



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES' ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME!

The mission of the Department of Languages and Literatures at SUNY Geneseo is to provide a dynamic and challenging environment where knowledge and appreciation of the world's diverse cultures and principal world languages are fostered and enriched. The department offers a B.A. in both French and Spanish and minors in French, German and Spanish. The department also coordinates interdisciplinary minors in Central and Eastern European Studies and in Latin American Studies. Elementary and Intermediate Language courses are also available in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Latin and Russian. Program options leading to provisional New York State certification (N-6 and 7-12) and to the M.S. degree for teachers of French and Spanish are also available.

CHAIR'S LETTER

The Department of Languages and Literatures had a busy 2014-2015! As my space is limited, I will only highlight a few items here, but please keep reading to learn all about the exciting activities and events that took place over the past year. In Fall 2014, we welcomed the following new full-time faculty members: Dr. Kyle Matthews—Assistant Professor of Latin American Literature, Dr. Christina Agostinelli—Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics, Mrs. Beth Adams—Lecturer, Co-Director: Center for Languages and Cultures (CLC), and Mrs. Nadjat Sarrab-Bekri—Lecturer, Co-Director: CLC. Additionally, we conducted a successful tenure track search for an Assistant Professor of French. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Kate Fredericks (Fall 2015). The Department continued to strive for excellence in mentoring, research, and service. Over the academic year, department faculty formally mentored over 30 students in a variety of opportunities ranging from classroom teaching assistantships to service learning in the community. Additionally, departmental students presented their scholarly work at national and local conferences. In addition to helping students with their scholarship, our faculty maintained their own active research projects. Over the past year, original work was presented at eleven international/national conferences, while eight articles/reviews were either published or are currently under review by peer-reviewed journals. Finally, our faculty remained committed to departmental, college and community service. The Department's dedicated faculty was honored by numerous national, college and student recognition awards; be sure to read all about them in the Faculty News section. This academic year culminated in a significant revision of our courses, methodology, and textbooks. For a number of years, the Academic Affairs Committee has been hard at work revising the curriculum, which resulted in the creation of a variety of new courses meant to enhance our current offerings. Additionally, the creation of Elementary and Intermediate Language Coordinators has enabled the teaching faculty of these levels to rethink the learning outcomes for the General Education Requirement. While this is still an ongoing process, I would like to thank all faculty members who have served on the Academic Affairs Committee and the new Language Coordinators—Dr. Kodjo Adabra (French), Dr. Cynthia Klima (Less Commonly Taught Languages), and Mrs. Beth Adams (Spanish)—for their hard work and dedication during this

arduous process. Finally, the Spanish Section is very excited about the creation of our new elementary textbook *Yo puedo* that was created by Mrs. Beth Adams and Mrs. Rocío Vallejo. The textbook was successfully piloted during the spring semester and will be fully implemented during the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition to scholarship and academic courses, a wide variety of cultural and intellectual activities occurred over the past year. From annual favorites (National French Week) or retooled events (Hispanic Heritage Week, Day of the Dead Celebrations, Spelling Bees) to brand new activities (Translation and Interpretation Night, Multilingualism Night, Free Trade Chocolate Tasting, Chinese calligraphy workshops), faculty, students and community members enthusiastically attended and participated. Along with these on campus activities, many of our students participated in Study Abroad experiences—from yearlong programs in France and Spain to semester programs in Europe and the Americas to faculty-led summer programs in Europe and Africa.

As another academic year draws to an end, I continue to be amazed by the variety of activities and events that our faculty and students were able to organize and attend. In a time of ever shrinking resources, it's wonderful to see all the academic and cultural opportunities that we are able to provide to the college community. In recognition of their hard work, dedication, and general enthusiasm, I would like to thank all members of the Department of Languages and Literatures family—faculty, staff, students and alumni—for a great year. I look forward to seeing what the new academic year will bring! Finally, we would love to hear what you have been up to since graduating from Geneseo, so please drop us a line to let us know.



Dr. Lori Bernard, Chair

DEPARTMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

NEW FACULTY POSITION STARTING IN FALL 2015

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor Position in French: **Dr. Kathryn Fredericks**.

HONOR SOCIETIES

❖ INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Sigma Iota Initiation Ceremony. On December 9, 2014, in Welles Hall's Harding Room, the following students were inducted in Geneseo's Alpha Phi chapter of Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Language Honor Society: **Sarah Esther Buckowski, Courtney Cataudella, Allison Mairead Clerkin, Anna-Sophia Callahan Katomski, Kaitlyn Lambert, Ariana Lippi, Danely del Carmen López, Robert Matina, Nika Norvila, Ashley Olin, Alexandra Peraino, Elisabeth L. Piper, Taylor Powers, Alejandra Romero, Kami Smith, Emily Tenenbaum**. Honorary inductees were **Paula Bill**, Secretary, Languages and Literatures Department; **Fatima La-Teresa Rodriguez Johnson**, Coordinator of Multicultural Programs, Center for Community; and **Mark Scott**, Executive Director, Campus Auxiliary Services.



The ceremony was officiated by current executive board members, including Ms. Katomski (Chapter President,

Spanish major), Kami Smith (Secretary, French major), and by Kaitlyn Lambert (German minor), as well as by Dr. Rose McEwen, the chapter's faculty advisor.

❖ FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY

Pi Delta Phi 2015: The Mu Iota Chapter of Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society inducted the following undergraduate students as Regular Members during a dinner that was held at the Yard of Ale Restaurant on April 16: **Arianna Buttarazzi, Lisa Cordara, Chloe Forsell, Holly Kandel, Alexandra Peraino, Ashleigh Peterson, Emily Peterson, Madelyn Pollack, Devon Poniatowski, Cameron Rinaldi, Kami Smith**. Undergraduates **Lauren Eggleston, Nathalie Grogan, and Nivedita Rajan** were inducted as Honorary Members, along with **Alexandre Bonetto**, an exchange student from the Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier III. It was likewise our privilege to induct **Dr. Patrick Rault** from the Department of Mathematics and 2015 winner of the prestigious Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America. Dr. Rault, who is fluent in French and has been a strong supporter of French and francophone language and culture, served on the department's search committee in fall 2014 during the recruitment and hiring of a new tenure-track assistant professor of French. Sophomore Jacqueline Christensen and Dr. Kathryn Fredericks presided at the ceremony, assisted by chapter advisor Dr. Beverly Evans and French faculty members Dr. Kodjo Adabra, Ms. Rosette Ptak, and Ms. Nadjat Sarrab-Bekri. Department chair Dr. Lori Bernard, Dr. Cynthia Klima, and Ms. Adrianna Betts as well as several family members and friends were also present.



Pi Delta Phi induction dinner

❖ SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

The Tau Zeta Chapter Induction of Sigma Delta Pi, National Spanish Honor Society, was held on May 5, 2015 with **Dr. Kyle James Matthews**, Chapter Advisor, presiding. The following 14 students were inducted with the help of **Dr. Lori Bernard**: **Marisa Ambalavanar; Collin Thomas Clark; Aliza Grace Curtis; Jillian Friedmann; Carly Halina Jones; Jessica Nicole Kaczor; Danely del Carmen López; Chase Gabriel Nackenson; Erik Andrew Perry; Taylor L. Powers; Krista Roncone; Joanna Rose-Gross; Madelyn Rose Pollack; Anna-Sophia Katomski.**

HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK

After years of informal events, the Spanish faculty and students formally organized a week of activities, from October 27-30, aimed at promoting all things Hispanic. The events ranged from academic presentations on linguistic diversity to Spanish language films. Students and faculty participated in a Poetry Reading night, while the annual Day of the Dead Altar Competition grew to include the Latin American Cluster and a procession. All events were well attended by faculty and students from across campus.

NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK

The French Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures celebrated National French Week 2014 on and around campus from November 05 - 11. This year's activities included student study abroad presentations, a cooking night, and a film screening of "Le Petit Nicolas". In addition, we welcomed many guest speakers to campus including Prof. Nadjat Sarrab of SUNY Geneseo, who spoke on women in Algeria; Dr. Wedsly Guerrier of Bronx Community College, who spoke on Haiti; and Writer/Director Arzouma Aime Kompaore, who spoke on his film "Hawa".

MULTILINGUALISM NIGHT

Dr. Christina Agostinelli and her SPAN 388: Bilingualism in the Spanish-speaking World classes hosted the 1st Annual Multilingualism Night on March 25, 2015. This information fair included 28 tables on the benefits of being

bilingual/multilingual, on languages and cultures of the world, and on opportunities across SUNY Geneseo campus and in the community to learn and use languages. Tables were organized by a wide variety of participants including faculty and students from Languages and Literatures and English, and staff from departments across the campus. A special thanks goes out to Rocío Vallejo and the other faculty members who not only encouraged their students to organize tables, but also to attend this tremendous event! Don't miss our 2nd Annual Multilingualism Night on March 30, 2016 from 7:30-8:00 pm in the Union Ballroom!

TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION NIGHT

With the help of Dr. Lytton Smith from the English Department and Dr. Jennifer Guzman from the Anthropology Department, Dr. Christina Agostinelli organized an informational night on translation and interpretation as potential career opportunities for language majors and minors. On February 11, 2015 over 100 students and faculty gathered to hear a round table discussion of local professionals in the fields of technical translation and project management, medical interpretation, and literary translation. Guest speakers included John Weisgerber and John Mulligan from Language Intelligence, Jan Montanye Castillo from the Geneseo Migrant Center, and Sharon Rhodes from Open Letter. Following the round table discussion, students networked with these local professionals during a meet and greet.



Dr. Agostinelli (on the left) with guests speakers during the event

BOOK SIGNING EVENT

Assistant professor of French Kodjo Adabra presented his newly published novel *La Bêtise Humaine*—The Human Folly—at a book-signing event in Bailey Hall on Thursday April 9. This is Adabra’s third published novel. The work traces the observations of its main character—a ghost—that travels between the Americas, Europe and Africa while touching on issues of violence, discrimination and misunderstanding. “I believe everyone can see something familiar in what the ghost sees through his eyes,” Adabra said. *La Bêtise Humaine* follows the exploration of existential themes seen throughout Adabra’s first two books. Several department Chairs, faculty, staff and students, as well as guests, attended the event.



Seated at front, from left to right, Drs. Kanate Dahouda, Kodjo Adabra, Kate Fredericks during book signing event.

CLC IN THE COMMUNITY

One of the goals of the Center of Languages and Cultures (CLC) is to develop social activities that permit learning about other cultures within the framework of meeting basic human needs. With this goal in mind, the Center offered translation services to Livingston County Department of Health. Cathy Higgins, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian, Water Program/Watershed Inspector, appreciated all of the efforts and advice on putting the Blue Green Algae Brochure together. The CLC also expanded its services to offer tutoring to Geneseo Middle/High Schoolers. Carly Jones was our first tutor. Ms. Carney, head of the program in the Geneseo Central School, complimented Carly on her professionalism and preparedness. Thank you Carly for being such a positive example of SUNY Geneseo Language students!

TUTOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

We are grateful to our upper-level French and Spanish students who volunteered this year to tutor our lower-level students in the evening in the Center for Languages and Literatures and those who helped students on an individual basis. Our tutors provided a total of 800 hours to our language students in need of assistance. Their service in terms of sharing their time and talent are much appreciated. During the end of year celebration event organized by professors Nadjet-Sarrab-Bekri and Beth Adams, our tutors received Certificates of Appreciation for their volunteerism.



Professors Nadjet-Sarrab-Bekri and Beth Adams (far right) with the student tutors and Dr. Lori Bernard (sixth from the front left)

YO PUEDO: A NEW APPROACH TO OUR BEGINNING LEVEL SPANISH CLASSES

In the Fall of 2014, various members of the Spanish faculty met to discuss ideas that would help students gain a certain knowledge base as they progress through the required courses. As a result of those meetings, Spanish Lecturers María Rocío Vallejo-Alegre and Elizabeth Silvaggio-Adams commenced writing a textbook, *Yo puedo* (meaning “I can”). The name was based on students who, upon entering the beginning level courses, often say to themselves or to us that they can't speak or write in Spanish even though they have had some prior exposure to the language via other school experiences. We wanted to show them, right from the beginning, that they can. The approach reflects skills that support the ACTFL guidelines presented in such a way as to

encourage students to apply themselves and study concepts at home so they come prepared to use them in more communicative ways in class (the flipped classroom model.) Encouraging this approach toward self-responsibility for learning will hopefully also extend itself to our students' approach to their future careers.

The benefits of *Yo puedo* to the students are numerous. It not only provides them with a solid knowledge base upon which to improve their language skills to become globally responsible citizens but also gives them a more economical option in comparison to the high cost textbooks from publishing companies. In addition to that, authors María Rocío Vallejo-Alegre and Elizabeth Silvaggio-Adams (class of '01) are donating 100% of the profits from the sale of these texts to the Spanish Alumni Scholarship Fund and the Eric Briggs Memorial Fund, both of which benefit students studying Spanish language, literature and culture.

VISIT FROM MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY

In April, the department was pleased to receive as guests Drs. Monique Oyallon (French) and Fanny Arango-Keeth (Spanish) from the Department of English and Modern Languages of Mansfield University (PA). This meeting was designed to provide an opportunity to discuss current trends in the field and also to determine if an ongoing exchange of ideas between our institutions might be mutually beneficial. We look forward to exploring the potential for further collaboration with our Mansfield colleagues when school resumes in the fall 2015.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015 GRADUATES

Congratulations to Languages and Literatures majors, minors, and concentration students from the class of 2015! 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 & ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ The ***Gérard Gouvernet Ambassadorship in French Language and Culture*** was awarded to **Maria Suarez** to support her research project during her 2015 summer study abroad in Senegal.
- ❖ The ***Rose Alent Scholarship*** was awarded to **Ashleigh Peterson** and **Emily Peterson**.
- ❖ **Natalie Benson** was awarded the ***Spanish Alumni Scholarship Award***.
- ❖ The ***Eric Briggs Memorial Scholarship*** went to **Krista Roncone**.
- ❖ The following recent graduates in French will serve as English teaching assistants on the highly selective French government's TAPIF program in 2015-16: **Nathalie Grogan** (in Lyon), **Laura Molden** (in Rouen), **Joelle Orecki** (Guadeloupe), **Elisabeth Piper** (in Reims), **Adam Wage** (in Amiens), and **Deanna Williams** (in Versailles).
- ❖ French minor **Rebecca Miller** is one of the two American students selected nationwide to receive a prestigious Fulbright Award to teach in Senegal in 2015-16.
- ❖ **Matthew McClure '16** was recipient of a Killam Fellowship from Fulbright Canada that enabled him to study at the Université Sainte-Anne in Pointe-de-l'Église, Nova Scotia, in spring 2015.
- ❖ **Julia Mizutani**, a French major, is one of the three winners, nationwide, of *The Lafayette Debates*; the *Lafayette Debates* are opened online competition in French for French-speaking debaters. The French Embassy and The George Washington University have revived *The Lafayette Debates* in the belief that now, more than ever, a vigorous and respectful transatlantic dialogue is of the utmost importance not only to the citizens of the French Republic and the United States, but also the world. This year, debaters were asked to reply in French to the affirmative speech on the 2015 Lafayette Climate Debates topic, "All states have an obligation to anticipate, prevent and minimize the causes of climate change, and mitigate its adverse effects" Competitors were judged on the strength of their arguments and contribution to the discussion raised by the opening speech, as well as their speaking and multimedia presentation skills. As a winner, Julia will participate in "LabCitoyen" 2015: a trip to Paris, France from July 5th to July 15th 2015, including a prestigious activities program, all expenses paid. Congratulations, Julia!



The Lafayette Debates Winner Julia Mizutani

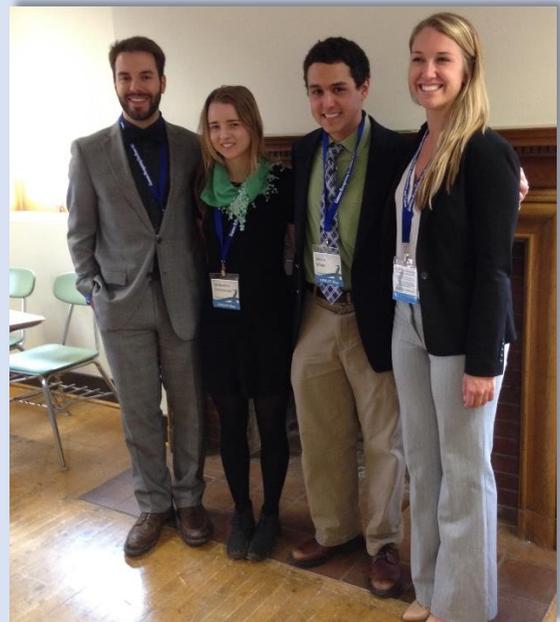
- ❖ “La Belle Epoque”: In December 2014, the Geneseo Dance Ensemble presented “La Belle Epoque,” conceived of and choreographed by senior French major **Lisa Cordara** '15, who also graduated with a minor in Dance. In her words, “the goal of this piece was to depict the culture of 1920’s Paris by portraying the individual freedom, exuberant behavior, and sizzling social dynamics of a time when great writers and artists, such as the Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso, and many others lived.” Highlights of the composition included “images of flappers, bobbed hair, and cigarette holders” as well as “women in intimate conversations sipping wine in cafés, selling and promoting the books of great men in bookstores, and dancing together in bars and salons”. A true celebration in honor of the generation of women artists of 1920’s Paris!
- ❖ Graduating Senior **Anna Katomski** (Spanish major/Latin American Studies minor) will be teaching English this coming year for Chile’s Ministry of Education through the English Open Doors Program. Anna’s prior accomplishments include participation in Argentina’s Universidad Nacional de Córdoba full-immersion program, mission trips to Nicaragua, and serving as Geneseo’s Latin American Studies program assistant. In 2014 she was co-director of the Diaspora’s of Color Undergraduate Symposium.

GREAT DAY, GENESEO

On April 21, 2015, SUNY Geneseo held its ninth annual G.R.E.A.T. (Geneseo Recognizing Excellence, Achievement, and Talent) Day. The following students from the

department of Languages and Literatures presented their research under our faculty sponsorship:

- ❖ A panel of three French language students, on the topic “Littérature et paroles en France au XXe siècle”, was sponsored by Dr. Beverly Evans. “Vive l’occitan! L’impact d’une langue qui est soupçonnée de mourir” by **Harrison Dole**, “L’Agneau mystique, élément de La Chute” by **Jacqueline Christensen**, “ ‘Comme c’est curieux et quelle coïncidence bizarre’: les auteurs français et l’absurde” by **Adam Wage**. Lisa Cordara was the chair of the panel.



Pictured, left to right: Harrison Dole, Jacqueline Christensen, Adam Wage, Lisa Cordara.

- ❖ Students in Dr. Rose McEwen’s Latin American Feminist Authors course, offered in fall 2014, presented a panel at the 2015 GREAT Day under the title, “Breaking Bad: Demystifying Patriarchy in Latin America”. Participants, whose essays were presented in Spanish to a filled classroom, were:
Kayla Pérez: “Rosario Ferré’s Narratives: Symbolic Face-Offs with Puerto Rico’s Patriarchal Society”,
Alejandra Romero: “Elena Poniatowska: Voicing the Voiceless”,
Emily Tenenbaum: “Eva Perón: The Face of Argentinian Feminism”. Anna Katomski, a graduating Spanish major/Latin American Studies minor, served as the panel’s chair.



Pictured, left to right: Emily Tenenbaum, Kayla Pérez, Alejandra Romero, Dr. Rose McEwen, Anna Katomski.



Rebecca Miller presenting at the college at Brockport

STUDENTS CLUBS ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Student **Brandon Gaylord** presented “Al-Ghazali's Understanding of Relationships” (Faculty sponsor: Akil Aliaysh)
- ❖ In poster sessions, **Wilson Tan** and **Phillip Woo** presented their work on “How Will the Ping Pong Game Effect the Chinese Language & Culture” (Faculty sponsor: Jasmine Tang).

STUDENT CONFERENCES OUTSIDE GENESEO

- ❖ **Jacqueline Christensen** (French) presented “Van Eyck’s Mystic Lamb, element in Camus’ La Chute” at SURC (Suny Undergraduate Research Conference) at the College at Brockport in April (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Beverly Evans)
- ❖ **Adams Wage** (French) presented " 'Comme c'est curieux et quelle coïncidence bizarre': French Authors and the Absurd" at the COPLAC's Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference at Keene State College in New Hampshire in November (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Beverly Evans)
- ❖ **Holly Kandel** (French) presented "In the Wake of Female Genital Mutilation: Perspectives and Proactive Approaches" at NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) at the Eastern Washington University in April (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kodjo Adabra)
- ❖ **Rebecca Miller** (French) presented “Rethinking the Internet and the May 2014 Election Outcomes for Young South Africans” at SURC (Suny Undergraduate Research Conference) at the College at Brockport in April, and at NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) at the Eastern Washington University in the same month (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kodjo Adabra)

LA CASA HISPÁNICA

In Fall 2014, the Spanish club members visited the Rochester market to get empanadas; they also celebrated several Latin American Independence days with short presentations about each one. During their participation in the Hispanic Heritage Family Day in Rochester, they played "Juego de la oca", or “Game of the Goose”, which is a Spanish game dating back to medieval times. The club members also went to D'Mangu, a Caribbean restaurant in Henrietta, watched the movie "No" about the plebiscite in 1988 against Augusto Pinochet, participated in the Dia de los Muertos altar competition and organized a study abroad information session.

In Spring 2015, they held a BINGO meeting for new members in February, and on International Women’s Day in March, they gave a presentation about important and powerful women from Hispanic countries. The following month, they hosted the event "Justicia, Fair Trade in Latin America" from which all proceeds from tickets and bracelets sales went to Mayan Hands, a non-profit Fair Trade organization in Guatemala; musical performances and a Spanish Spelling bee with prizes were also part of the event. A new Spanish club e-board was elected in May.

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS

The French club, led by student president Nathalie Grogan, had a very active 2014-2015 academic year. The annual

Pétanque tournament and participation in the College's Student Expo took place during the Fall Semester. The major event for Fall 2014 was National French Week, where the club welcomed several speakers, presented films, and hosted a variety of group meals. During the Spring 2015 semester, the French club participated in Multilingualism night, and provided a wide range of cultural activities during their weekly meetings on campus. The main event for Spring 2015 was the club's annual trip to Montréal, which includes visits to major landmarks in the city as well as group tours and meals.



French Club trip to Montreal in April 2015

DER DEUTSCHE VEREIN

The German club has been especially busy this year with events. Under President Benjamin Conard and Vice - Presidents Codi Lyke and Gibson Henschler, the club created a Facebook page in order to alert everyone of upcoming events. The club participated in the annual opening of the Fall semester at the campus-wide WOW event and welcomed several new members. In October 2014, the club held its annual Oktoberfest in Welles 210. Music was provided by members of the Geneseo String Band and authentic German food was served. In December, the club participated in the Holiday Festival, where all clubs on campus come together to participate in holiday activities and projects. In March 2015, the club also tabled at the Multiculturalism Fair. Members were dressed in authentic German outfits and Fair-Trade chocolate was provided by President Conard. The club is eagerly organizing the WOW events for Fall '15 and creating a menu for the next Oktoberfest.

THE SPOTLIGHTS CORNER

TESTIMONY FROM ALUMNA JESSICA MOORE

How Spanish has helped Geneseo alumna Jessica Moore, now Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Psychology Primary Care Family, in her profession:

"I am happy to give a real-life example of how I use Spanish all the time! I work directly with patients in clinical settings as a psychologist working primarily with children, adolescents, and their families. Many of the people I see are Spanish speaking only or bilingual, coming primarily from Puerto Rico and Cuba. I am often in situations where I use Spanish because we have a shortage of interpreters, a person or another provider needs help, or to build a therapeutic relationship with the family. As you likely remember, I am not fluent, but I can get an idea across at this point and this has really been a wonderful gift. Families appreciate when I use my Spanish (especially when I struggle because it makes me less intimidating), and when they can teach me something in session (vs. the power differential always being the other direction). Also, some families do not want to use interpreters for privacy reasons and so we meet in the middle with our language skills (as long as there are not safety concerns relevant to care). In addition to the communication piece, there is also great value to the cultural pieces of education that were incorporated in teaching at Geneseo. It helps me provide culturally sensitive care and conceptualization as I complete assessments and plan treatment. I similarly used my Spanish while in graduate school working with a small caseload of immigrant families from Mexico."

-Jessica Moore.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNUS HARRISON DOLE

When it comes to involvement in campus life, few could compare to Harrison Dole who just graduated with majors in French and English. A familiar figure to his peers as 2014-15 President of Student Association, he represented the student body as a member of the Presidential Search Committee that interviewed candidates for the College's top administrative position this past year. He also served as a

Resident Assistant, Summer Orientation Adviser and later Orientation Coordinator for New Student Programs, and Teaching Assistant in FREN 101 over the course of his Geneseo career. Harry's wide range of intellectual interests led him to pursue a Directed Study in fall 2014 that culminated in the presentation, "Vive l'occitan! l'impact d'une langue qui est soupçonnée de mourir," during the College's 9th Annual G.R.E.A.T. Day. By tracking characteristics of the language that are difficult to quantify, particularly as preserved in music, he was able to illustrate how the cultural impact of the language has created an environment favorable to its preservation. Talented in the arts, Harry sang with the Southside Boys a cappella ensemble and even branched out into dance by joining the SUNY Geneseo Bhangra competitive Indian dance team. He will begin serving with the Rochester Americorps program in the coming academic year, working on college preparation with high school students in the Rochester City School District.

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.

PERÚ/ECUADOR

Geneseo's partnership with the Academia Latinoamericana in Cusco, Perú and Quito, Ecuador continues to be a success.

Over the past year, 16 students studied abroad in either Perú or Ecuador. Students are able to study language, literature and culture classes on summer or semester programs.

Many students opt to take culturally relevant courses such as Indigenous Cultures or participate in extracurricular activities such as salsa dancing or excursions to the Amazon. No trip to South America would be complete without visiting Machu Picchu in Perú or the Cloud Forest of Ecuador. **Dr. Lori Bernard** serves as the director of this program.



Geneseo student Kelsey Flynn with friends at Machu Picchu

DAKAR, SENEGAL

Dr. Kodjo Adabra continues to lead 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 West African Research Center (WARC) will serve as the new academic home for the group in the upcoming years; WARC is where Dr. Adabra's course on the civilization of west francophone Africa is offered every morning. Students live and take their meals with Senegalese families. Weekend trips take 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 get to learn to make Batik, a cloth that is traditionally produced using a manual wax-resistant dyeing technique, receive drumming and traditional dance lessons, and experience horseback riding. Other afternoon activities include traditional ballet and music festivals, and visits to the French cultural center, Cheick Anta Diop University, museums, markets, a Koranic school and a mosque.



A drumming class during a weekend excursion to the town of Toubab Dialaw in Senegal

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, remains 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. During the fall, we had the pleasure of welcoming to campus Professor Judith Misrahi-Barak, Responsable pédagogique des programmes anglophones at Paul-Valéry, who held information sessions for interested students. Program participants in 2014-15

were Nicole Hazlett, Austin Nojaim, Meghan Saeli, Victoria Sandock, and Emily Schmelzer. **Dr. Beverly Evans** continues to serve as program advisor.

PARIS, FRANCE

In 2014-15, the following students participated in the program for international students at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne that is co-sponsored by Geneseo and SUNY Oswego: Sarah Buckowski, Erin Dougherty, Emily Matthews, Robert Matina, and Hannah Taylor. Students who are highly proficient may also pursue an internship and/or take courses in an immersion setting at other Parisian universities through the Mission Interuniversitaire de Coordination d'Échanges Franco-Américains (MICEFA) consortium.

WESTERN HUMANITIES I IN SPAIN

Dr. Lori Bernard and **Mrs. Felisa Brea** accompanied 11 students on the inaugural Humanities 220 in Spain trip. During one month, students studied the canonical works of Western Humanities, along with learning more about the Spanish culture and the influence of Peninsular authors on the Western canon. By travelling from Central Spain (Madrid/Toledo) to the north (Santiago de Compostela/Burgos) and finally to the south (Córdoba), students were able to appreciate the cultural, historical, and linguistic diversity found in Spain. The highlight of the trip was hiking part of the medieval pilgrimage, the Camino de Santiago.



Geneseo group overlooking Atlantic Ocean in Galicia, Spain

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, Budapest, Hungary, and Vienna, Austria, in May-June 2014. 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. Accompanying the group was Teaching Assistant, **Mr. Kyle Hoyng**, who led discussions on surviving concentration camps and Russian gulags.

WESTERN HUMANITIES II IN PARIS

Summer 2014 marked the ninth year for this program, which was indeed a special one because of the World War I Centennial and the 70th anniversary of D-Day. **Dr. Beverly Evans**, **Dr. Kathryn Fredericks**, and fourteen students spent a month based in Paris that included numerous visits of pertinent sites in the city, as well as overnight trips to the Loire Valley, Ypres and Flanders Fields in Belgium, the Caen Memorial Centre for History and Peace, and the World War II landing beaches.



HUMN II in Paris, summer 2014

FACULTY NEWS

DR. KODJO ADABRA Dr. Kodjo Adabra was nominated Coordinator of the French Language Program in November 2014 for a 3-year term. He was also nominated Public Relations Liaison (includes Newsletter, Website and other P.R. duties) of the Department of Languages & Literatures. In December 2014, he joined the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate as Treasurer. In terms of scholarship, he presented at two international conferences: "La littérature togolaise dans le collimateur de la critique universitaire aux Etats-Unis" on March 31 at the Université de Lomé, in Togo (West Africa), and "L'Afrique au secours de l'Afrique à l'ère de l'interventionnisme néocolonial" on May 3 at the 46th Annual Convention of Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) in Toronto, CANADA. He also participated, on April 8, in a roundtable discussion panel on topic "What Happens There, Matters Here" (Social Justice Series) initiated by the GOLD Leadership program at SUNY Geneseo. Dr. Adabra sponsored two student research projects which were presented in April at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the Eastern Washington University (by Rebecca Miller and Holly Kandel). His peer-reviewed article "Peuples Noirs, Peuples Africains à la croisée idéologique avec Fanon et Achebe" was published in Fall 2014 in the journal *Nouvelles Études Francophones* and his other accepted article " 'Little Senegal' ou le voyage solitaire vers l'imaginaire identitaire" is forthcoming in *French Literature Series*. During his book signing event on campus on April 9, he presented his newly published novel *La bêtise humaine* ('The Human Folly') to the college community. He served on two search committees (tenure-track position in French, and the college registrar position) and received three recognitions: Honorary membership Certificate by Geneseo chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society (February 26), Most influential professor at Faculty Recognition Day (April 17), and the Hurrell/McNaron Award for Scholarly Presentation (May 7). Dr. Adabra remains the campus Director of the summer program in Senegal.

DR. CHRISTINA AGOSTINELLI Dr. Christina Agostinelli teaches a variety of Spanish language and linguistics courses. In the spring of 2015 she developed an exciting new experimental course in sociolinguistics called "Bilingualism in the Spanish-speaking World". To help inspire students to learn and use second languages she organized 'Translation and Interpretation Night' in February, as well as 'Multilingualism Night' in March. Dr. Agostinelli serves on the Assessment Committee for which she developed two new ACTFL based rubrics for both oral and written proficiency. In March she gave a workshop called "Google it!"

Interactive Projects with Purpose on Google Sites" at the Southern Conference on Language Teaching. In April, she presented research paper called "Imagining the Ideal L2 Self: Motivation and Differences in L2 Learners' Priorities" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. In May she represented SUNY Geneseo at the 2015 SUNY Conference on Instruction and Technology while presenting "Collaborative Open Educational Resource Building as Assessment" which discussed an open educational resource built by her students in the SPAN 323: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics course in spring 2014. In addition to conducting her own research, Dr. Agostinelli encourages her students to participate in research. She is currently serving as adviser to Taylor Powers for her research project entitled "Non-Native Speaker Perception of Native Speaker Dialect Authenticity".

DR. LORI BERNARD Dr. Lori Bernard specializes in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Literature, but this year provided her with a wide variety of opportunities that allowed her to explore other areas of interest. Summer 2014 was the inaugural Humanities 220 in Spain trip. Along with her co-organizer, Mrs. Felisa Brea, Dr. Bernard took 11 students to Spain where they studied literary, historical, and cultural masterpieces as well as participated in a variety of cultural activities in four different cities in Spain. During the fall semester, Dr. Bernard worked closely with our new lecturers in Spanish/French and our new language coordinators in French, Spanish and Less Commonly Taught Languages to strengthen our lower-level language programs and to enhance the cultural and service opportunities available to students. Dr. Bernard also collaborated with Mrs. Beth Adams and Mrs. Rocío Vallejo on the creation of the department's new Spanish textbook, *Yo puedo*. In addition to serving as the editor, she also piloted the textbook in her SPAN 101 class in the spring. The textbook, along with the flipped learning model, will enable students to enhance their communication skills. Along with her teaching responsibilities, Dr. Bernard was active in both research and service activities. In the fall, Dr. Bernard's article "What is Medieval Spanish Drama Anyway?" was published in the journal *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*. Additionally, she presented a paper "Pliegos, cancioneros and Women's Spaces" at the GEMELA Conference, Traçando Caminhos, at the Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal). Throughout the academic year, Dr. Bernard served on a number of committees such as serving as chair of the Research Council, a senator on the Policy Committee and as the General Education Foreign Language Representative. In this capacity, she attended many meetings dealing with Globalization, General Education Learning Outcomes, search candidates (president, registrar) and holding Preview Day events and Admissions Chats. Finally, Dr. Bernard continued as the Program Director of

Geneseo's Study Abroad Program in Perú, Ecuador and Bolivia.

DR. BEVERLY EVANS Dr. Beverly Evans branched out from her specialization in Medieval French literature and music to embark on a significant research project on French poetry and music of the Great War. Supported by the College's 2014 Roemer Summer Faculty Fellowship, she made a presentation, "Ah! C'est la guerre': Life and Afterlife of French WW I Music, during the "Music of War: 1914-1918" conference at the British Library, London, in August. Another area of interest, French-Canadian literature, led her to write an article on Michel Tremblay's play *Les Belles Soeurs* for *The Literary Encyclopedia*. Her review of *Poet Heroines in Medieval French Narrative: Gender and Fictions of Literary Creation* by Brooke Heidenreich Findley (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) appears in *Women in French Studies* (2015). Dr. Evans supervised four students' research projects this year, two of which resulted in presentations at conferences: the COPLAC Northeast Undergraduate Research Conference in the fall and the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference in the spring. Dr. Evans was awarded the 2014 SUNY Geneseo President's Award for Excellence in Academic Advising. As instructor of Western Humanities II in Paris, a program she founded and has participated in every year since 2006, she spent the month of July in France. College-wide service included membership on the Global Geneseo Self-Study Committee, as well as participation in the planning of the College's Medieval Feast, at which she sang with the musical ensemble. For the ninth year, Professor Evans was North American bibliographer for *Encomia*, the annual publication of the International Courtly Literature Society. She served for a fourth year as Executive Director of Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society, while continuing to advise Geneseo's Mu Iota chapter. An enthusiastic member of the Cornell Club of Rochester, she serves on the organization's Board of Directors and plans arts-related events for area alumni.

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, and was a Faculty Moderator of the Pi Delta Phi Spring 2014 & Spring 2015 Induction Ceremonies. Dr. Fredericks served on the following committees: Department: Academic Affairs, Department Scholarship Committee (French); College: Diversity Commission, Fulbright & Boren Scholarship Committee, Faculty Senate (Undergraduate Curriculum Committee), and the Presidential Scholars Committee. In June 2015, she published an entry on "Voltaire's *l'Ingénu*" in *The Literary Encyclopedia*. She also published a Book Review

through *Medievally Speaking*, the web-based section of *Studies in Medievalism* in July 2014 on *Medievalist Enlightenment: From Charles Perrault to Jean-Jacques Rousseau* by Alicia C. Montoya, D.S. Brewer, Cambridge, 2013. Additionally, Dr. Fredericks submitted an article for publication entitled: "Visual and Philosophical Spaces in *l'Encyclopédie*", and is currently working on the following article: "Geography in Voltaire's *Les Questions sur l'Encyclopédie*". She presented at two conferences during the 2014-2015 academic year: "The Feminine in Voltaire's Philosophical Tales" at the Southeastern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS) Annual Meeting at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL in February 2015, and " 'Social Space' in *l'Encyclopédie* and *les Questions sur l'Encyclopédie* " at the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (CSECS) Annual Meeting in Montréal, Québec in October 2014. On May 15, 2015, Dr. Fredericks was the 2015 invited Alumni Speaker at the SUNY Buffalo Commencement Ceremony for the UB Department of Romance Languages & Literatures (SUNY Buffalo, Center for Tomorrow). In July-August 2014, Dr. Fredericks served as the Program Director on the Western Humanities II Summer Study Abroad Program in Paris, France.

DR. JOAQUÍN GÓMEZ Dr. Joaquín 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 Spring semester and the Spelling Bee Contest in April. He also participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester during the month of October. He served on the Department Personnel Committee. Dr. Gómez participated in a panel during the presentation of the Spanish movie *Ocho apellidos vascos* at Monroe Community College on May 29.

DR. CYNTHIA KLIMA Dr. Cynthia Klima completed an 8th year of Study Abroad in Prague, Vienna and Budapest for the Humanities 221 course. Twenty-five students, Ms. Marianne Houghton and Teaching Assistant, Mr. Kyle Hoyng, were on board as assistants to the instructor. In addition, Dr. Klima taught two courses online in July-August in Central European Cultural History and German Composition. During the 2014-15 academic year, Ms. Emily Scioli (Political Science '15) and Dr. Klima worked closely together on Ms. Scioli's honors thesis for the Honors Program at SUNY-Geneseo. Her topic, "Politics and Professionalism: Women in Western, Central, and Eastern Europe", was presented at the GREAT Day celebration of student research and creativity in April 2015. In October 2014, Dr. Klima accompanied three students to Madison, Wisconsin to investigate graduate school in the Departments of German, History and Curriculum and

Instruction. The students learned about the departments, their requirements and what it takes to apply to graduate and be a successful graduate student. In addition, Dr. Klima traveled to Keene, New Hampshire with the COPLAC presentations at Keene College. Two of her students, Ms. Stephanie Wilcoxon (Math and English '15) and Ms. Christina Mortellaro (English '15) presented papers on the theme of women in the Czech Republic. Dr. Klima also continued her advisement of the German Club and helped the club to organize events throughout the semester. She also taught two additional directed studies, Czech 199 and Central Europe 299. She continued her service to the department as Union Representative, member of the Academic Affairs Committee, the Humanities Core Committee, the campus Globalization Committee and the campus Scholarship and Research Committee. She also co-taught Humanities 221 in Spring 2015 with Professor Todd Goehle from the Department of History.

DR. KYLE MATTHEWS Dr. Kyle James Matthews was one of the founding members of the Geneseo Consortium on Latin American Studies *GCLAS), a cluster of new hires in a variety of fields dedicated to attracting and promoting scholarly, academic, and social events related to Latin America on the Geneseo campus. He continued as webmaster for the Department of Languages and Literatures, and also served in his first year as faculty advisor for the Spanish Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi. Dr. Matthews completed articles titled "Hijos de Mamá Carlota: Trauma histórica y la construcción de la identidad nacional en Noticias del Imperio de Fernando del Paso" [Children of Mama Carlota: Historical Trauma and National Identity in Fernando del Paso's News from the Empire] and "Baroque Jazz: Toward a New Understanding of Musical Form in Alejo Carpentier's *Concierto barroco*". He also presented papers at several regional and international conferences, including "The Ordinarity of the Extraordinary in Daniela Tarazona's *The Kiss of the Hare*" in a science-fiction seminar at the American Comparative Literature Association in March 2015; "Reading Backwards, Moving Forwards: Ignacio Solares's *Oblique Neoliberal Critique in Madero, el otro*" at the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Latin American Studies in April 2015; and "Un estado en crisis: el género, la política, y la política del género de *El Zarco* de Ignacio Altamirano" [A State in Crisis: Gender (and) Politics in Ignacio Altamirano's *El Zarco*] at the XXI Annual Juan Bruce-Novoa Mexicanists conference in Irvine, California. He continues to be involved in events sponsored by the Department of Languages and Literatures and the Spanish Club.

DR. ROSE MCEWEN Dr. Rose McEwen continued serving as coordinator of the Latin American Studies program, co-coordinator of the Alan Lutkus International Film Series, member (elected) of both the College Professional Leave

Review Committee and of the College Faculty Personnel Committee, appointed chair of the department's Spanish M.S.Ed. Committee, advisor of Geneseo's chapter of the Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Language Honor Society, member of the Cultural Harmony Week committee, member of the department's Academic Affairs Committee, and director of study abroad programs in Argentina and Costa Rica. She organized the visits, guest lectures and talks to the SUNY Geneseo Community of Universidad Nacional de Córdoba's Professor María José Buteler the fall of 2014, and of Chilean poet Pía Barros the spring of 2015. She also edited the Department's Five-Year Program Review. She is currently organizing two fall performances at Geneseo's Wadsworth Auditorium of El Quijote by New York City-based Repertorio Español.

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.

ALUMNI NEWS

2015

Alexis BRIEANT (FREN) will be a Ph.D. Student and Graduate Research Assistant in Developmental Psychology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech), starting in Fall 2015.

Paige CUDDIHY (FREN) is currently an Assistant Residence Hall Coordinator at Penn State University where she will start a Master of Science (M.S.) graduate program in the Fall.

Ui Heang HUR (FREN) has been accepted to the graduate program in International Politics/ International Law at the Université du Québec in Montréal, Canada.

Nicole THEAL (FREN) has been accepted to law school at Boston University.

2014

Joseph GERAGHTY (SPAN) is in a Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of

Medicine (M1) and he is a MD/PhD Candidate.

Marianne MACALUSO (FREN) was admitted to George Washington University's Masters in Public Health program.

Matthew PECHMAN (SPAN) is currently serving as a teacher in the English Opens Doors Program in Chile. The program is an extension of the Chilean Ministry of Education, and places native English speakers in Chilean public schools to help improve the listening and speaking skills of students.

Chikamso ODUME (SPAN) is a Middle School Reading Teacher in Chicago, IL, for the very competitive non-profit organization *Teach For America* (since August 2014).

Maria-Gratias SINON (FREN) was accepted into the Master-PhD's program in French of the University at Buffalo which she began in July 2014.

Matthew SKRZYPCZYK (FREN) enrolled in the University at Buffalo's MA/PhD graduate program in French literature. He is the recipient of a Teaching Assistantship as well as a competitive fellowship.

Lauren SLEZAK (FREN) was accepted into the Master's program at Middlebury College which she began in July 2014.

2013

Russell ADAVE got a teaching position at Middletown Christian School in Middletown, NY where he worked as a Social Studies teacher and a Spanish teacher assistant for grades 7th and 8th. He will be attending Binghamton University in fall 2015 to pursue his Master's Degree in Geographical Sciences.

Robert BRIWA (FREN) was 2014-15 President of Beta Psi chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographic Honor Society at Kansas State University, where he is a graduate student in Geography.

KALA DeSTEFANO (FREN) works as Global Learning Leader at Reach the World, Greater New York City Area.

Megan DiBARTOLOMEO (SPAN) attends Indiana University pursuing a Master's in Spanish Linguistics.

Jessica GILBERT (FREN) entered the Ph.D. program in Geography, with focus on environmental sustainability, at the University at Buffalo.

Kevin MARRIOTT (SPAN/Adolescence Ed.) is a high school Spanish teacher in Penfield Central School District (since July 2015).

Amanda ROSALES (SPAN) is currently finishing her Master's in Spanish at NYU with a concentration in Applied Linguistics; she spent 2014-2015 in Madrid, Spain.

Brando SHUFELT (SPAN) completed a Master's in Linguistics at the University of Florida and will spend 2015-2016 as a Teaching Assistant in Spain.

Rachel TAPLIN (FREN) completed a Master's degree in French at Middlebury College.

Emily WEBB (FREN) is a Public Affairs Specialist with the Peace Corps, Greater New York City area (since September 2014).

2012

Emily GENCO (FREN) completed a M.S. in Adolescent Education in French, with K-6 extension at the University at Buffalo and is currently a French Teacher at NYC Department of Education.

Emily GONZALEZ (SPAN) received a Master's in Linguistics at the University at Buffalo. She is a Disaster Case Manager at FECS Health & Human Services in Syosset, NY (since January 2014).

Alaina IACOBUCCI (FREN) is pursuing graduate study in the Interdisciplinary Degree Program in Social Sciences at the University at Buffalo.

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

Julia McDANIEL (FREN) is Program Coordinator to Leadership Development at New York University's Stern School of Business (since July 2015).

Amanda McLAUGHLIN (SPAN) completed a MA Ed HD at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development of the George Washington University - Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, where she currently works as Executive Aide in the Philosophy Department (since 2013).

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

Megan PAOLONE (SPAN) studied in the Magazine, Newspaper & Online Journalism Master's program at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, and is currently Deputy Copy Chief at BuzzFeed.

Cladia PLANTIN (FREN) was Group Leader at The Child Center of New York and joined Peace Corps in June 2015.

Laura SAVARY (FREN) studied in the graduate program of the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY.

2011

Margaret GIORDANO (SPAN) received a Master of Education (M.Ed.), Education/Teaching of Individuals in Secondary Special Education Programs at the College of Saint Rose and is currently Special Education Teacher at Wildwood School in Albany, New York.

Ellyn JAMESON (SPAN), founded AbrePuertas in 2011, a non-profit community education center in Coya, Peru. She is also English Teacher at the Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano – ICPNA.

Erinn KEHOE (FREN, SPAN) completed her Master's degree at Columbia University Teachers College.

Sarah KEIB (SPAN) taught in Chile with the English Opens Doors volunteer program.

Sarah KOSLOSKI (SPAN) completed a Master's degree in ESL Education at the University at Buffalo in 2014. She is currently English as a Second Language Teacher in Schenectady City School District (since January 2015).

Lindsey MARTIN (FREN) is pursuing a Master of Science (MS) in Organization Development & Leadership at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia where she also works as Coordinator for Study Abroad (since November 2012).

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

Zoufishan MEHDI (SPAN) pursued a Master's in Law and Economics at the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland.

Tanya SHOOK (FREN) is Management Assistant at Enterprise Holdings in Boston, MA (since July 2014).

Kristine SZALKOWSKI (FREN) completed a MBA in Marketing at the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business

Administration of the University of Rochester and is currently VoIP Product Line Manager at Verizon in New Jersey (since August 2014).

Kara SZAMBORSKI (FREN) is International Production Supervisor at comiXology, a major distributor of digital comics, in New York City (since March 2013). 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

Rachel CRANE (FREN) is pursuing a Master's of Social Work in Clinical Mental Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She is currently Project Manager at Global Scientific Solutions for Health (GSSHealth) in Baltimore, MD (since August 2014).

David DUERR (FREN, graduate level) accepted a French teacher position in September 2012 at Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY. Hackley is a member of the Ivy Preparatory School League.

Philip GAGNON (FREN) completed a Master's degree from the 'Institut d'Étude du Développement Économique et Social' of the Université de Paris 1-Sorbonne in September 2013.

Hannah HUHR (FREN) is a Grade 1 teacher at PS 158 in New York City (since September 2012).

Marc JOHNSON (FREN) completed a Master's degree in Philosophy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Amanda MOON (FREN) is teaching 3rd grade at Park Road Elementary School in Pittsford, NY (since 2013).

Rosa PILLCURIMA (SPAN) is pursuing a Master's in Linguistics at the University of Florida.

Danielle RELYEA (GERM) completed a M.F.A. in opera at the Boston Conservatory of Music. She is currently Editor at Alexander Street Press in Alexandria, Virginia (since November 2014).

2009

Andrew BUTTRAM (FREN) is a Long Term Substitute Teacher in West Seneca Schools, NY (since March 2014).

Lucie COATES (FREN) has been an Alumni Counselor at TEAM Charter Schools: A KIPP Region, in Newark, NJ, since July 2013. She previously served with Teach for America.

Evan IACOBUCCI (FREN) pursued graduate studies in Urban Planning at the University at Buffalo.

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

2008

Ariane BAER-HARPER (Masters, FREN) has accepted a new position to begin in fall 2015, teaching French at Allendale Columbia School, Rochester.

Tanya FARNUNG-MORRISON (SPAN), is an ABD (Ph.D. student) in Spanish at the University at Buffalo; she received an Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching Assistants in 2015.

Jeremy STILLMAN (SPAN) is a Hypnotist and Integrative Life Coach at Redondo Beach in California.

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 and Client Liaison at LASPAU Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas, a non-profit affiliate of Harvard University, where her work deals with scholarship grantees from Latin America.

Jennifer O'MEARA (FREN) teaches mathematics at Warren County High School, Warrenton, NC.

Mary Caitlin (Scanlan) WRIGHT (SPAN) pursued doctoral studies in Foreign and Second Language Education at the University at Buffalo.

2006

Jason CONWAY (SPAN) worked as a Finance Associate at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and currently serves on its Board of Directors (since January 2015).

Joseph GIANFAGNA (FREN) completed his pediatric residency at upstate Medical University in Syracuse and has been practicing as a pediatrician in Watertown, NY, since 2014.

Elizabeth HOAGLAND (SPAN) completed a Master's in Education and licensure through Colorado's Regis University. She was hired, in 2012, to teach Spanish at Summit High School in Breckenridge, CO.

Kate ORTENZI (SPAN) completed a Master of Science (MS) (in 2014) in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development and a Master's in Public Policy at the University of Maryland College Park. She taught Economics, Technology and Environment at the same University.

Nicole REED (FREN) has been a French teacher at Burger Middle School in Farmington, NY, since September 2008.

2005

Melissa (George) BENNETT (FREN) is a Public Finance Associate at Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, in the Albany area (since July 2012).

Logan Rath (SPAN) is an Associate Librarian (Digital Initiatives Librarian) at The College at Brockport, SUNY.

2004

Colin O'DONNELL (FREN), currently teaches French at East Senior High School in West Seneca, NY.

2002

Peter JOHNSON (SPAN) has been working as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State since January 2012.

2001

Kathleen E. BARTELS (SPAN) received in 2013 a Ph.D. in Spanish at the Catholic University of America in Washington,

D.C., and is currently a Spanish teacher at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD.

Megan (Allen) Williams (FREN) is the Executive Secretary of the Welsh North American Association in Trumansburg, NY (since January 2012).

2000

Christopher MARTIN (FREN) is Director, Supply Chain & Customer Care, at Van Cleef & Arpels in greater NYC area (since October 2013).

1998

Alexia MELLOR (FREN) is a PhD Researcher in Fine Art at Newcastle University in United Kingdom (since 2014).

Cynthia NAGLE (FREN) is currently the Marketing Director of DNV GL Energy in Albuquerque in New Mexico area (since January 2015).

1996

Emil LOU (FREN) is an Assistant Professor at the Masonic Cancer Center of the University of Minnesota Medical School (since Fall 2011).

1995

Nicole SEBASTIAN (FREN) is the Director, U.S., of the Optimus Foundation at UBS in Greater NYC area (since September 2014).

1992

Jennifer RYBAK (FREN) is a French/Spanish teacher at The Aquinas Institute of Rochester (NY).

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شكراً 謝謝你 Danke Merci Grazie 有り難う御座います Gracias спасибо



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