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## Maryann Tebben

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**Simon's Rock Oral History Project**

Interviewee: **Maryann Tebben**  
**Faculty in French (2000 - present), Director of the Center for Food Studies (2013 - present)**

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**Interview with Maryann Tebben**

**January 20, 2016**

**Liebowitz Center for International Studies, Bard College at Simon's Rock,  
Great Barrington, Massachusetts**

**Selected excerpts from the Oral History Project interview. The full transcript may be restricted. To request access please contact the [Simon's Rock College Archives](#).**

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“I remember when I told Gabriel that I wanted to use video and audio and he sort of blanched at that and said ‘Well, I don’t know if we can accommodate that but we’ll do our best.’ It was definitely interesting to see that at Simon’s Rock it was more about the chalkboard and the chalk and the conversations than about the-- I call it the technology but at the time, I’m not kidding, it was a VHS tape and a CD, I had to bring my own CD player, that’s how little technology we were using. That was an interesting impression.”

“I wanted to connect with the local area, there are a lot of farmers, there are a lot of foodies, there are a lot of food activists in the area, so to make Simon’s Rock have a connection with those people, those groups, seemed like a good idea. That’s what I’ve been working on. Conferences, panel discussions, connections with community.”

“I remember when the library hours were going to change and the students were very upset and filed a protest. [Dean] Anne [O’Dwyer] was travelling and she came back from wherever she was to talk to students to reassure them that we would put back the Library hours that had been taken away, those are the sorts of things I like to remember. This is what’s important to us: library hours.”