Dr. Joseph Daniel, who served as communications director for French President François Mitterrand and has held prominent positions in telecommunications and public affairs, spoke to Professor Mark Tilton’s Proseminar in Comparative Politics on March 1, 2016. Dr. Daniel is the author of La Parole Présidentielle: de la geste gaullienne à la frénésie médiatique (Presidential Speech: From de Gaulle’s Gestures to Today’s Media Frenzy) (Paris: Seuil, 2014). Dr. Daniel spoke about differences in leadership style between the United States and France and about the shift of presidential leadership in France from the distant style of President de Gaulle to the more approachable styles that have evolved through the presidencies of Pompidou, Mitterrand, Chirac, Sarkozy and Hollande. He argued that President Obama’s appearance at the 2015 White House Correspondents’ Dinner with his “Anger Translator” would still be inconceivable in France, where the public expects greater formality from the president.

On March 2, 2016, Dr. Joseph Daniel, Director of Communications for French President François Mitterrand during the 1980s, discussed the challenges of selling liberalization to the French people during that period with Bob Kulzick, who is writing a dissertation on the politics of financial liberalization in France and China. Dr. Daniel was visiting Purdue and they had lunch at Maru Sushi in West Lafayette.