

DR. GÉRARD GOUVERNET 1939-2008

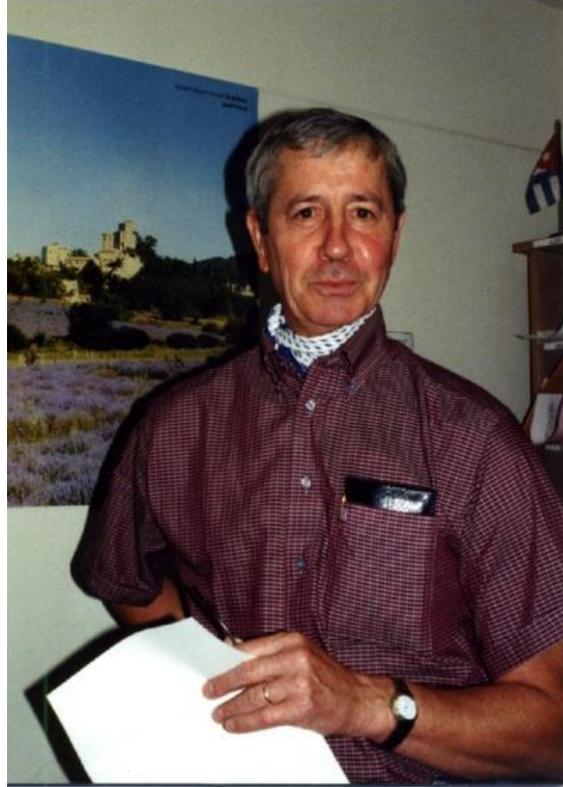
It was with much sadness that we said goodbye to your beloved professor and our dear colleague Gérard Gouvernet, who passed away July 18, 2008. “Dr. G” was a superb professor, a terrific colleague and a most noble and kind human being.

Dr. Gouvernet received a Licence ès-Lettres in Spanish and in Portuguese from the Université de Montpellier, France. He completed M.A. (1970) and Ph.D. (1978) degrees in French Literature at Harvard University.

“Gouvie,” as he was fondly referred to by his students, joined our faculty as Assistant Professor of French in 1982. In 1991 he was Acting Chair of the department, and served as department Chair from 1992 to 2001. In 2002 he was promoted to Full Professor.

Among his numerous contributions to our college were the establishment of the Montpellier, France, study abroad program and advising Phi Sigma Iota, the International Foreign Language Honor Society.

During his tenure at Geneseo Dr. Gouvernet received numerous awards, including the President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Advisement (2001). This award was most befitting, for his mentorship of students was legendary.



The Gérard Gouvernet Ambassador in French Language and Cultures

This ambassadorship seeks to provide the high impact learning experience of full immersion in a French-speaking country. Students should have an advanced level of proficiency and should demonstrate a commitment to the study of the French/Francophone Language, Literatures and Cultures (major/minor)

Selection Criteria:

The most qualified applicant will:

1. Have declared a French major or minor at least one semester prior to applying for the Ambassadorship;
2. Have demonstrated an interest in creating and pursuing a cross-cultural project in a country whose primary official language is French;
3. Plan on keeping a reflective journal while abroad that will demonstrate what is being learned and the impact of the experience;
4. Commit to participate in National French Week (Fall Semester) and/or G.R.E.A.T Day (Spring Semester) in order to make a presentation about the impact of the ambassadorship experience.