

Office of Public Information
Columbia University
New York, N.Y. 10027
(212) 280-5573

FOR USE UPON RECEIPT
Note Thursday, May 5, newspeg

Fred Knubel, Director

Columbia University officials will join the French ambassador and other prominent members of the French diplomatic, cultural and business communities Thursday (May 5) to celebrate the move of the University's Maison Francaise onto the Columbia campus.

Established in 1913, the Maison Francaise is the oldest language house at Columbia; it serves as a social and cultural center for Columbia students, professors and others interested in French language, literature and arts. It is moving from 560 West 113th Street to East Hall, at the center of Columbia's Morningside Heights campus. The oldest building there, East Hall is 99 years old and predates turn-of-the-century construction of most University structures.

The Thursday reception will be held from 5 to 7 P.M. in the East Hall Lounge. Columbia President William J. McGill will present a watercolor drawing of East Hall and a commendation to Jean Caste, president of Cosmair, Inc., for his leadership in volunteer fund-raising activities on behalf of the Maison Francaise and for his work as chairman of the new Maison Francaise Advisory Committee.

"Your services on behalf of strengthening and enlarging the place of French cultural activity at the University have enlivened

the program and prospects of the Maison Francaise and marshalled important new friends and supporters to guarantee the future progress of Franco-American cultural exchange at Columbia," the commendation says.

Remarks are also scheduled by Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, French ambassador to the United States; Gerard Gausson, French consul general in New York; George K. Fraenkel, dean of Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; Michael Riffaterre, chairman of Columbia's Department of French and Romance Philology, and Jacqueline Hellerman, director of the Maison Francaise.

The cultural center's move is expected to be completed by June 30 and activities in progress by fall. The move is being made to bring the Maison and its programs closer to the center of University life. A major fundraising effort is under way to endow Maison programs and refurbish its new quarters.

5.3.77

14,967