

- Institute of English Studies
- Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines
- Espace Louis-Agassiz 1
- CH-2000 Neuchâtel

Activities Report 2007-2008

In addition to participating in two new interdisciplinary MA programs in literature ('Littératures') and in linguistics ('Sciences du Language et de la Communication') that drew a large number of students, the Institute mainly focused on developing its research activities this year. All our staff members were very busy publishing or giving talks. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton successfully completed an SNF-funded research project on Shakespeare while Patrick Vincent received a subsidy to begin another project on British travellers in Switzerland with the help of a post-doctoral researcher, Florence Widmer-Schnyder. Andrew McIntyre gave a large number of guest talks in addition to publishing several articles and reviews. Three new assistants, Matthias Heim, Rahel Orgis and Alastair Wilson, joined the institute, giving talks during the year and filing their dissertation projects in June, while our fourth assistant, Suzana Zink, spent a semester at the University of London thanks to an SNF research grant (see Research for more details). Katrin Rupp published an article and David Wilson gave a conference talk. Other activities included our annual Christmas and summer parties, the mid-semester tea party and pub night, a very ambitious film program run by Matthias Heim, several guest speakers, our annual Continuing Education Day in May, and, last but not least, Professor Tudeau-Clayton's inaugural lecture, "Shakespeare au Pays des Welsches," in March. It is also worth noting that a record number of students (13) studied or taught French abroad in an English-speaking country, and that Patrick Vincent was replaced as Institute Director by Margaret Tudeau-Clayton on 1 August.

Guest Speakers

David Simpson (University of California at Davis), "Hunger Bites," invited by Patrick Vincent and Angela Esterhammer, September 2006 (talk held in Zurich)

Diane Watt (University of Aberystwyth), "St. Julian of the Apocalypse," invited by Katrin Rupp, March 2007

Daniel O'Rourke (Scottish poet), invited by Patrick Vincent, May 2007

Continuing Education Day

Our third annual one-day course, in which over twenty-five high school teachers participated, was held on 17 May. The program was the following:

Round-Table Discussion: "**The War on Plagiarism: Frontline Reports**," Patrick Vincent.

Workshop 1: **“Tense and Aspect in English: Problems for French-Speaking English Learners,”** Andrew McIntyre.

Workshop 2: **“Reading, Acting and Filming Shakespeare”** Margaret Tudeau-Clayton, Matthias Heim, and Roelof Overmeer.

Film Series

Organized by Matthias Heim

Spring semester programme:

25.02.2008 Monty Python's *The Holy Grail* (1985)

03.03.2008 Orson Welles' *Othello* (1952)

10.03.2008 Scott Hicks' *Shine* (1996)

17.03.2008 Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet* (1948)

31.03.2008 Orson Welles' *Chimes At Midnight* (1965)

07.04.2008 Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It* (2006)

14.04.2008 Stephen Daldry's *The Hours* (2002)

21.04.2008 Peter Brook's *King Lear* (1971)

28.04.2008 Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968)

05.05.2008 Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet* (1996)

19.05.2008 Joe Wright's *Atonement* (2007)

26.05.2008 Terry Gilliam's *Brazil* (1985)

Other Extra-Curricular Activities

Suzana Zink, Matthias Heim, Rachel Orgis and Alastair Wilson organized this year's Christmas Party in the Aula and the annual summer bbq bash, as well as a tea party and a pub night. David Wilson led the creative writing workshop. Suzana Zink was responsible for the Tandem program. Cécile Bysath did an excellent job running the walk-in Writing Coaching program and the language lab, two new offers this year.

Institute Research

Suzana Zink, Matthias Heim, Rachel Orgis, Alastair Wilson and David Wilson all gave conference papers during the year.

Andrew McIntyre gave eleven guest lectures and published an essay, “Particle verbs and Argument Structure” in *Language and Linguistics Compass*. He also reviewed a large number of articles and books for various journals and for Oxford University Press.

Katrin Rupp published an essay entitled “Stairway to Heaven: Infernal Journeys in some Old and Middle English Texts” in *Travels and Travelogues in the Middle Ages*, ed. Jean-François Kosta-Théfaine, new York: AMS, 2008.

Margaret Tudeau-Clayton submitted scientific and financial reports in January to the satisfaction of NF authorities. One outcome of this project : a collection of essays *This England, That Shakespeare: New Angles on Englishness and the Bard*, co-edited with Willy Maley (Glasgow) was accepted for publication by Ashgate (2009). This collection includes a preliminary version of one chapter of the forthcoming book ; another chapter is to be published in another collection of essays *Shakespeare and Wales* (also Ashgate 2009). This chapter was the basis

for the 'leçon inaugurale' given in March 08. M.T-C also contributed to the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Tudor Literature* a chapter entitled: 'What is my nation?: language, verse and politics in Tudor translations of Virgil's *Aeneid*'.

Patrick Vincent received an SNF subsidy to begin a three-year editing project entitled "Revolutionary Era British Travellers in Switzerland 1779-1803". He will be collaborating on this project with Florence Widmer-Schnyder, Markus Iseli and Roger Meyenberg. In addition to publishing three essays in books and one in a journal, he gave four talks at international conferences and has almost completed a book entitled *La Suisse dans la littérature anglo-américaine* to be published next year.

For more detailed information on institute research, please consult staff members' individual pages.

Neuchâtel, 22 July 2008

Patrick Vincent
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