes—watching people from cafés, looking down on the city from Montmartre—but he can also tell them how much money to take and where the best travel deals are.

On quiet days Hemphill might be caught doing a bit of homework at his desk, the most recent assignment being to write a rejection letter in French, for his Commercial and Business French class. Hemphill muses: "after working so long on perfecting the polite formulas, it is hard to turn around and not use them." The confidence abroad and the study at home are all good training, as Hemphill's long term goal is to work in international industrial affairs.

### Maryam Zarnegar

Maryam Zarnegar studied in Paris last year also, at the Institut des Études

—continued on page 4

## Graduate Student Profile

### Kuntz Wins IPRH Fellowship

#### Innocents, cont'd

Européennes, and participated in Internships in Francophone Europe (IES), a very selective program in which political science students are placed in government offices. Maryam chose IES because the schedule worked well for her: the classes began early and ended in January; in February she began her internship. Classes included Modern



Maryam Zarnegar on the Seine overlooking Notre Dame.

French politics, immigration and “sans papiers,” social and labor movements in France, and other topics relevant to her work.

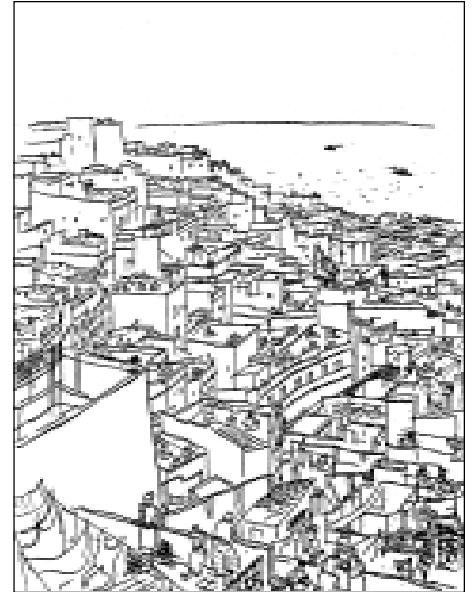
She chose an internship with a representative in the French National Assembly, a member of the Green Party, to correspond with her own interest in environmental affairs. Zarnegar worked closely with the representative, Guy Hascoet, on issues concerning the “sans papiers,” the PACS (gay rights bill), the nuclear energy program, and the International Penal Court. She attended parliamentary sessions and press conferences, helped organize a colloquium on retirement and social security in France, and put together a research paper on the nuclear program in France.

Zarnegar, whose family is Persian, speaks Farsi and is learning Spanish and German. One day she hopes to work for the European Union, the United Nations, or the World Bank. Zarnegar plans to complete a law degree or Ph.D. first, but only after she spends the next two years at Sciences Po, the prestigious Parisian college dedicated to political studies, as one of the first students from Illinois to do so.

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities has recently granted Jane Kuntz, a doctoral student in the Department of French, a graduate fellowship for the academic year 2000-2001. Kuntz's research in progress fits beautifully with the theme that the program chose for next year, *Cities*. It's a topic that researchers will approach from a variety of viewpoints.

Jane Kuntz's interest in French colonial cities in the Maghreb is rooted in the nearly 20 years she spent in Tunisia, where so many cities and towns bear the vestiges of centuries of civilization and struggles for power. The town of El Kef where she first lived, in the mountains near the Algerian border, is typical in this respect. Her own little neighborhood boasted a 4th century Christian basilica, a centuries-old shrine to a Muslim saint, and a Turkish fortress, built on what was left behind by the Byzantines, and which the French were to convert into barracks for their own defensive purposes. Roman cisterns lay just beneath street level under her house. Catholic priests active in the region throughout the French protectorate had also transformed a nearby holy shrine into a museum of folk crafts, much to the bemusement of the local community, who couldn't understand why their everyday cookware and farm implements should be displayed in nicely lit glass cases. Kuntz's Sorbonne-educated Tunisian husband, who happened to be a historian, an archaeologist, and a great defender of historical patrimony, initiated her into the splendors and miseries of the Arab city.

When she moved to the capital, Tunis, Kuntz found herself in an old colonial building occupied by a French-Algerian family who had been forced to flee after having been dispossessed of their property in eastern Algeria when the country became independent in 1962. The family chose Tunis, unable to imagine a life other than on the southern rim of the Mediterranean. Their stories provided a base for Jane Kuntz's growing interest in Tunisia's troublesome and fascinating neighbor to the west, about which she had already learned from television and radio. A growing number of people from



The Casbah of Algiers, by Brouty.

the Algerian diaspora, who were pouring into Tunisia ahead of the Islamic Fundamentalist wave of the late eighties and nineties, further acquainted her with life in Algeria.

Jane Kuntz came to the University of Illinois to work with Professor Evelyne Accad, whose experience of Beirut, Tunis, Cairo and other Arab cities seemed the right match for her area of interest. Working through her masters and doctoral courses, whether they involved familiar nineteenth century French texts, new literature from Quebec, or critical perspectives of post-modernity, she found that urban allegories were cropping up everywhere, providing paradigms aplenty.

She has settled upon the city of Algiers, and more precisely, the Algiers of a particular literary imaginary, that of the francophone Algerian writer Assia Djébar. This topic resulted from a focused reading of Djébar's work in juxtaposition to the many writers who, for over a century now, have written about the city in a highly emotional and conflicted manner. Kuntz thinks Djébar is bringing something new to the discourse and hopes to make Djébar's gendered re-writing of the *algérois* city-space the first of several writerly explorations of that and other cities of the Maghreb.

## Faculty Profile

## Zsuzsanna Fagyal

Imagine speaking French into a computer microphone and watching the acoustic image of your pronunciation appear on a computer screen. Assistant Professor Zsuzsanna Fagyal is using this kind of speech analysis software to monitor and improve the phonetic performance of her students. These computer-savvy students practice vowels, consonants, and intonation by getting visual feedback (pictures of their pronunciation compared with “correct” pronunciation), and oral feedback (listening to the computer replay both their own pronunciation and “correct” pronunciation). Fagyal sees a definite improvement in her students’ accents, and she and Professor Peter Golato are planning a joint study to examine the efficiency of teaching second-language acquisition this way in fall of 2000.

Zsuzsanna Fagyal came to the University of Illinois from Eloquent Technologies, after having been a researcher in William Labov’s sociolinguistic group at the University of Pennsylvania from 1996 to 1998. At Eloquent Technologies, Fagyal worked on IBM’s Viavoice software to improve the ability of the computer to “speak” French. Within the field of speech synthesis, she worked on text-to-phone conversion and improving speed and duration. A particular problem Fagyal aided Eloquent in solving is the modeling of the *e-muet*, the silent *e* on the end of words, telling the computer how to distinguish pronounced from unpronounced final letters.

Before her work at Eloquent, Fagyal worked with Labov in his studies on the Southern dialect of American English, a background that has aided her in her research on varieties of French. Now Fagyal has been awarded a prestigious grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to do research on the language of adolescents in the suburbs of Paris. The population of these suburbs at La Courneuve, northeast of Paris, is only 10 percent native French. Most residents are either of Arabic or black African origin, or they are from the Caribbean, with a small percentage of Hindi and Portuguese. Unemployment is fairly high. The language used, particularly by peer groups of high-school age children, is a



Zsuzsanna Fagyal

type of “we-language,” a language of solidarity used by those excluded from mainstream French society. Part of the “we-language” is a coded version of French that inverts the order of syllables in words; it is called *verlan*, from *l’envers* said backwards. Fagyal will spend this summer researching not only this specialized language, but also the exceptions to the apparent rules of these inversions. For example, when *femme* is inverted to *meuf*, the schwa rather than the original vowel /a/ is used. She will also look into accent and pronunciation that may follow Arabic patterns even into the second generation of North African immigrants.

Zsuzsanna Fagyal herself is from an interesting language background. She grew up in a small German-speaking village near Budapest. She spoke German from kindergarten, although her parents spoke only Hungarian. She started French in high school, and she reports that “the French say I have no foreign accent.” In 1985, she won the all-Hungarian French contest. Shortly thereafter she went to the University of Eötvös Lóránd in Budapest to study Russian and French and then obtained her D.E.A. and Ph.D. in French linguistics at the University of Paris III—Sorbonne Nouvelle.

Near the end of her first year here, Fagyal finds Illinois a good place to be. She says: “I’ve found a stimulating professional environment that I think will help me to achieve my goals in research and teaching. I have even started liking this flat country, with its spectacular sunsets and miles and miles of unobstructed view.”

## French in a New Voice

Richard Hertel is a familiar face around the French Department. Even though Hertel has a bachelor’s degree in music (1967), three master’s degrees (1972, 1983, and 1987), and a Ph.D. in voice (1989), he has spent four years working toward his master’s degree in French. His unique blend of degrees in linguistics, English as a second language, voice and music education as well as his study in French give him a gift few others have. He can teach French diction to singers, and the French Department has taken advantage of his ability to develop a course for graduate students of music.

With Professor Elizabeth Martin, Hertel has created a special section of French 400, Reading for Graduate Students, in which they teach not only vocabulary and syntax as in the standard course, but also pronunciation and survival skills for travel abroad. Realizing that musicians have specific needs, Hertel has written a book for use by teachers like himself: *Speaking and Singing French: Lessons and Exercises for Conversational French*, published by Captus Press, North York, Ontario. The book has an accompanying multi-media website on which the French examples, dialogues, and song texts are read by two native speakers of French, Caroline Szyłowicz and Michael Vallée with corresponding screens containing the French text and phonetic transcription.

Earlier this semester Hertel, a tenor, gave a recital with Graeme Gilmore, piano, and Joseph Drennan, guitar. He sang a variety of pieces including: Schumann’s Songs of the Night and pieces by Schubert, Brahms, Strauss, Debussy, Sanz, McArthur, Rodrigo, Massenet, Fauré, Bizet, Grever, and Sandoval. In addition to his busy schedule teaching French and performing, Hertel teaches 31 voice students and has worked as operations and traffic manager for WILL, the University’s public radio and television station, for the last 24 years.

## Life After the French Department

What does a professor of French do after retirement? Scholars are notorious for not slipping the reins—many just keep on doing what they used to do, carrying on their reading and research, sometimes even coming back to teach classes. But Robert J. Nelson took the idea of retirement to the extreme. He gave up his office in the Foreign Languages Building, stopped receiving mail in the department, did no part-time teaching, and did not pursue academic research or writing. Instead, he began what certainly can be called a new occupation: writing fiction.

As a specialist in 17th-century literature, Nelson taught for forty-two years at five American universities (plus two others and one British university as visiting professor). His first book as a young assistant professor, on the play within the play, was already a success. This was followed by books on Corneille, Rotrou, and Pascal, and topped with an interesting study of the American novelist Willa Cather and her connections with things French.

Nelson's long-time interest in the presence of the French in pre-revolutionary Illinois had taken him to many localities in the state, some of them quite obscure. Now he has just completed a saga about a French-American family from the early 19th to the late 20th century. Though he doesn't want to let on much more than that yet, we do know that the principal figure is one François Lheureux, an American who serves with the U. S. Army in France just after World War I. Later parts of the novel concern the Lheureux family business, not far from the familiar-sounding University of Kaskaskia at Lorraine-Ambrosia.

Since this is a historical novel covering several decades, one could say Professor Nelson's research interest has not waned—it has simply moved forward in time, resulting in what we hope will be a good read one day soon.

### Alumni News

#### 1960s

**BARBARA ORI ARONOVICH** (B.A. 1969) taught French for two years before working at the French Government Tourist Office and Air France for over five years. Aronovich also lived in Niamey, Niger, for a year. She has spent the last seven years working at various administrative positions close to her home in Skokie: first as a benefits administrator in Skokie and then as a counseling secretary in the guidance department at Highland Park High School. Aronovich enjoys speaking French with Highland Park High's native-speaking French teacher and is taking French courses over the Internet. She has been married to a Russian (now American) for 20 years and has two children ages 20 and 14.

#### 1980s

**JEFF CHAMBERLAIN** (Ph.D. 1982) is associate professor of French at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, where he was appointed associate chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages in 1997. His teaching and research interests include French historical and contemporary linguistics and issues in language policy. From 1992 to 1995 he was a translator (from French, German, and Dutch) at the United States Embassy in Brussels, and in 1994-95 he was a visiting scholar at the Research Centre for Multilingualism at the Katholieke Universiteit Brussel.

**ROBERT PONTERIO** (Ph.D. 1987) has taught at St. Lawrence University and Middlebury College and is now associate professor of French at the State University of New York at Cortland and interim chair of the International Communications and Culture Department, where **JOSIE PONTERIO** (M.A. 1984) is also teaching. Robert is founder and co-owner of FLTEACH (Foreign Language Teaching Forum), an NEH-funded international Internet Discussion Group for teachers of all languages with a current subscribership of more than 4000. He also co-authors a regular column, "On the Net," in *Language Learning and Technology* (<http://llt.msu.edu/>) with Jean LeLoup. Ponterio has taught French language, literature, and civilization at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as cinema, multimedia development, computer applications and programming. Sadly, David Ponterio, Robert and Josie's son, died suddenly and unexpectedly a few months ago at the age of 20 from an asthma attack. Robert wrote to us, "he was our joy." We extend our condolences.

**BRIGITTE BRESSON** (M.A. 1987) is now a Ph.D. student in comparative literature at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM, Malaysia). She will be doing research under Ungku Maimunah Mohd Tahir, one of the

leading figures in Malay literature. Her topic will be "Perceptions of City and Country in Malay and French Literature."

#### 1990s

**YOUENN KERVENNIC** (M.A. 1993, Ph.D. 1997) is teaching at Brown University. He spent a year after graduation finishing his book, *L'Appel de la mer*, which was accepted for publication by France-Empire and released in April 2000. The book is about how the ocean affects Youenn's native Breton village of Pont L'Abbé, and the life of its inhabitants. He sends us from the book:

*Aimer au rythme des marées, à vingt ans c'est mauvais  
Amours intenses, attentes folles  
Attendre longtemps  
Aimer trop peu.*

**DIANE WEIDNER** (M.A. 1996) is a field council manager for Youth For Understanding (YFU), based in Glen Ellyn, IL. YFU is an international exchange program for high school students aged 15 to 18. Weidner works for the Midwest region, encompassing Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, and is responsible for managing both the American Overseas Program and the International Students Program. International students are hosted by United States host families in central and southern Illinois (including Champaign-Urbana) and eastern Missouri. Diane is also teaching French part time to children for Harper College (in Palatine), in a new program called the Children's Language Academy. She hopes to continue teaching French part time whenever possible.

**FIONA SPENCE** (B.A. 1996) works for Cendant Intercultural, The Bennett Group, as an assistant in the Client Relations Department. Cendant Intercultural, The Bennett Group, is an intercultural training and consulting firm that specializes in helping corporations worldwide develop the people and the competencies that are essential to meeting their global business challenges. The company's areas of expertise include international assignment services, global workforce development programs, and specialized consulting services.

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We are also very interested in expanding the Alumni link on our Web page (<http://france.lang.uiuc.edu/frenchdept/default.html>). If you have information you would like to share, please let us know.

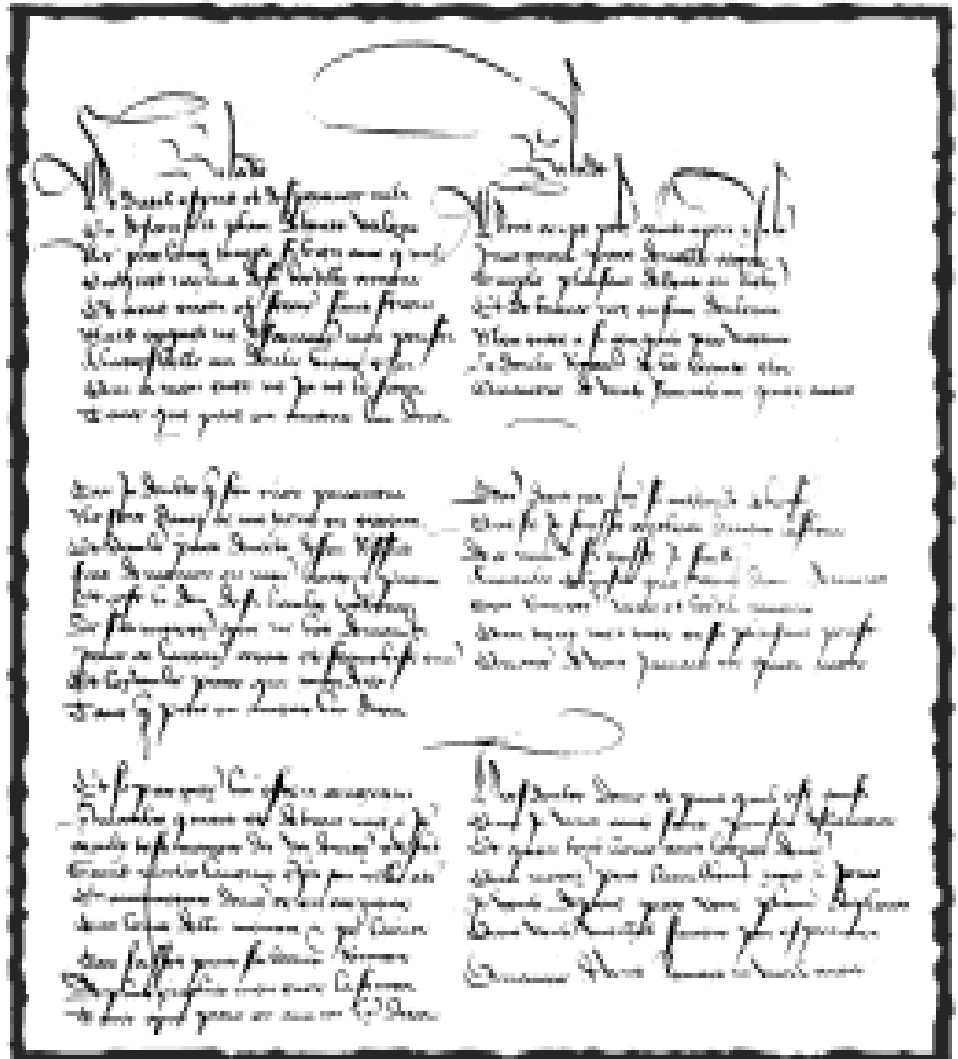
## Urbana Research and the French CNRS

Professors Douglas Kibbee and Karen Fresco, along with an art history professor, head the Group on Medieval and Renaissance Culture at Illinois, which has joined with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique for collaborative research projects. The campus funded an agreement for cooperation with the CNRS in 1997, and Fresco and Kibbee found an ideal match with their opposite numbers in Paris.

**The opportunity for cross-disciplinary research with French scholars has strengthened the research mission of the University, especially in the international context.**

The CNRS is a basic research organization with an annual budget of \$2.3 billion funded by the French government. Maintaining research facilities throughout France, the CNRS has played a major role in many of the scientific discoveries made in France and in collaboration with major international research agencies. It sponsors 1,400 research laboratories and academic departments in universities and employs 25,800 personnel.

The medieval and Renaissance group is working on several projects with CNRS researchers. "The Book in European Culture, Fourteenth to Sixteenth Centuries" examines the book from a variety of standpoints including material aspects, illustration, text, analysis of patrons and authors, and the social networks within which books circulated. A study of urban spaces under the rubric "The Social Construction of Identity" addresses the expressions of collective and individual identity in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period within an urban context, while "Language and the Development of National Identities" explores the relationship between language and social



**A fifteenth-century manuscript anthology of courtly poetry including works by Christine de Pizan, France's first professional woman of letters.**

institutions, such as the law and education, and how this relationship influences the development of theories of language. With this topic, Professor Kibbee, an expert on language legislation worldwide, seeks to identify the role of language in defining nationality, through a study of the political conception of language.

"The Imaginary of the Middle Ages" includes both a study on images and representation in the Middle Ages and Renaissance and a study on "The Formation of the Female Subject in Medieval and Renaissance Europe." In connection with this theme, Fresco, a medievalist noted for her critical editions of manuscripts, addresses the emergence of female points of view in Christine de

Pizan's rewritings of traditional texts and in the place given her works in manuscript miscellanies.

This year, visitors from the CNRS have given talks at Illinois about linguistics, late medieval French plays in their manuscript context, and wax tablets and the household accounts in the royal courts of the 13th century. These exchanges and the opportunity for cross-disciplinary research with French scholars have strengthened the research mission of the University, especially in the international context. At the same time, they are providing an exciting framework for these research projects on the French early modern period.

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