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Subject: Mariolein Rijssenbeek

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Please respond to
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To: All Faculty and Staff

Colleagues,

It is my sad duty to inform you that Ms. Mariolein Rijssenbeek passed away on December 7 after a long illness. She was a Lecturer in the Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She took Master of Arts in French and Master in Social Work degrees from Stony Brook, and a Bachelor of Arts in Dutch and French from the Universiteit van Amsterdam. Mariolein was a talented, dedicated, and inspiring teacher of French; starting as a TA in the French Department, as an Adjunct teacher, and as Lecturer since 2001. She was demanding, but dearly loved her students and teaching. Her students' evaluations consistently indicated her dedication and success as a teacher and she was very proud of that. Many students became her friends and kept in contact over the years. She was committed to opening up students' minds to the wider world, exposing them to different and conflicting opinions, ideas, and cultures. She encouraged students to experience study abroad, initiated an international spouse program, and every Thanksgiving she organized a large dinner with international and American students, and stimulated discussions about politics and culture.

She was the recipient of a Presidential Mini-Grant for Innovative Teaching Projects, and together with her students brought out a literary journal of French poetry titled *Le Ruisseau*.

Her family Professor Michael Rijssenbeek, Job, Eva, and Alex are establishing in her honor a "French Study Abroad" funds, in coordination with the Stony Brook Foundation; for more information on this see www.rijssenbeek.org.

Her many friends, colleagues and students will miss her.

Robert L. McGrath
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs