Chair’s Letter

As this academic year comes to a close, I find myself increasingly optimistic about the Department of Languages and Literatures. Over the past year, the department has been collaborating on a number of new initiatives that promise to revitalize our programs, so stay tuned for these exciting changes in the near future.

Motivated by the Curriculum Innovation Grant that we received last summer, we have been working diligently over the year assessing what we are currently doing and discussing new directions and ideas to strengthen our programs. One such idea was the Center for Languages and Cultures, which opened in Fraser 202 during the fall semester. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the committee members—Beth Adams, Rocío Vallejo, Rosa Pillcurima, Kate Fredericks and Kyle Matthews—the new Center has been a success. Many cultural and academic events have been held there, including a new writing center for French and Spanish students, and I look forward to seeing the number of events grow in the coming years.

Our faculty members have been very busy this year participating in scholarly activities: attending and organizing conferences and workshops, working on research projects, and submitting grant proposals. Additionally, many of our faculty was honored this year for their dedication to and collaboration with students. Please be sure to read all about it in the faculty news section. More exciting changes are in store for the department as we welcome the addition of three new full-time faculty members: Dr. Christina Agostinelli (Visiting Professor of Spanish, Linguistics), Mrs. Nadjet Sarrab-Bekri (French Lecturer), and Mrs. Beth Adams (Spanish Lecturer). Our new hires will be working closely to study the feasibility of offering new types of course instruction: hybrid, experiential, service learning, etc. We look forward to their contributions in the coming years.

In addition to our regular cultural events, such as French Week and club events, our colleagues, Dr. Rose McEwen and Dr. Kodjo Adabra, were instrumental in bringing the “II First World Diasporas of Color Undergraduate Conference: Global(izing) Identities and Migration Across Diasporas” to campus at the end of April. This conference enabled both students and faculty to participate in panels and other activities. We are very grateful to our colleagues and students for all their hard work and dedication to make this a reality.

As my first full academic year as chair comes to a close, I am very enthusiastic about the upcoming year and I continue to be amazed by the dedication and quality of our students, faculty and staff, including the amazing Paula Bill. I consider myself lucky to lead such an outstanding group of people!
DEPARTMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

FOUR NEW FACULTY POSITIONS STARTING IN FALL 2014

- Tenure-Track Assistant Professor Position in Spanish: Dr. Kyle Matthews.
- Visiting Assistant Professor Position in Spanish Linguistics: Dr. Christina Agostinelli.
- Full-time Lecturer position in French: Mrs. Nadjet Sarrab-Bekri.
- Full-time Lecturer position in Spanish: Mrs. Beth Adams.

II FIRST WORLD DIASPORAS OF COLOR UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

A special event organized by the SUNY Geneseo’s Latin American Studies Program, in partnership with the Department of Languages and Literatures and the Department of English, with the collaboration of SUNY Geneseo’s Americana Studies, Asian Studies and Africana Studies and SUNY New Paltz’s Department of Black Studies and the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, on April 25-26, 2014 at Geneseo; Dr. Rose McEwen, Associate Professor of Spanish, was the Director of the Conference.

PROFESSOR JASMINE TANG RECOGNIZED BY THE TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER

The Teaching and Learning Center advisory board and the Student Association’s Academic Affairs Committee has selected Jasmine Tang as one of four faculty members for the 2013-14 “Honoring Geneseo’s Teachers” display in Milne Library. A recognition ceremony was held on May 7, 2014 in the College Union Hunt Room at which Interim President Carol Long and all four of the faculty members spoke. The nomination process included recommendations from students, faculty, and staff.

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY

Ms. Paula Bill, the Secretary of the Department of Languages and Literatures, was selected as an Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2014 GRADUATES

Congratulations to Languages and Literatures majors, minors, and Education concentration students from the class of 2014! 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

- Fulbright Canada has granted Matthew McClure ‘16 a Killam Undergraduate Fellowship to study French in Canada in spring 2015. He is also the 2014 recipient of the Gérard Gouvernet Ambassadorship in French Language and Culture.
- The Rose Alent Scholarship was awarded to Emilie Schmelzer, who will be studying at the Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France, in fall 2014.
- Emily Topping was awarded the Spanish Alumni Scholarship Award.
- Eric Briggs Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Danely Lopez (Spanish) and Elyssa Sapia (Spanish).
- The following 2013 graduates in French were English teaching assistants on the French government’s TAPIF program in 2013-14: Michael Clarke (Versailles), Valentin Cucu (Versailles), Kala Dестefano (Nantes), Jessica Gilbert (Versailles), Rachel Taplin (Rouen), and Shelby Tompkins (Rouen). Seven 2014 graduates will by teaching on the TAPIF program in 2014-15.
- French major Connor Burgevin was selected to receive a prestigious Fulbright Award for 2013-14. He taught English in Morocco.
- Rita Lily Wheeler ‘14 was granted a nationally-competitive Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society Summer Scholarship to study at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in July 2013. She was also a finalist in the college-wide competition to serve as Senior Orator during Commencement and was named alternate speaker.
- Matthew McClure (French major) has been awarded a Gilman Scholarship to study in Vietnam in fall 2014.
- French major Harrison Dole, has been elected Student
Association President for 2014-15. He has also been named to the Presidential Search Committee.

HONOR SOCIETIES

-FRENCH

The Mu Iota Chapter of Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society had the privilege of inducting the College’s Interim President Dr. Carol Long as honorary member in recognition of her support of the department’s 2013 National French Week activities. She and the following undergraduate students were officially welcomed into the organization during a dinner that was held at the Yard of Ale Restaurant on April 24:

Alexis Brieant, Sarah Buckowski, Jacqueline Christensen, Joseph Gallo, Taylor Harris, Nicole Hazlett, Alec Iacobucci, Jennifer Lomaki, Robert Matina, Matthew McClure, Cameron Mellow, Rebecca Miller, Julia Mizutani, Sean Neill, Elisabeth Piper, Victoria Sandock, Emilie Schmelzer, Elyssa Slawinski, and Hannah Taylor.

Senior Fiona Connors and Dr. Kathryn Fredericks presided at the ceremony, assisted by chapter advisor Dr. Beverly Evans, French faculty members Dr. Kodjo Adabra and Ms. Nadjet Sarrab-Bekri, and French Club president Lauren Slezak ’14. Department chair Dr. Lori Bernard, Dr. Cynthia Klima, Ms. Adrianna Betts, department secretary Ms. Paula Bill, as well as numerous family members and friends, also attended.

Dr. Kyle Matthews was inducted as an honorary member.

-GREAT DAY, GENESEO

On April 8, 2014, SUNY Geneseo held its eighth annual G.R.E.A.T. (Geneseo Recognizing Excellence, Achievement, and Talent) Day. The following students from our Department of Languages and Literatures presented their research under our faculty sponsorship:

- “College Students’ Motives for Studying a Second Language” by French major Maria-Gratias Sinon (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Beverly Evans)
- “Educational Comparative of China and America” by students Andrew Chau, Jared Jones, Hyukjae Lee & Michael Marano (Faculty sponsor: Mrs. Jasmine Tang)
- “Connaître, Comprendre, Combattre L’Exploitation Sexuelle: 2012 Sexual Exploitation Headlines in the United States” by French major Fiona Connors (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kodjo Adabra)
- “A Pen and a Stethoscope: The Healthcare Situation in Senegal as Seen through Firsthand Experience” by student Marianne Macaluso (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kodjo Adabra)
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS

The SUNY Geneseo French Club had a very active 2013-2014 academic year. Under the leadership of Drs. Kathryn Fredericks and Beverly Evans and e-board members Lauren Slezak, Sarah Buckowski, Lauren Eggleston, Alec Iacobucci, and Nathan Campbell, we enjoyed many French and Francophone cultural events together both on and off campus. Some highlights from this past year include our National French Week celebration during the Fall semester (November 4-12, 2013), and our yearly Club excursion to Montréal, Québec during the Spring Semester (April 11-13, 2014). The department’s 13th annual celebration of National French Week brought two special speakers to campus: Ms. Kara Szamborski ’11, who spoke to a large and appreciative audience about her study abroad experiences (Montpellier and Semester at Sea) and career paths for graduates with a degree in French, and Dr. Eileen M. Angelini, Professor of French at Canisius College in Buffalo, who made a likewise well-attended presentation on “The Legend of Maurice ‘Rocket’ Richard: An Inspirational Story that Crosses Borders and Cultures.” Professor Angelini’s talk was preceded by a screening of “The Rocket,” at which moviegoers, including members of the Geneseo Ice Knights, snacked on poutine. Other National French Week events included music of Québec performed by members of the Geneseo String Band. During this performance, Rita Lily Wheeler ’14 taught attendees traditional dances she had learned while studying in Canada in summer 2013. Students, faculty, and friends enjoyed a trip to Simply Crêpes restaurant in Pittsford, a cultural evening of student presentations about study abroad, and a screening of “L’auberge espagnole.” Sponsored by the Department of Languages and Literatures, National French Week was planned by Geneseo’s Cercle Français and faculty in French. Funding for the guest speakers was provided by the Office of the Provost. We now look forward to planning new and exciting events for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. Be sure to keep up with us on Facebook SUNY Geneseo Le Cercle Français or write to frenclub@geneseo.edu.

Pictured above, students playing pétanque
LA CASA HISPÁNICA

The Spanish Club engaged in many exciting activities throughout the year under the guidance of Faculty Advisor Dr. Joaquín Gómez. During 2013-2014 school year, the club planned a Movie night, a trip to the Public Market and to several restaurants. Club members also visited the Rochester Art Gallery in celebration of the annual Hispanic month. In the spring, the Spanish-language Spelling Bee, which is held annually by the Spanish club, welcomed many talented students who either participated or attended; the club donated half of the proceeds to the Enlace Project in El Sauce, Nicaragua, to help construct a school in a rural area. La Casa Hispánica enjoyed these many culturally enriching, educational, and fun events that benefited Geneseo’s students of Spanish, the Geneseo community, and Nicaragua. The new elected president for the upcoming year is Ariana Lippi.

DER DEUTSCHE VEREIN

The German Club, under the leadership of James Williams and Faculty Advisor Dr. Cynthia Klima, successfully planned the Oktoberfest held on October 9 in Welles 210. The club also participated in the College Club Jubilee on December 7 in the College Union; 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, Spanish and French Clubs in February, as well as the Europicnic on June 3 at Letchworth State Park. Members of the club went to the Rheinblick Restaurant in Canandaigua for good old-fashioned German-style food.

THE SLAVIC CLUB

The Slavic Club, under the leadership of Krysztof 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. On December 4, 2013, Gabrielle Kosoy, Recipient of the Intercultural Ambassador Award, presented her work entitled “Finding My Roots.” Gabi traveled with her mother back to the Ukraine to investigate where her mother was from, her own roots and the current social/economic situation of Ukraine. The event was sponsored by The Slavic Club and Russian specialties, including borscht, were served. Krysztof Szafranski, President of the Slavic Club, arranged the event and even had a hand in the recipes for the attendees. Robert Wojcikiewicz played some folk tunes on the mandolin. The new elected president for the upcoming year is Alessandro Magnasco.

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.

The Department recently established 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.

CUZCO, PERU

The Geneseo programs in Perú and Ecuador continued to be very successful with almost 25 students participating over the past year. While in South America, students live with host families, take courses, and enjoy excursions to historic places such as Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca. Dr. Bernard is the program’s coordinator.
DAKAR, SENEGAL

In summer 2013, Dr. Kodjo Adabra led a contingent of eight Geneseo students (French majors/minors) on the 4-week summer program in Senegal. 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.

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, to a safari at the Bandia reserve, to the pink lake 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 and traditional dance lessons, and experienced horseback riding.

Other afternoon activities included traditional ballet and music festivals, and visits to the French cultural center, Cheick Anta Diop University, a Koranic school and a mosque, museums, parks and markets. For more information about the tentative summer 2015 program in Senegal, please contact Dr. Adabra at adabra@geneseo.edu.

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. Costa Rica academic programs are directed by Dr. McEwen.

Since summer of 2012, the Department offers 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 thrive as 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 fascinating city that boasts one of the oldest universities in Europe. Participants in 2013-14 were Allan Dobransky, Nathalie Grogan, Holly Kandel, Jessica Kroenert, Kaitlyn Marshall, Brooke Pearlman, Elisabeth Piper, David Rescott, Elyssa Slawinski, and Adam Wage. Dr. Beverly Evans continues to serve as program advisor.

PARIS, FRANCE

In 2012-13, this ever-popular program at the Sorbonne, co-sponsored by Geneseo and SUNY Oswego, began offering the opportunity to take up to six credit hours of internship on site in Paris. Participants may now enroll for both formal classroom instruction and hands-on experience while increasing their knowledge of French language, culture, and
literature. Those who are already highly proficient may take courses in an immersion setting at other Parisian universities through the Mission Interuniversitaire de Coordination d’Échanges Franco-Américains (MICEFA) consortium. This year’s program participants were Taylor Harris, Joelle Orecki, Austin Padgett, and Deanna Williams. Dr. Evans serves as advisor.

WESTERN HUMANITIES II IN PARIS

Summer 2013 marked the eighth year for this program. Dr. Beverly Evans, Geneseo alumnus Mr. Marc Johnson, and eighteen students spent a month based in Paris, where they studied the 17th through 21st centuries in the very location where so much of modern Western intellectual life and culture took shape. Additional course-related trips included Ypres, Belgium, and Flanders Fields, the Caen Memorial Centre for History and Peace, and the World War II landing sites at Omaha and Utah Beaches, and the artificial port of Arromanches. A new item on the itinerary this summer was an optional overnight stay in the Loire Valley to tour some of the most famous châteaux.

Dr. Cynthia Klima and Ms. Marianne Houghton with the group in Prague.

HUMN II in Paris, summer 2013

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. 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. A group of them visited Krakow, Poland, where they toured the Auschwitz concentration camp and the Wieliczka salt mine, as well as the historic city center. The students learned about Jewish life in Budapest, Hungary with the fearless guide Agi Marton. In Austria, they followed in Freud’s footsteps by visiting his apartment as well as the University of Vienna.

2014

Chikamso ODUME (SPAN) is recruited to teach for the very competitive non-profit organization Teach For America.

Maria-Gratias SINON (FREN) has been accepted into the Master-PhD’s program at the University at Buffalo and will begin in July 2014.

Lauren SLEZAK (FREN) has been accepted into the Master’s program at Middlebury College and will begin in July 2014.

2013

Connor BURGEVIN (FREN) was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Morocco for 2013-14

KALA DeSTEFANO (FREN) was accepted into the French Graduate Program at NYU.

Megan DiBARTOLOMEO (SPAN) was accepted into Indiana University to pursue a Master's in Spanish Linguistics.
Amanda ROSALES (SPAN) will be attending NYU to pursue a Master’s Spanish with a concentration in Applied Linguistics.

Brando SHUFELT (SPAN) is pursuing a masters in Linguistics at the University of Florida.

Rachel TAPLIN (FREN) taught on the TAPIF program in Rouen, France, in 2013-14. She also held a two-month substitute teacher position in French with Livonia (NY) Central School District upon returning to the US. She will begin the Master’s program in French at Middlebury College in July 2014, which will include spending the 2014-15 school year in Paris.

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.

Julia McDANIEL (FREN) works in the Office of Career Development at New York University’s Stern School of Business.

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.

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) was an administrator and ESL teacher at a private language school in Albany. She will be entering graduate school in the International Educational Development program at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her concentration will be Language, Literature and Culture.

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.

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

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

Kara SZAMBORSKI (FREN) is International Production Supervisor at comiXology, a major distributor of digital comics, in New York City. Her team works with European publishers, with a focus on France, to make their content available on global digital platforms.

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) was accepted to the University of Florida to pursue her Master’s in Linguistics.

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.

1996

Emil LOU (FREN) is an Assistant Professor in the University of Minnesota Medical School’s division of Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation.

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 year: a Certificate of Appreciation by the Ghana Project Association in March 2013.

FACULTY NEWS

DR. KODJO ADABRA Dr. Kodjo Adabra has been a member of the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Laboratory Group of SUNY Geneseo since fall 2013; it’s an 18-month project to advance Geneseo’s diversity strategic plan, and develop Geneseo as a global institution. He also became Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections in fall. Dr. Adabra is the current Newsletter editor and Assessment liaison of our department. In October 2013, he co-organized with the Ghana Project Association a roundtable discussion on our campus with invited scholars from St. John Fisher College, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges, on the topic "Redefining Current Issues in African Politics". He presented at three conferences ["La France au 'secours' de l'Afrique francophone: utopie ou nécessitée?" on April 5, 2014 at NeMLA in Harrisburg, PA; "Little Senegal ou le voyage solitaire vers l'imaginaire identitaire" on March 27, 2014 at the University of South Carolina, and "Pouvoir, spiritualité et paradoxe du rôle monétaire dans La grève des Battu d’Aminata Sow Fall" on March 7, 2014 at NYU]; he directed three independent studies in spring 2014, and was a guest panelist on two roundtable panels ["Power to the Peoples of Color: Challenges and Triumphs in the Professional World", initiated by the Diasporas of Color Conference held at SUNY Geneseo on April 26, 2014, and "What Happens There, Matters Here" (Social Justice Series) initiated by the GOLD Leadership program at SUNY Geneseo on April 11, 2014]. Dr. Adabra successfully sponsored five student research projects this academic year and two of them were accepted and presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Kentucky (by Awa Gaye, Marianne Macaluso), three were presented at the Diasporas of Colors Conference at Geneseo (by Maria Tatiana Abaya, Maria-Gratias Sinon, Awa Gaye) and two at GREAT Day at Geneseo (by Fiona Connors, Marianne Macaluso). His peer-reviewed article "Peuples Noirs, Peuples Africains à la croisée idéologique avec Fanon et Achebe" was accepted in May 2014 for publication and his other article "Little Senegal ou le voyage solitaire vers l'imaginaire identitaire" is under review. Dr. Adabra also led a group of eight Geneseo students to Senegal in summer 2013 on a four-week study abroad program; he received two awards this year: a Certificate of Appreciation by the Teaching and Learning Center & the Student Association Academic Affairs Committee in April 2014 and a Certificate of Appreciation by the Ghana Project Association in March 2014.
**DR. LORI BERNARD** Dr. Lori Bernard remained committed to furthering the department mission by submitting various proposals over the summer and during the academic year: three tenure track proposals (two in collaboration with the French Section), two full-time lecturer proposals, one Curriculum Innovation Grant proposal (CIG) and one course proposal (in collaboration with Felisa Brea) to create Western Humanities I in Spain. As a result of these proposals, the department was able to hire a new tenure track professor of Latin American Literature and two full-time lecturers (French and Spanish), was awarded the CIG, and Humanities 220 in Spain will run for the first time in the summer of 2014. As a direct result of the Curriculum Innovation Grant and in collaboration with the Curriculum Development Committees, Dr. Bernard spearheaded the opening the Center for Languages and Cultures (Fraser 202) in September. Many events were held there over this past academic year, such as: the Department Open House, French and Spanish Writing/Tutoring, Conversation Groups, etc.

Dr. Bernard remained active in professional development and service both on and off campus. She attended COPLAC’s Annual Meeting: "Creative and Performing Arts at Public Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities", Shepherd University (WVA) as a member of the Teagle Grant Steering Committee (June) and Team UP Events /World Languages Workshop: "The Changing Landscape of Language Teaching" (October) to learn more about blended learning. During the summer, Dr. Bernard completed the periodic site visits to our partner institution, The Academia Latinoamericana, in Cusco, Perú and Quito, Ecuador. On campus, she attended the Geneseo Global Café to learn more about internationalization, served her fist term as chair of the Research Council, and finished her 7th year as the Sigma Delta Pi advisor. Finally, Dr. Bernard served as an external reviewer for two Periodic Program Reviews: SUNY Purchase (February) and SUNY Brockport (April), in addition to serving on other department and college committees.  

**DR. BEVERLY EVANS** Dr. Beverly Evans served for a third year as Executive Director of Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society, while continuing to advise Geneseo’s Mu Iota chapter. In February, she attended the annual convention of the Association of College Honor Societies in New Orleans to represent the organization. She arranged for Dr. Eileen M. Angelini, Professor of French at Canisius College, Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques, and Fulbright Scholar, to speak on “The Legend of Maurice ‘Rocket’ Richard: An Inspirational Story that Crosses Borders and Cultures” during National French Week. Professor Evans submitted a book chapter, “Courtly Literature: ‘Yesterday’ is Today,” for The Legacy of Courtly Literature, Rouben Cholakian and Deborah Nelson-Campbell, eds., forthcoming from the University of Florida Press. She made a presentation based on this contribution in May at the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. Her reviews of French Women Authors: The Significance of the Spiritual (1400-2000) by Kelsey L. Haskett and Holly Faith Nelson, eds. (University of Delaware Press) and Wild Frenchmen and Frenchified Indians, Material Culture and Race in Colonial Louisiana by Sophie White (The University of Pennsylvania Press) are forthcoming in Women in French Studies and Dalhousie French Studies, respectively. Dr. Evans has had the presentation “‘Ah! C’est la guerre’: Life and Afterlife of French WW I Music,” accepted for The Music of War: 1914-1918, a conference to be held at the British Library in London in August 2014. She is the recipient of the College’s 2014 Roemer Summer Faculty Fellowship in support of this research project. For the eighth 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 2013, a program she founded and has participated in every year since 2006.  

**DR. KATHRYN FREDERICKS** Dr. Kate Fredericks teaches a variety of French language and literature courses, and participates actively in the events of National French Week, Le Cercle Français and Pi Delta Phi. She is currently serving as the French Club Faculty Adviser. She gave the Welcome Address at the SUNY Geneseo New Faculty and Staff Orientation in August 2013. She also serves on the following committees: Milne Library, Gouvernet Ambassadorship, Diversity Commission, Scholarship Committee, Faculty Senate, and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Dr. Fredericks wrote a book review of the Œuvres complètes de Voltaire Corpus des notes marginales 8 Rollin – Sommier which will be published in an upcoming issue of Dalhousie French Studies. She also is currently preparing a book review of Medievalist Enlightenment: From Charles Perrault to Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Alicia C. Montoya, Boydell & Brewer, 2013) for Medievally Speaking, the review section of Studies in Medievalism. At present, Dr. Fredericks is finishing an article which discusses space and geography in the eighteenth century, as is represented by and in Diderot and D’Alembert’s Encyclopédie. In addition, she is working on a second article which explores nature as a place in Voltaire’s l’Ingénu. In March 2014, Dr. Fredericks gave a paper entitled: “The Production of Space in Voltaire’s Candide” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies’ (ASECS) Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. During May and June 2014, Dr. Fredericks team taught Western Humanities I with Dr. Beverly Evans on campus in Geneseo.
In July and August 2014, she will serve as the Program Assistant on the Western Humanities II Summer Study Abroad Program in Paris, France.

**DR. JOAQUÍN GÓMEZ** Dr. Gómez continued to serve as the advisor of the Spanish Club, helping organize numerous activities with the club, including a cookout at his home during the Fall semester, the Spelling Bee Contest in April and a dinner at a Dominican restaurant in Henrietta. This year he served in various department and college committees such as the Student Conduct Board, the Department Personnel and Academic Affairs Committees and the department’s Search committees for the Spanish lecturer and the Visiting Professor positions. Dr. Gómez also published the article “Entrevista a Salvador Távora: la huida de lo gramático hacia lo dramatico”.

**DR. ROSE MCEWEN** Dr. McEwen continued serving as coordinator of the Latin American Studies program, co-coordinator of the Alan Lutkus International Film Series, Orientation advisor, member (elected) of the Professional Leave Review Committee, chair of the department’s Spanish M.S.Ed. Committee, and director of study abroad programs in Argentina and Costa Rica. In the fall, she organized and led a field trip to Buffalo’s Kleinhans Music Hall for a lecture and reading by Richard Blanco, U.S. poet laureate. In January she traveled to Guatemala on a Geneseo Foundation Incentive Grant to continue research for a book about the Virgin of Guadalupe that she was invited to edit. With an Explorations in Diversity and Academic Excellence grant she received from SUNY’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, she organized the II First World Diasporas of Color Undergraduate Conference, which was hosted at SUNY Geneseo in late April. She was recognized by the SUNY Geneseo Women’s Softball team members, class of 2014, on Faculty Recognition Day, nominated as “most influential professor” by senior Sam Trapasso.

**MME ROSETTE PTAK** Mrs. 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.

**JASMINE TANG** Mrs. Jasmine Tang recently received the award as Contributions to Field of World Languages & Culture. She also attended the 16th International Conference on Unified Chinese Characters in Seoul, South Korea from June 8-13, 2013. Her paper was on “In the Eyes of US College & University Student Learners of Chinese: Traditional/Simplified Chinese Characters”. She also attended “the 6th Globalization Outreach Summit” with a VIP invitation from the Government of China on June 13-16, 2013 in Wuxi, China. She visited the study abroad programs in Taiwan and Shanghai to see her students who were there in classes or participating in internships. On April 11, 2014, she was a guest panelist at a roundtable discussion on "What Happens There, Matters Here" (Social Justice Series) initiated by the GOLD Leadership program at SUNY Geneseo.

Name: _____________________________

Home Address: _____________________________

Maiden Name: _____________________________

Class Year: ______ Language(s): ______________

Employer’s Name: __________________________

Work Address: _____________________________

Title: _____________________________________

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