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Delano Lamy (Assistant Professor of Spanish); Ms. Wenzhuo Li (Chinese Instructor); Mr. Kyle Matthews (Spanish Lecturer); Ms. Rosa Pillcurima (SPAN '10; Spanish Instructor); Rocío Romero Catalá (Spanish Teaching Assistant from Argentina); and Ms. Nadjet Sarrab (French Teaching Assistant from Algeria).

*The year 2012 is particularly special for it marks the **50th Anniversary of our department's foundation**. Fifty years ago, under the leadership of Dr. Gifford Orwen, we separated from the Department of English and became the Department of Foreign Languages. Since 1962 we have experienced many changes (office location, department name, program offerings—to name a few), but the mission of the department has remained consistent: to provide a dynamic and challenging environment that fosters knowledge and appreciation of the world's diverse cultures and principal foreign languages. Of course, **this celebration will not be complete without you!** We hope you will be able to attend some or all of the cultural and scholarly events that our department will hold from October 31st to November 3rd (see geneseo.edu/foreign_languages/anniversary).*

*I have chosen to end this letter with words from Chicana activist Gloria E. Anzaldúa's "Foreword to the Second Edition" of This Bridge Called My Back because it articulates a tenet that has guided me the past five years and will do so as I step down as department head this year: "**Caminante, no hay puentes, se hace puentes al andar**" (**Voyager, there are no bridges, one builds them as one walks**). I will never tire of thanking you for your support these past years, and take this final opportunity to beseech you one more time to walk with our Department of Languages and Literatures. Please share your news, comments and suggestions (write to forlang@geneseo.edu), and, if possible, make a donation—any amount is welcome!—to continue supporting culturally enriching and academically nurturing events (see back page).*

Esteemed Alumni, Students, Colleagues and Friends:

*Once again, it is time to send to you sincere greetings through the Department of Languages and Literatures' newsletter. As you page through this recap of our department's significant events of the past year, you will read about some of the many **achievements of our students and alumni** which have given me such joy while serving as department chair for the past five years. Another pleasure for me has been to work with or collaborate with our department's inspiring and student-centered faculty whose expertise—as well as their enthusiasm for instilling a life-long passion for the languages and literatures we teach—must be credited with doubling the department majors to around 300 in the last handful of years. **The professional successes of my colleagues** are also reason for department-wide celebration, as are the **invaluable contributions of our secretary, Paula Bill**, to our programs and the college.*

*Given the globalization that characterizes the 21st century, the past year was notable for the expansion of our international liaisons, thanks to exchange agreements and two successful Fulbright Foundation grant proposals. Our **visiting teaching assistant program and new and ongoing study abroad opportunities** enriched our students' education, as did cultural interaction with people from Senegal, and the residency at Geneseo of part-time faculty from Argentina, Egypt, France, Russia, Spain and Taiwan. As we look ahead to the 2012-13 school year, we warmly welcome **eight new visiting faculty**: Dr. Kathryn Fredericks (Assistant Professor of French); Dr. Amr Elsherif (Fulbright Scholar in Residence from Cairo, Egypt); Dr.*



*Yours in peace, in unity,
in any language,*

Alumnus Spotlight

Colin O'Donnell

This year's spotlight shines on West Seneca (NY) East Senior High School French teacher Colin O'Donnell, class of 2004, whose unbridled enthusiasm for teaching and learning attests to Geneseo's long-standing success in preparing high-caliber educators for classrooms in New York State and beyond. A double major in French and music at Geneseo, Colin was a familiar figure at departmental functions, concerts and recitals, and even sporting events, as a member of the Crew Club. Prior to student teaching, he spent a semester in the college's program at the Université de Paris-La Sorbonne, where he lived with a host family in the 8th arrondissement.



O'Donnell with his students in Paris

Immediately after completing his Geneseo degree, he returned to France on the French government's teaching assistantship program, which provided the invaluable opportunity to spend a year as an English-language instructor in a middle and high school in Bruz (Brittany). The relationships with French educators that Colin forged during that experience blossomed into an exchange program whereby French high school students visit West Seneca and West Seneca students visit France in alternate years. A substantial article on this year's trip to France, "De jeunes américains ont été accueillis au collège Dolto-Pacé" was featured in *Ouest-France* newspaper on April 14: http://www.ouest-france.fr/actu/actuLocale_-De-jeunes-americains-ont-ete-accueillis-au-college-Dolto-35210-avd-20120414-62642982_actuLocale.Htm

West Seneca Central School district counts two additional Geneseo alumnae as part of the French

faculty: **Kerri (Rider) Krueger**, 2003, and **Lindsay (Boylin) Wahler**, 2004. We are extremely proud of all of our departmental graduates who pursue a career in education and always enjoy hearing about their and their students' latest accomplishments. West Seneca alumnus **Matthew Skrzypczyk**, class of 2014, is carrying on his former teachers' tradition as one of our most enthusiastic French majors!

Student Accomplishments

2012 Graduates

Congratulations to Languages and Literatures majors, minors, and Education concentration students from the class of 2012! We wish you all the best in your future pursuits and look forward to hearing from you regularly with news of your latest achievements.

Student Awards

- ❖ The first **Gouvernet Ambassador Award** was granted to **Erin O'Brien** to study in Trois-Pistoles, Canada, in summer 2102.
- ❖ The **Rose Bachem Alent Award for Outstanding Senior in International Relations** went to Spanish major **Heather Bristol**.
- ❖ The 2012-13 **Spanish Alumni Scholarship Award** has been granted to **Molly Blanda** who will be studying in Cuzco, Peru.
- ❖ The **Rose Alent Scholarship** was awarded to **Allison Abbott**. She will be studying for a year at the Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France.
- ❖ The new Briggs "**Somewhere Over the Rainbow**" **Memorial Scholarship** for summer study in Cuzco, Peru, was awarded to **Kirstin Barber**.
- ❖ **Donna Hanrahan** (French, International Relations), **Kristina Licatese** (Spanish, Adolescence Education), and **Rebecca Meissner** (Spanish, Physics) have been designated **Presidential Scholars** for 2012-13.

- ❖ **Robert Briwa** (below) was granted a nationally-competitive *Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society Summer Scholarship* to study in Aix-en-Provence, France, in June-July 2012.



- ❖ The following students of French have been offered *teaching assistant positions* by the French government and will be spending 2012-13 in France: **Emily Borghard** (Lycée Victor Hugo, Marseille), **Emily Genco** (Lycée Louis Barthou, Pau), and **Michael McManus** (Montpellier area).
- ❖ Spanish major **Kristina Licatese** delivered the *Senior Oration* at the morning Commencement ceremony on May 12.

Honor Societies

On March 30, the Department's three academic honor society chapters held their annual inductions jointly at The Big Tree Inn. Many family members, friends of the inductees, and Languages and Literatures faculty joined in the festivities to recognize outstanding academic achievement in Foreign Languages, French, and Spanish. French minor **Louis Lohraseb** provided a musical ambiance on the keyboard and Spanish minor **Paul Pedziwiatr** sang several numbers.

The ceremony for the Alpha Phi chapter of *Phi Sigma Iota, International Foreign Language Honor Society*, was presided over by Chapter President **Andrew Nicholson**,



Chapter Secretary **Dana Fitzpatrick** and Faculty Advisor **Dr. Rose McEwen**. Inductees were **Elizabeth Barber**, **Brittany Boehm**, **Patrick Daniels**, **Christine Donovan**, **Jessica K. Fiore**, **Dana Q. Fitzpatrick**, **Jordan Kirkpatrick**,

Jennifer Lato, **Eleanor McGrath**, **Erin E. O'Brien**, **Elizabeth A. Rhodes**, **Jyl B. Ristau**, **Kathryn Roberts**, **Amanda L. Rosales**, **Rebecca Ryan**, **Brandon Shufelt**, **Matthew Skrzypczyk**, **Leah Tallman**, **Rachel M. Taplin**, **Monica Ward**, **Theodore O. Wilson**, and **Briana L. Zimmerman**. In recognition of their distinctive contributions to the study, use, and promotion of the Portuguese language at SUNY Geneseo, **Dr. Maria Lima** and **Ms. Karen Schwartzman** were inducted as honorary members.

Phi Sigma Iota inductees pictured below



Chapter Tau Zeta of *Sigma Delta Pi, National Spanish Honor Society*, inducted the following undergraduate students: **Kyra Marie Billington**, **Jessica K. Fiore**, **Patrick J. Daniels**, **Deirdre E. Kelly**, **Jennifer L. Lato**, **Eleanor J. McGrath**, **Andrew S. Nicholson**, **Elizabeth A. Rhodes**, **Jyl Brittany Ristau**, **Kathryn A. Roberts**, **Yael Rosenstock**, **Rebecca E. Ryan**, **Marisa A. Shuman**, **Emma R. Steuer**, **Monica F. Ward**, and **Rachel West**. **Ms. Paula Bill** was inducted as an honorary member for her dedication to the Department. Chapter Advisor **Dr. Lori A. Bernard** officiated.

Sigma Delta Pi inductees pictured below



The Mu Iota Chapter of *Pi Delta Phi, National French Honor Society*, inducted the following undergraduate

Department News And Events

students: **Allison Abbott, Martin Beach, Brittany Boehm, Connor Burgevin, Kathleen Comando, Fiona Connors, Aminata Coundoul, Kala DeStefano, Caitlin Gregory, Jesse Hong, Louis Lohraseb, Christine Nassar, Erin O'Brien, Erika O'Dowd, Christine O'Neill, Mejahbeen Rahman (honorary), Thomas Reubens, Matthew Skrzypczyk, Lauren Selzak, Audrey Stevens, Rachel Taplin, Molly Vierhile, Rita Wheeler, Madeline Zebertavage, and Briana Zimmerman.** Professor **Geneviève Sénéchal** and exchange teaching assistant **Clémence Lemoine** from the Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier 3, France, were inducted as honorary members.

Pi Delta Phi Inductees pictured below



Chapter President **Olivia Ocelli** and **Cladia Plantin** (seen at right), as well as Chapter Moderator **Dr. Beverly J. Evans**, officiated.



The following departmental students were named to **Phi Beta Kappa**: **Heather Bristol** (Spanish), **Robert Briwa** (French), **Kevin Felter** (Spanish), **Kristina Licatese** (Spanish), **Eleanor McGrath** (Spanish), **Rebecca Meissner** (Spanish), **Jessamyn Perlus** (Spanish), and **Rachel West** (Spanish).

THE DEPARTMENT IS 50 YEARS OLD: SAVE THE DATE

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Languages and Literatures will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary this fall. To commemorate our founding in 1962 as an independent academic department, we will be hosting a series cultural and scholarly events from October 31 to November 3. We encourage anyone who has worked with our department in one way or another –alumni, parents, current students, former colleagues– to participate in any of the proceedings (http://www.geneseo.edu/foreign_languages), and particularly in the day-long, culminating festivity on Saturday, November 3. If you wish to be included in our 50th Anniversary mailing list, and especially if you are planning to join us in any of the celebrations, please write to gomez@geneseo.edu and bill@geneseo.edu.

Professor McEwen Recognized by Teaching and Learning Center

The Teaching and Learning Center advisory board has selected Department Chair **Dr. Rose McEwen** as one of four faculty members for the 2012-13 “Honoring Geneseo’s Teachers” display in Milne Library. A recognition ceremony was held on April 30 in the College Union Ballroom at which **President Christopher Dahl, Provost Carol Long**, and all four of the faculty members spoke. Professor McEwen’s being chosen for this well-deserved honor is especially notable because, this year, the TLC opened up the nomination process to students, who joined faculty and staff in making recommendations.

Chinese-Language Lecturer Tang Receives National Award

Jasmine Tang was granted an Award of Distinction from the Chinese Language Education and Research Center for outstanding contributions to the promotion of Chinese language education in the United States. She is

one of only nine Chinese language teachers and administrators so honored this year. Her fully funded two-week stay in China last summer provided the opportunity to network with U.S. and Chinese educators, build partnerships, attend classes, and expand her knowledge of China by visiting cultural and historical sites.

Established in 1993, CLERC is a non-profit institution based in California dedicated to the research and advancement of Chinese language teaching and learning and to the promotion of U.S.-China cultural and educational exchanges.

Ms. Tang received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Geneseo in 1987 and has been on the Geneseo faculty since 1991. She received a Master's degree in Chinese education from SUNY Empire State College and completed Master's-level courses in linguistics and applied linguistics at East China Normal University. She is a member of the Chinese Language Teachers Association. Her recently published textbook, *Taking Off with Chinese*, is designed for students who have had no contact with the Chinese language or culture.

Professors Kodjo Adabra, Lori Bernard and Felisa Brea Honored by Student Athletes

Dr. Kodjo Adabra was recognized by the SUNY Geneseo Men's Ice Hockey members, class of 2012. On Faculty Recognition Day, Dr. Adabra was designated "most influential professor" at SUNY Geneseo by senior student-athlete **David Arduin**.

Class of 2012 women's basketball player **Kristina Licatese**, who majored in Spanish with Adolescent Education certification, cited **Dr. Lori Bernard** as her "most influential professor" during the fall 2011 Faculty Recognition Day. She commented, "Since my first semester here at Geneseo, Dr. Bernard has been a driving force behind both my academic and personal achievements. [She] has consistently invested her own time and interest in helping me to achieve both in and beyond the classroom."

Class of 2102 women's softball player **KK Schaus**, who majored in Elementary Special Education with a

concentration in Spanish, expressed her appreciation of **Felisa Brea** as follows during this spring's Faculty Recognition Day: "I have chosen **Professor Brea** because throughout my 4 years I have loved learning a new language. Her enthusiasm and dedication as a teacher is nothing short of amazing."

Dr. Evans Appointed Executive Director of Pi Delta Phi

In September, **Dr. Beverly Evans** began serving as Executive Director of Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society for undergraduate and graduate students at accredited public and private colleges and universities in the United States. One of the oldest academic honor societies in the United States, and the oldest one for a modern foreign language, Pi Delta Phi numbers more than 360 chapters. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding scholarship in the French language and its literatures, to increase the knowledge and appreciation of Americans for the cultural contributions of the French-speaking world, and to encourage French and francophone cultural activities. Dr. Evans, who founded Geneseo's Mu Iota chapter in 1998, had served as Northeast Vice President of the organization since 2008.

Eric Briggs Memorial Scholarship

Dr. McEwen announced the establishment of a scholarship in memory of her late husband, a noble human being and unforgettable citizen of the world who passed away on September 8, 2011. The "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" Eric Briggs Memorial Scholarship covers in full six credits of summer tuition in Cuzco, Peru, at our program with Academia Latinoamericana; housing with a *cusqueña* host family for six weeks; and up to \$1,200 in travel allowance. Geneseo students pursuing a Spanish major with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (in Spanish and overall), no previous study abroad experience and demonstrated financial need/lack of opportunity are encouraged to apply. **Kirstin Barber** ('14) is the first scholarship awardee. The scholarship is jointly sponsored by Dr. Diego del Corral (Academia's president), SUNY Geneseo's Office of Study Abroad, Mrs. Jean Briggs (Eric's mother), and Dr. McEwen.

Languages and Literatures Represented at G.R.E.A.T. Day

On April 17, SUNY Geneseo held its annual G.R.E.A.T. (Geneseo Recognizing Excellence, Achievement, and Talent) Day. **Cladia Plantin** (French) and **Daisy Luma-Haddison** presented the poster “Neologism, a Quest for Identity and Liberation in Black Africa and the Caribbean” with the sponsorship of **Dr. Kodjo Adabra**.

Mallory Long, **Sarah Dziekonski**, **Andrea Bush** and **Kevin Felter**, respectively, presented “The Spanish Civil War and Contemporary Film,” “Art and Society in Modern Spain,” “Contemporary Spanish Television,” and “Spanish Food.” Their faculty sponsor was **Dr. Lori Bernard**.

Jennifer Grom and **Lauren White** presented “Humanities and Service Learning in Nicaragua” under faculty sponsor **Wes Kennison**.

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals

Michelle Frenssen (PSYC '12), who studied German at the advanced level with **Dr. Cynthia Klima** and at the intermediate level with **Ms. Marianne Houghton**, is a recipient of a **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals Scholarship** and will receive an all-expenses-paid year in Germany. This award is highly competitive and involves very close work between student and professor in order to formulate the best possible proposal. She and Dr. Klima worked very intensely on her essay for this program, which accepts only 75 U.S. students per year from a wide range of areas of study. During her time in Germany, Michelle will spend the first two months in intensive German language courses, four months in studies at a German university, and the last months working as an intern in public health. Michelle's internship, in the field of public health, will involve making comparisons between the German and U.S. health care systems. In addition, she will investigate how Germany deals with its more vulnerable population cohorts, such as troubled youth and the elderly. Further information on this program is available at <http://www.cdsintl.org/fellowshipsabroad/cbyx.php/>.

Residents of El Sauce, Nicaragua, Visit Geneseo

In February, the Department hosted the visit to Geneseo of a dozen residents of El Sauce, Nicaragua. As several of our guests had been “Nicaraguan family” to Geneseo participants in the service learning program and Humanities II course led by Department Latin instructor **Wes Kennison**, our students, including



Spanish Club vice-president **Rebecca Fitzgerald** (pictured wearing a yellow “Geneseo español” t-shirt) were more than eager to reciprocate the warm hospitality they

had received. While in Geneseo, our guests also visited the classes of **Profesora Brea** and **Dr. McEwen**, and spoke to students about Nicaragua and its illustrious poet, Rubén Darío.

Farewell Reception for Visiting Teaching Assistants

On May 1, Department students held a reception to bid farewell to the visiting Teaching Assistants who had worked and studied at Geneseo in 2011-2012: **María Virginia (“Vicky”) Asenjo** arrived through our new exchange program with the Universidad de Córdoba, Argentina; **Clémence Lemoine** arrived from the College’s exchange program with the Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier 3, France; **Abraham Sirviente Muñoz** came to Geneseo through our exchange program with the Universidad de Cádiz, Spain. **Darya (“Dasha”) Bestuzheva**, from Russia, and **Varihan (“Verra”) Farouk Gomaa**, from Egypt, joined the Department and studied at SUNY Geneseo on a year-long Fulbright-sponsored teaching assistantship. **Pin-Yen (“Jennifer”) Huang**, who completed a Master’s in Multicultural Education while at Geneseo, came to the Department through the ALLEX program.

Pictured at right, **Verra Gomaa** speaking on campus about current events in Egypt





Pictured above, left to right: Dasha Bestuzheva, Abraham Sirviente Muñoz, Vicky Asenjo, Jennifer Huang, and Clémence Lemoine

Student Organizations

Le Cercle Français

This May, the French Club bid “farewell and best wishes” to senior **Olivia Ocelli**, who served with unwavering skill and devotion as President for the past three years, as well as **Cladia Plantin**, who likewise served with great dedication as an officer for three years. Both of them will be greatly missed, as will **Laura Preston**, a fellow club officer whose energy and talent contributed so much to the success of club events over the years.

The centerpiece of the club’s fall activities was a varied and interesting schedule of activities for National French Week in November, planned in consultation with Faculty Advisor **Dr. Beverly Evans**, **Dr. Kodjo Adabra**, and Visiting Lecturer **Geneviève Sénéchal**. Members continued the tradition of dining at Simply Crêpes Restaurant in Pittsford; after the meal, they viewed the film “*La Tête en friche/My Afternoons with Margueritte*” at The Little Theatre in Rochester. Another very successful element of National French Week was the second annual French Spelling Bee, planned by Dr. Adabra and club members.

Spring semester brought the “French Kisses” Valentine’s Day fundraiser in the College Union, a lively celebration of Mardi Gras, cosponsored by the German and Slavic Clubs, and a karaoke night at the Knightspot. Needless to say, Le Cercle Français has not reduced its consumption of Nutella! For more news, see Facebook: SUNY Geneseo Le Cercle Français or write to frclub@geneseo.edu.

La Casa Hispánica

The Spanish Club engaged in many exciting activities throughout the year under the guidance of Faculty Advisor

Dr. Joaquín Gómez. During the fall, the biggest event was the first Spanish-language Spelling Bee, which will be held annually. More than forty people either participated or attended and the club donated half of the proceeds to the Enlace Project in El Sauce, Nicaragua, to help construct a school in a rural area. Other cultural events included carving pumpkins for the Day of the Dead; visiting D’Mangu, a Dominican restaurant in Rochester; participating in the Latino Heritage Family Day at the Memorial Gallery in Rochester. The spring’s biggest event was Game Night, which featured board games, food, prizes and a social environment to allow faculty and students to mingle. The club also organized a clothing drive for Perry Middle School, hosted visitors from El Sauce, Nicaragua, visited the Rochester Public Market and ate empanadas, cooked churros con chocolate with Profesora **Felisa Brea**, held a study abroad forum, as well as registration forum. La Casa Hispánica enjoyed these many culturally enriching, educational, and fun events that benefited Geneseo’s students of Spanish, the Geneseo community, and Nicaragua.

Der Deutsche Verein

The German Club, under the leadership of **Jamie Butcher** and Faculty Advisor **Dr. Cynthia Klima**, participated in the College Club Jubilee in December. They handed out genuine German candies and auctioned off two large baskets of German goods. Students attending the jubilee were also encouraged to come to the German table to create their own holiday cards and to learn some German. In addition, the Club helped to organize Mardi Gras together with the Slavic and the French Clubs in February. The highlight of the event was the parade of costumes and costume contest. In April, members of the club went to the Rheinblick Restaurant for good old-fashioned German -style food. The Club is involved in planning the 50th Anniversary celebration for the Department of Languages and Literatures.

The Slavic Club

The Slavic Club, under the leadership of **Krzysztof Szafranski** (‘14), was highly visible on campus. Members participated in the campus’ Multi-Cultural Dinner where the Slavs performed some typical Russian dances. In February, the Slavic Club pooled its efforts with the German and French Clubs and celebrated Mardi Gras, which will be a permanent event at the College. They celebrated the end of another successful year with their annual Slavic Club Dinner, where guests were served Slavic

dishes, such as cucumbers in sour creme, stuffed cabbage, and apple deserts.

Study Abroad News

Córdoba, Argentina

Founded in the early 1600s in a city celebrated for its Colonial architecture and its pedestrian promenades, the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba is one of the oldest universities in the Americas and consistently ranks among the nation's top five higher education institutions. Participants for the 2011-2012 year were **Evan Broomfield, Kevin Marriott, Elizabeth Rhodes,** and **Vincent Tassone**, who will be studying there this fall as well.

The Department is also pleased to announce the establishment this year of a Master's of Spanish Adolescence Education program, also hosted by UNC. Through a partnership with Geneseo's School of Education and UNC's Facultad de Lenguas, participants can gain NYS certification in as little as one semester at Geneseo and two in Argentina. Dr. **McEwen** is the Argentina programs coordinator.

Last October, we were pleased to welcome to Geneseo **Dr. Guillermo Badenes**, the Facultad de Lenguas' Program Coordinator, who gave a chat about UNC and our programs there.

Pictured at right, Dr. Badenes and Kevin Felter (spring 2011 participant)



Cuzco, Peru

Our program at Academia Latinoamericana continues to attract the attention of students wishing to learn Spanish while residing with local host families in the contemporary, yet ancient, capital of the Inca Empire. Program participants this year were **Amanda Kurtis, Joseph Martone,** and **Rachael Massone.** Summer program participants were **Arielle Aronoff, Patrick Daniels, Alice Donahue, Carl Eppers, Alicia Goodwin,**

Rebecca Gottfried, Sarah Kosloski, Kenisha Newsome, Mary Nicholas, Benjamin Sapadin, and **Aaron Schwartz.** Dr. **Bernard** is the program's coordinator.

Dakar, Senegal

This year, a new, month-long Geneseo program in Senegal took the port city of Dakar by storm on May 27, with a contingent of six undergraduates and one French professor. Senegal, Africa's westernmost country, has played a significant role in the politics, arts, and culture of the continent. The ACI Baobab Center served as the academic home for the group where a course on the civilization of west francophone Africa was offered every morning by **Dr. Kodjo Adabra.**

Students lived and took their meals with Senegalese families. Weekend trips took them to the UNESCO site of Goree Island, to the historical city of Saint-Louis, and to the phenomenal town of Toubab-Dialaw. During these trips, the students and their instructor got to learn to make Batik, a cloth that is traditionally produced using a manual wax-resistant dyeing technique, received drumming lessons, and experienced horseback riding. Other afternoon activities included a traditional ballet festival, a play, and visits to museums, parks and markets. For more information about the tentative summer 2013 program in Senegal, please contact Dr. Adabra at adabra@geneseo.edu.



Left to right, Erin Andres, Awa Gaye, Rita Wheeler, Alice Donahue, Kisha Laurent, and Christine O'Neill

Heredia, Costa Rica

Our department's longest running Spanish language program is hosted by Universidad Nacional, where students can enroll in semester- or year-long courses for a full-immersion experience, or can take

Department-coordinated courses through UNA's Estudios Hispánicos summer program. Either way, students enjoy the stunning natural scenery of a country also recognized for its political stability. Summer 2011 Geneseo participants (pictured below, left to right) were **Kelsy Cocozzo, Erin Pipe, Jordan Kirkpatrick, Ryan Oertel, and Kelly Young**. Semester program participants were **Margaret Giordano, Jessica Batista, and Melissa Sproul**. Costa



Rica academic programs were co-directed this year by Visiting Lecturer **Shannon**

Circle, herself an alumna of Geneseo's Costa Rica programs, and **Dr. McEwen**.

Effective the summer of 2012, the Department will be offering internship opportunities in the San José and Heredia regions of Costa Rica. Based on qualifications, students can apply to be placed with any of over a dozen organizations partnering with Geneseo to offer our students hands-on, practical experience in a variety of disciplines, including government and NGO work, teaching, law and medical professions, aviation, and sales and marketing. Interested students should contact Dr. McEwen for further information.

Montpellier, France

Our exchange program at the Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier 3, continues to be a popular study abroad



choice for majors and minors who wish to experience total immersion in classes with native speakers or to take courses for international students in this

beautiful location in the south of France. **Clare Flynn, Olivia Derella, Connor Burgevin, Kala Destefano,** and

Katherine Brennan (pictured, left to right) studied at Paul Valéry this past year. In April, we were pleased to welcome **Dr. Judith Misrahi-Barak**, Montpellier's Academic Coordinator of the Programs of the English-Speaking World, for a site visit of Geneseo. **Dr. Beverly Evans** serves as program advisor.

Paris, France

One of the longest standing SUNY study abroad programs, the Cours de Civilisation Française at the Sorbonne provides the opportunity for students to perfect their language skills while learning about French culture and literature. Students who are already highly proficient may also enroll for courses in an immersion setting at other universities in Paris. **Michael Clarke, Jessica Gilbert, Zachary Hentze, and Alison Williams** participated in 2011-12. **Dr. Evans** serves as the advisor.

Western Humanities II in Paris

Summer 2012 marked the seventh year for this program. **Drs. Beverly Evans and Lori Bernard** and eighteen students spent a month based in Paris, where they explored sites directly related to the Enlightenment, 19th-century modernization of the city, and the current intellectual life of the University of Paris-Sorbonne.

Additional course-related trips included Ypres and Bruges, Belgium, Versailles, the Caen Memorial Centre for History and Peace, and the



World War II landing beaches in Normandy. New locations on the itinerary this summer was the Allies' artificial port at Arromanches and Utah Beach.

Western Humanities II in Prague

Dr. Cynthia Klima and **Ms. Marianne Houghton**, both on the German faculty, led a group of students to Prague, Czech Republic, and Vienna, Austria, in May

2012. During this four-week program, students also traveled to the Medieval City of Kutna Hora where they experienced a silver mine and a bone church. They also toured the concentration camp of Terezin and the liquidated town of Lidice. In Austria, they followed in Freud's footsteps by visiting his apartment as well as the University of Vienna.

Alumni News

2012

Emily GONZALEZ (SPAN) is pursuing a Master's in Linguistics at the University at Buffalo.

Jordan KIRKPATRICK (SPAN) teaches English in Chile through that country's Inglés Abre Puertas (English Open Doors) program.

Kristina LICATESE (SPAN) has been accepted to SUNY Geneseo's new Master's in Spanish Adolescence Education hosted by Universidad Nacional in Córdoba, Argentina.

Julia McDANIEL (FREN) will be teaching Secondary English for the Peace Corps in Rwanda beginning in September.

Amanda McLAUGHLIN (SPAN) will be studying for a Master's in International Education at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Olivia OCCELLI (FREN) is pursuing a Master's in Adolescence Urban Education at Long Island University, Brooklyn.

Megan PAOLONE (SPAN) began studies in the Magazine, Newspaper & Online Journalism Master's program at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Cladia PLANTIN is working for City Year.

Laura SAVARY (FREN) has been accepted to the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY.

2011

Emily BORGHARD (FREN) volunteered in the Bronx, teaching students who were preparing for the GED exams and students who were trying to learn English. She also

volunteered at the local veteran's center to assist returning men and women of Hispanic background who had a need for translators and people to organize events that would help them re-adjust to life in NYC. In addition, she has been worked for a duck farmer and educated people about eating healthful, locally grown food.

Margaret GIORDANO (SPAN) is working with New York City's "City Year" program tutoring inner-city kids.

Michael HERETH (SPAN; Central and Eastern European Studies minor) is a tutor with New York City's Champion Learning Center which provides tutoring and test preparation services for K-12 students.

Ellyn JAMESON (SPAN), who last year founded AbrePuertas, a non-profit community education center in Coya, Peru, returned to SUNY Geneseo this July to host the organization's first Board meeting.

Erinn KEHOE (FREN, SPAN) is an administrator and ESL teacher at a private language school in Albany.

Sarah KEIB (SPAN) will be teaching in Chile from March-December 2012 with the English Opens Doors volunteer program.

Sarah KOSLOSKI (SPAN) is pursuing a Master's degree in ESL Education at the University at Buffalo. She also teaches Spanish at the Boys and Girls Club of the Northtowns, Tonawanda, NY.

Jon MEARS (SPAN) is studying for a Master's of Strategic Leadership at Roberts Wesleyan College.

Zoufshan MEHDI (SPAN) has begun her studies for a Master's in Law and Economics at the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland.

Tanya SHOOK (FREN) holds the position of Food and Beverage Manager at the Brookwood Inn in Pittsford, NY.

Brian WHITNEY (SPAN) received a contract renewal through the Spanish government's North American Language and Culture Assistant Program. He will be teaching English conversation at Colegio Iplacea in Alcalá de Henares--where Miguel de Cervantes was born.

2010

Souleymane BA (FREN Teaching Assistant from Montpellier) was a graduate instructor at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 2011-12.

David DUERR (FREN, graduate level) has accepted a position teaching French at Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY. Hackley is a member of the Ivy Preparatory School League.

Philip GAGNON (FREN) is pursuing a Master 1 degree at the Institut d'Étude du Développement Économique et Social of the Université de Paris 1-Sorbonne, France.

Hannah HUHR (FREN) was a student in the Literacy Specialist M.A. program at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Marc JOHNSON (FREN) has completed a Master's degree in Philosophy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He will be continuing toward a Ph.D. He team-taught Western Humanities II with Dr. Evans on campus this summer.

Amanda MOON (FREN) is teaching 3rd grade at Mendon Center Elementary School, Pittsford, NY.

Rosa PILLCURIMA (SPAN) completed a Master's in Spanish at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY.

Danielle RELYEA (GERM) has completed her M.F.A. in opera at the Boston Conservatory of Music. She was a teaching assistant for German while at Geneseo.

2009

Andrew BUTTRAM (FREN) spent the year teaching English in Roanne, France. He taught in Lyon, France, during 2010-2011.

Ashley WESTERBECK (SPAN; SPAN M.S.Ed.) teaches high school Spanish for the Letchworth Central School District in Gainesville, NY.

2008

Jeremy STILLMAN (SPAN) is a Research Associate for the Progressive Radio Network (PRN), an online radio station based in Manhattan, NY.

Morgan T. WHIT (SPAN) completed an M.S.Ed. in Spanish Adolescence Education at SUNY Geneseo.

2007

Kathleen O'CONNELL (SPAN) is a Placement Specialist with LASPAU, Academic and Professional Programs for the

Americas, a non-profit affiliate of Harvard University, where she works with scholarship grantees from Latin America.

Taryn THOMPSON (FREN) has been a member Teach For America for two years at a public middle school near Saint Louis.

Mary Caitlin (Scanlan) WRIGHT (SPAN) has begun studies in University at Buffalo's doctoral program in Foreign and Second Language Education.

2006

Jason CONWAY (SPAN) completed Master's degrees in Public Policy and in Business at William & Mary University in Williamsburg, VA. Since April, Jason has been working in Washington, D.C., with the Finance Department of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Elizabeth HOAGLAND (SPAN) completed a Master's in Education and licensure through Colorado's Regis University. She has been hired to teach Spanish by Summit High School in Breckenridge, CO. Liz also works as a snowboard instructor and this June and July snowboarded in New Zealand.

Kate ORTENZI (SPAN) is pursuing a Master's in Public Policy at the University of Maryland at College Park.

2005

Logan Rath (SPAN) was recently promoted to resource sharing librarian at The College at Brockport, SUNY.

2004

Colin O'DONNELL (FREN), who teaches French at West Seneca (NY) West High School, accompanied a group of his students on an exchange to the high school in Brittany where he had served as an English teaching assistant in 2004-05.

2002

Sébastien GRENET (FREN Teaching Assistant from Montpellier) works for Elavon Merchant Services in Madrid, Spain.

Peter JOHNSON (SPAN) is working as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State.

2001

Kathleen (Hanley) BARTELLS is a Spanish teacher for the Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Schools while completing her doctoral degree in Spanish Literature at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Megan (Allen) Williams (FREN) has been named Executive Secretary of the Welsh North American Association.

1998

Alexia MELLOR (FREN) is a visual artist who uses performative strategies to investigate the ways in which we find individual and collective identity in an increasingly globalized and corporatized world. Her current project involves translating popular Internet memes from a pixilated screen to a cross-stitched canvas.

Cynthia NAGLE (FREN)) recently accepted a position as communications manager at the Statewide Financial System Program in Albany, the largest public sector Enterprise Resource Planning program in the country.

1992

Jennifer RYBAK (FREN) and her students at The Aquinas Institute of Rochester (NY) hosted 27 high school students and three teachers from the Lycée Saint Vincent in Rennes, France, for a week in April. Aquinas students are planning to visit Rennes for a home stay and Paris for a tour in spring 2013. For the past four years, the primary fundraiser has been a "*Soirée Française*," a French-themed dinner, complete with live French music and a silent auction, at which AQ students have served over 100 dinner guests each time. Their next *soirée* will be in March 2013.

Faculty News

Dr. Kodjo Adabra coordinated the organization of the second annual French Spelling Bee as part of Geneseo's National French Week in November 2011. He served on the Global Education Advisory Committee of SUNY Geneseo in January 2012. In the same month, he presented "Pitfalls and Relevance of Peoples noirs, peuples africains" to the Literature of Francophone Africa" at the 10th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu; in March 2012, he

presented "Effets de la tentative journalistique de Mongo Béti pour une redéfinition de l'Afrique francophone" at the 43rd Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association in Rochester, New York. Dr. Adabra was invited by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of North Carolina State University to give a presentation on the topic "African languages for African literature, a quest born of an identity crisis" in April 2012. He also worked with Geneseo students on G.R.E.A.T. Day presentations, sponsoring a research poster on "Neologism, a Quest for Identity and Liberation in Black Africa and the Caribbean". His article "De l'engagement littéraire au complexe linguistique: Mongo Béti et Ngugi Wa Thiong'o en phase de transition," has been accepted for publication this summer in the journal *L'Érudit franco-espagnol*. In his capacity as Director of the SUNY Geneseo summer program in Senegal, Dr. Adabra took a group of language students to Dakar in May-June 2012, for a four-week faculty-led civilization course and transformational experience.

Dr. Lori Bernard accompanied Dr. Cynthia Klima on their co-taught Humn II trip to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest in Summer 2011. In September, she presented "Poetic and Dramatic Tradition at the Court of Fernando de Aragón" at the 10th Biennial Conference of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry held at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. During this academic year Dr. Bernard was named Program Director of the Cuzco (Peru) Study Abroad Program, Chair of the Spanish Graduate Studies Committee, and Vice Chair of Geneseo's Research Council. During spring semester, she was honored at the Geneseo Blue Knights Faculty Recognition Ceremony by the Athletic Department and Kristina Licatase as the "one professor who has influenced her growth and development at SUNY Geneseo". In addition, she worked with students Andrea Bush, Sarah Dziekonski, Kevin Felter, and Mallory Long on their G.R.E.A.T. Day presentations on Contemporary Spanish Culture. Finally, Dr. Bernard continued to serve as Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry, an international professional organization.

Dr. Beverly Evans began to serve as Executive Director of Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society this past fall, while continuing to advise Geneseo's Mu Iota chapter. In February, she attended the annual convention of the Association of College Honor Societies in Jacksonville, FL, to represent the organization. Also faculty advisor of *Le Cercle Français*, she was involved in numerous club activities, particularly in connection with

the College's observance of National French Week in November. Still an active scholar, Dr. Evans published three book reviews on medieval French literature in 2011-12 and is currently writing a book chapter on vestiges of courtly themes in contemporary music. During the fall, she attended the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages convention and, during the spring, she made a presentation on "Effective Practices to Welcome, Inform and Support Contingent Faculty" at the Northeast Modern Language Association convention. For the sixth year, Professor Evans was North American bibliographer for *Encomia*, the annual publication of the International Courtly Literature Society. She served as administrator of Western Humanities II in Paris for four weeks in July-August 2011, a program she founded and has participated in every year since 2006.

Dr. Joaquín Gómez continued to advise the Spanish Club and hosted the now traditional Open House at his home during the fall semester. He presented "El teatro comprometido de Salvador Távora" in March 2012 at the annual Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Rochester, NY. He was inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society as an honorary member in October 2011 and recognized for his 20 years of service to Geneseo this spring.

Dr. Cynthia Klima continued advising the German and Slavic Clubs in 2011-12. Both clubs were involved in organizing Mardi Gras with the French Club. She wrote two book reviews, one published in the *Slavic and East European Journal* and another in the *Austrian Studies* journal. In April 2012, her book chapter "Victims and Perpetrators: Questions of Identity in Norbert Gstrein's 'Das Register'," appeared in *Modern Austrian Literature: Interpretations and Insights*, Ariadne Press, Paul F. Dvorak, ed. She also attended several professional development courses, including creation of online courses and using internet tools to enhance student learning. In February 2012, she was awarded a Professional Development Grant by UUP to further her study of Hebrew. Dr. Klima continues to direct the Prague/Vienna Study Abroad Program, which is in its seventh year. In May 2012, she was asked to take part in the executive board meetings of the SVU (Sciences and Arts Union) for the Czechoslovak Society of America.

Dr. Rose McEwen continued serving as Department Chair, coordinator of the Latin American Studies program, and director of study abroad programs in Argentina and in Costa Rica, where this year she established a new program of internships. In June 2011, she attended the 2011

Summer Seminar of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages held in Salt Lake City. Dr. McEwen organized and chaired a panel on "Bridging the Gap: Performing Difference in the Hispanic Theater" and in March presented "Staging Latina Boricua-ness: Crossing Invisible Borders, Intersecting the Imaginary Homeland" at the Northeast MLA's 2012 conference. This year she continued serving on Geneseo's Teacher Education Advisory Committee, was a member of the Dean of the School of Education's Search Committee, and was appointed to the board of directors of AbrePuertas, an NGO in Cuzco, Peru, directed by alumna Ellyn Jameson. Earlier this year she led a group of students and teaching assistants on a field trip to New York City, where they saw the Diego Rivera exhibit at MOMA and a performance of *Crónica de una muerte anunciada* at Repertorio Español. She is a co-founder and principal organizer of the Western New York Hispanic Heritage Festival (2012 program at <http://tinyurl.com/wnyhhf>).

Mme Rosette Ptak continues to be greatly appreciated and admired for her ability to recognize the linguistic talents of General Education students and her commitment to encouraging them to develop their skills to a higher level. Beloved by French majors and minors as well, she has been an enthusiastic participant in honor society induction ceremonies and National French Week activities.

Ma. del Rocío Vallejo Alegre received the Joseph M. O'Brien Award for excellence in part-time teaching in August 2011. During the fall of that year she taught Composition while working at the same time with a group of students to help them better understand different authentic texts from authors such as José Martí Pérez, María Monserrat, and Ana María Matute. In spring 2012 she taught Commercial Spanish, which helps students immerse themselves in the business area of their interest in various Spanish-speaking countries. In this course, students developed a strategic business plan for their own hypothetical businesses with emphasis on increasing cultural understanding. They developed a wide array of projects, ranging from schools and universities, to fishing and agricultural companies, to restaurants to petrochemical, pharmaceutical, and textiles enterprises.



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