Alan Williams (1947-2023), tribute by Colleen Kennedy-Karpat

With deep sadness we announce the death of our colleague in French film studies Alan Williams, who passed away in his New Jersey home on August 16.

Alan was a beloved teacher, avid film collector, and longtime member of the faculty in the Department of French at Rutgers University. He studied at the University of Washington and received his PhD from SUNY Buffalo, and before coming to Rutgers he also taught at the University of Iowa.

Alan was passionately dedicated to cinema and an exceptionally generous mentor and colleague. Among his many publications, his book Max Ophuls and the Cinema of Desire (1980) marked an early and influential critique of the director's work, and his Republic of Images (1992) remains a touchstone volume for students and scholars of French cinema history. Alan cared deeply about teaching and was an inspiring classroom presence for generations of students, conveying both in content and in spirit the essence of a humanistic education.

He will be dearly missed by family, friends, students, and colleagues.