

CHAIR'S LETTER



Dr. Lori Bernard, Chair

As the 2015-2016 Academic Year comes to a close, I find myself impressed yet again by all that the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Languages and Literatures has achieved. The fall semester was filled with many activities and changes. In late August, the Center for Languages and Cultures moved from Fraser 202

to the newly acquired office and meeting space found in the lower level of Welles. Its close proximity to the department and faculty resulted in an increase in usage and programming. The highly successful free language tutoring program saw growth in both tutors and availability, while many clubs and classes utilized the space for different activities such as the Department Open House, Noche Maya and various directed studies. In addition to the new activities listed above, the traditional favorites such as Hispanic Heritage Month (October) and National French Week (November) continued to offer innovative and unique programming. All events were well attended by students, faculty, alumni and members of the community. Although the spring semester began on a tragic note with the loss of one of our most beloved students, Kelsey Annese, the department continued to be active with the 2nd annual Multilingualism Night, participation in GREAT Day and the induction ceremonies of the National Language Honor Societies. In addition to the cultural activities, faculty and students were involved in many different academic activities: directed studies that allowed students to explore their personal research, service learning, or teaching interests; academic presentations at local, national and international conferences; scholarly publications in academic journals; or faculty led study abroad programs in France, the Czech Republic, Senegal and Spain, to name just a few. Finally, the faculty remained very active in service to the department and to the college. As my first term as department chair comes to a close, I am once again honored to head such a talented department—the faculty, staff, and students are truly amazing and I look forward to see what the new academic year will bring!

DEPARTMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

IN MEMORIAM



Kelsey Annese

It is with a heavy heart that I write these words, yet I feel that it is important to write them. Kelsey was a student in three of my courses during her time at Geneseo and I consider myself lucky to have known her. Not only was she an excellent student, she was an outstanding young woman who was taken from us way too soon. Kelsey was a kind and gentle soul who worked hard and always tried to make others feel at ease. As anyone who has ever taught knows, there is nothing worse than complete silence after a question has been asked. The awkwardness of the situation can be unbearable as everyone waits for someone to say something. If you were lucky enough to have Kelsey in your class, you knew that she would be the one who would help out, quietly raising her hand (even though she may not have wanted to do so) and contributing to the class. I will be forever grateful for her empathy and willingness to do this, just as I will always remember what a special young woman she was. Rest in peace, Kelsey.

Dr. Lori Bernard
Chair of the Department of Languages & Literatures

HONOR SOCIETIES

❖ INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES HONOR SOCIETY

On December 9, the Alpha Phi chapter of Phi Sigma Iota, the International Foreign Language Honor Society, held its yearly initiation ceremony. The organization honors outstanding achievements in any foreign language including Classics, Philology, Applied Linguistics, Comparative Literature, and Bilingual Education. Presided by Chapter President **Kami Smith**, Chapter Secretary **Collin Clark**, German minor **Kathryn Cecelia Johnson** and Faculty Advisor **Dr. Rose McEwen**, the ceremony took place in The Harding Room. Inductees for 2015 were **Aoife M. Andrews**, **Sarah Basta**, **Natalie Benson**, **Eric Buchanan**, **Gurnaina Chawla**, **Collin Clark** (Chapter Secretary), **Benjamin Conard**, **Kristy Ann Degener**, **Julianne Episcopo**, **Kelsey M. Flynn**, **Meredith Fortgang**, **David Gómez**, **Leeann Ingersoll**, **Kathryn Cecelia Johnson**, **Kateryna Kitar**, **Kathleen McGraw**, **Elisabeth Michaud**, **Shayne T. O'Brien**, **Kayla Perro**, **Zoe A. Rosen**, **Michael Southard**, **Hannah Taylor**, **Stefanie Watt**, and **Aaron Woods**. A highlight of this year's ceremony was the induction of Mr. Conard who became the chapter's 500th member. The chapter's membership currently stands at 517.

and **Nadjet Sarrab-Bekri** presided at the ceremony, which was also attended by Department chair **Dr. Lori Bernard** and **Dr. Cynthia Klima**, as well as alumni members **Rita ("Lily") Wheeler '14** and **Marc Johnson '10**, and former exchange student from the Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, **Alexandre Bonetto**.



❖ SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

The Tau Zeta Chapter Induction of Sigma Delta Pi, National Spanish Honor Society, was held on May 5, 2016 with **Dr. Kyle James Matthews**, Chapter Advisor, presiding. The following 10 students were inducted with the help of **Drs. Lori Bernard** and **Rose McEwen**: **Rachel Bellis**, **Eric S. Buchanan**, **Gurnaina Chowla**, **Kateryna Kitar**, **Ariana A. Lippi**, **Marisa Pope**, **Maria Lucille Priore**, **Caroll Rodriguez-Ruiz**, **Sara Rosenzweig**, and **Raysa Sosa**.

❖ FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY

Pi Delta Phi 2016: 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 14: **Sophie Boka**, **Collin Clark**, **Olivia Morris**, **Carrie Potter**, **Danielle Schmalz**, and **Reba Schnyder**. Undergraduates **Lorelei Morrow**, **Allyson Schmelzer**, and **Sofia Villalon** were inducted as Honorary Members. Professors **Beverly Evans**



NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK

The French Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures celebrated National French Week 2015 on and around campus from November 09 - 13. This year's activities included student study abroad presentations, a French Spelling Bee contest, and a film screening of "Frozen time" followed by discussion with University of Florida's professor Dr. Dragan Kujundzic. In addition, we welcomed a guest speaker to campus, Dr. Brigitte Weltman-Aron from the University of Florida, who spoke on war in the work of Assia Djebar. The week long event celebration ended with a group dinner at Aladdin's in Rochester.

MULTILINGUALISM NIGHT



President Denise Battles (on the left) visited the event

The 2nd Annual Multilingualism Night was held on April 13th in the Union Ballroom. This event, organized by Dr. Christina Agostinelli-Fucile, featured 44 tables on multilingualism, opportunities to learn and use languages, as well as cultural topics representing all of the languages taught in the Languages & Literatures department: Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Arabic. Attendees had the opportunity to visit the lively tables set up by language students and they learned about life in other countries, tasted traditional foods, saw authentic costumes and even had their names written in various languages. Back by popular demand, the 3rd Annual Multilingualism Night will be held next year on March 29, 2017.

MAYA NIGHT

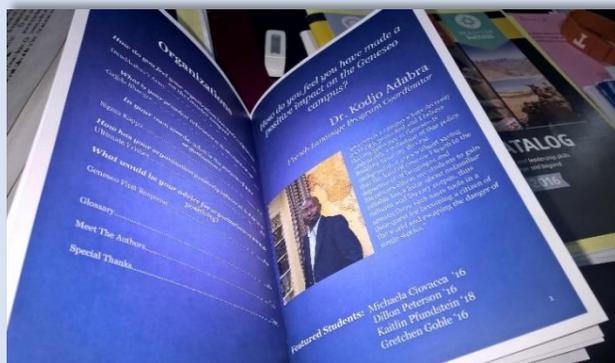
La Noche Maya was a collaborative event organized by Dr. Christina Agostinelli-Fucile, Dr. Rosemary McEwen and



their students in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. On the 19th of October, upper-level Spanish students presented various aspects of Mayan culture and daily life in Spanish to lower-level Spanish students. This was a wonderful event which fostered interaction between students in all-levels of Spanish, encouraged the use of Spanish outside the classroom, and which helped to celebrate Hispanic heritage in the Languages & Literatures Department.

FRENCH FACULTY FEATURED IN 2015 POSITIVELY GENESEO HIGHLIGHT BOOK

Assistant professor of French Dr. Kodjo Adabra was nominated and featured in the Fall 2015 Positively Geneseo Highlight Book. Positively Geneseo was established to



recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts in spreading positivity across campus; through this, Positively Geneseo emphasizes the values of Tradition, Excellence, innovation, Community and Integrity. The nominator said the following: “Professor Adabra should be featured in the highlight book because he impacted the hearts and minds of many at Geneseo in many ways than words can convey. He escaped his country of Togo due to his out-spoken activism and feminism advocacy among other things but still maintains his positivity. He may not be known as much because he’s from the French dept. which is small but I can attest that a lot of students who have had his classes can reveal amazing things about his positive energy and sense of humor.”

The Department of Student Life hosted a reception on Sunday December 6, 2015 at 2:00pm in the Hunt Room of the MacVittie College Union to recognize the nominees.

FACULTY AWARD



Three SUNY Geneseo faculty members have received a 2014-15 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Among them was Mrs. Jasmine Tang who teaches both elementary and intermediate Chinese in the Department of Languages and Literatures. The award ceremony took place during the College fall

2015 Opening Convocation on August 28th.

Tang has been a member of the Geneseo faculty since 1991. She earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology at Geneseo and received a master’s degree in liberal arts with a concentration in Chinese education from Empire State College’s School for Graduate Studies. In 2012, Tang received an Award of Distinction from the Chinese Language Education and Research Center (CLERC) for outstanding contributions to the promotion of Chinese language education in the United States. In 2013, she received the

Award for Outstanding Academic Contributions to the Field of World Languages and Culture from SUNY Empire State College. In the words of Nancy L. Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor, “Adjunct teachers across the SUNY campuses provide consistently excellent instruction and are a key component of our faculty as we seek to increase access, completion and success among students”.

GUEST FACULTY PRESENTATION



Dr. Randall Arce Alvarado, Director of the Office of International Cooperation at Costa Rica's Universidad Nacional, visited SUNY Geneseo this past September. During his week-long stay he met with our administrators and Study Abroad representatives to finalize details for an exchange agreement with UNA that will

strengthen Geneseo and UNA's partnership, initiated back in 2001. Dr. Arce Alvarado, pictured here, also gave several presentations to students about Geneseo's semester, year-long and summer programs hosted by UNA.

GUEST SPEAKER

On November 4th, 2015, guest speaker Russell Adave (Class’13, SPAN) was the first of our series of talks related to ‘Languages as the Technology of the 21st Century’, coordinated by the Center for Languages and Cultures. The title of his talk was “Spanish Speakers and the Influential Role of the Spanish Language in the Future of the U.S.”. Russell Adave was born in Peru, where he was raised until he moved to the United States in 2004. With commendable effort and determination, he overcame the challenges that immigrants face when coming to this country. In May of 2013, he graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a double



major in Spanish and Geography. Russell was hired by the Middleton Christian School in Middletown, NY, where he worked as a Social Studies teacher and a Spanish teacher assistant for grades 7th and 8th. After two years of teaching, Russell began a Master's Degree in Geography at Binghamton University. His goal is to research and analyze Middletown's Hispanic migration patterns of the past decade. Russell plans to pursue a PhD degree that will allow him to put to good use his two areas of expertise: the Spanish language and geography.

CLC IN THE COMMUNITY

During the academic year 2015-2016, the Center for Languages and Cultures, with the objective of serving the community, developed a project with the Geneseo Migrant Center to create Health Packages for Migrant Farmers.

An interdisciplinary group of students came together to help. Melissa Belsky, Aaron Woods, Leinni Mejia, YOSHUA Kohrs, Katherine Valdez, Caroll Rodriguez-Ruiz, Kenny Tse, Aoife Andrews and Miguel Valencia with the support of the Spanish Club, Kappa Sigma, Geneseo Community Health Alliance, Royal LadyKnights, Inter Residence Council, Geneseo Central School, and Yo Berry Yogurt were able to collect \$789.52 in donations. Ms. Andrews donated 10 Baby blankets and clothes for babies, Wegmans provided 50 First AID Kit, the organization Fidelis Care donated the bags, and the Livingston County Department of Health supplied personal hygiene items. As a result, 49 bags for adults and 10 bags for newborn babies were delivered directly by the Geneseo Migrant Center to families in need.



Student volunteers with Health Packages for Migrant Farmworkers

TUTOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

On April 20th, the Center for Languages and Cultures (CLC) hosted an appreciation celebration for our volunteers who served as tutors this year. There were over 40 tutors representing Chinese, French, German and Spanish who helped serve over 170 requests for assistance. The CLC offers evening tutoring hours from 7 pm-9pm that are well attended. Additional day time hours were added this year to accommodate student needs. Thank you again to our wonderful student volunteers who shared their passion and talent for languages with others.



Student tutors in attendance

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2016 GRADUATES

Congratulations to Languages and Literatures majors, minors, and concentration students from the class of 2016! 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 **Chloe Forsell**.
- ❖ The *Rose Alent Scholarship* was awarded to **Rachel Davis**.
- ❖ **Leeann Ingersoll** was awarded the *Spanish Alumni Scholarship Award*.
- ❖ The *Eric Briggs Memorial Scholarship* went to **Katherine McCormack**.
- ❖ The following recent graduates in French will serve as English teaching assistants on the highly selective French government's TAPIF program in 2016-17: **Lisa Cordara, Austin Nojaim, Devin Poniatowski, and Ursula Quinn**.
- ❖ Spanish minor **Gurnaina Chawla** (and two other Geneseo students) received a 2016 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The award was presented to her by Chancellor Zimpher who expressed her commitment to recognizing outstanding achievement students from the SUNY system; "This award is our way of saying 'thank you' to stand-out SUNY students whose achievements reflect their own impressive hard work as well as the support of their families and friends, and SUNY's world-class faculty and staff. [...] The 248 students we honor with this year's award have excelled academically, become role models on campus, and established themselves as leaders in the community. Congratulations to all of the students receiving the 2016 Chancellor's Award for Excellence", said the Chancellor. The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997 to recognize students who have best demonstrated, and have been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with

accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, campus involvement, or career achievement.



Gurnaina Chawla between Chancellor Zimpher (left) and Geneseo Vice President for Student and Campus Life Robert Bonfiglio (right)

- ❖ **Kami Smith**, French and Adolescence Education major, is one of the nine SUNY Geneseo students recipients of the 2015-17 scholarships this year through the Jewish Foundation for Education of Women-SUNY International Relations and Global Affairs Program. The two-year awards also support leadership training skills through mentoring and networking opportunities. In addition to the scholarship support, the program includes a monthly seminar series for two academic years, and paid internships in New York-based global organizations during the summer between the student's junior and senior years. It also facilitates networking, professional development and mentoring opportunities.



The scholarship program, which started in 2011, is coordinated by the SUNY Levin Institute in partnership with three SUNY campuses: Geneseo, Binghamton University and Stony Brook University. The program is open to female students of all disciplines and religions. They also must demonstrate financial need and live in New York City or within a 50-mile radius of the city. The scholars receive up to \$5,500 in

scholarship assistance each year and receive a \$3,500 stipend for the eight-week summer internship.

- ❖ On December 11, French and Comparative Literature

major Matthew McClure made a presentation to an appreciative audience of students and faculty about the three semesters he had just spent in Vietnam, Canada, and Haiti. Thanks to a US State Department Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, he was able to study at the Vietnam National University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City, where he pursued the intensive Vietnamese language program. Matt observed that French, still a widely used language in Vietnam, was an invaluable means of communication.



While in Canada, at the Université Sainte-Anne, a francophone institution in Nova Scotia, he took intensive courses for non-native speakers, in addition to courses on the linguistics of Acadian French. Finally, his experience in Haiti focused on international education and building capacity for Geneseo's Global Service Learning Abroad program.

GREAT DAY, GENESEO

On April 19, 2016, SUNY Geneseo held its tenth 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, presented on the following topics:

"Algeria, Morocco & Tunisia: The Ambivalent Status of the French Language in Muslim North Africa" by **Nathalie Kalumbwe** (sponsored by Prof. Nadjet Sarrab-Bekri).

"Sages-Femmes of Dakar, Senegal, West Africa through Firsthand Experience: An Unparalleled Health Profession in the United States" by **Maria Suarez** (sponsored by Dr. Kodjo Adabra).

"More Than Just Dolls: A Cross-Cultural Study of Vodou" by **Meghan Saeli** (sponsored by Dr. Kodjo Adabra).



Professor Nadjet Sarrab-Bekri (right) and her mentee



Dr. Kodjo Adabra (middle) and his mentees

- ❖ Dr. Rose McEwen's students presented at a panel under the title, "La voz de 'las otras': Culturas y letras en interacción". Participants, whose essays were presented in Spanish, were:

Gurnaina Chawla: “Grado de aculturación de las inmigrantes hispanoamericanas”.

Jessica Corey: “Intertextualidad entre el Popol Vuh y la Biblia”.

Morgan (Pagano) Dicory: “La Malinche en la clase de español a nivel de secundaria”.

Mallory Ganley: “La posición del adjetivo en la lengua española”.



Dr. Rose McEwen (right) and her mentees

- ❖ Student **Taylor Powers** presented “It’s All Spanish to Me: Is One Dialect Better or Do they All Sound the Same?” (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Christina Agostinelli-Fucile).



Dr. Christina Agostinelli-Fucile (right) and her mentee

- ❖ Student **Mary Rutigliano** presented “Time of Trouble in Rural Chile: Children’s Illnesses as Turning Points for

Indigenous Families” (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kyle Matthews).



Dr. Kyle Matthews (left) and his mentee

- ❖ In poster sessions, **Camille Chin, Lexus Lam** and **Savannah Williams** presented their work on “Insights to Better Serve the American People through Intervention of Shanghai’s Air Pollution” (Faculty sponsor: Jasmine Tang).



Professor Jasmine Tang (2nd from left) and her mentees

STUDENT CONFERENCES OUTSIDE GENESEO

- ❖ **Ursula Quinn** (French) presented “Redefining Tradition and Modernity in Senegalese Arts” at NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) at the

University of North Carolina, Asheville, in April 2016
(Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kodjo Adabra)

- ❖ **Meghan Saeli** (French) presented “More Than Just Dolls: A Cross-Cultural Study of Vodou” at NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, in April 2016 (Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kodjo Adabra)



Meghan Saeli presenting at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

STUDENTS CLUBS ACTIVITIES

LA CASA HISPÁNICA



The Spanish Club hosted many activities this year, from a get together at the Club Advisor’s home to participating in the organization of a poetry reading night and more. The Club also planned a Christmas celebration in December, as well as a super cool potluck dinner on March 7th at 6pm in Welles 128; participants heard some stories, ate some awesome Spanish and Hispanic dishes, and listened to some music.

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS

The French Club, led by the student E-Board: Sarah Buckowski, Emily Hark, Léa Barouch, Jacqueline Christensen, Kami Smith, and Nathan Campbell, had a very active 2015-2016 academic year. Participation in the College's Student Expo took place during the Fall Semester. The major event for Fall 2015 was National French Week, where the club welcomed guest speakers, student study abroad presentations, the French Spelling Bee, and a group meal.



During the Spring 2016 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 2016 was the Club's annual trip to Montréal, which includes visits to major landmarks in the city as well as group tours and meals.

DER DEUTSCHE VEREIN



The German Club (Der Deutsche Verein) of Geneseo continued to be active throughout the 2015-16 school year. In October 2015, the annual and ever-popular Oktoberfest took place in Welles 210, with food, live music and loads of faculty and student participation. This is indeed the highlight of our German year because it brings together people from all parts of the campus to celebrate a wonderful German tradition. During Spring 2016, the German Club participated in Multilingual Night and continued to offer German cultural activities during meetings. The Club is busy planning more fun for Fall 2016 with a new slate of officers and a to-do list that is promising us all food and culture!

that end, Cladia started a fundraising campaign through a GO FUND ME initiative to try to revitalize the school library and make it a more inviting place for her students and the community. Moreover, working with her local counterparts, she has introduced positive behavior management within the school culture as a way to reward students as opposed

to traditional forms of punishment. Outside of her primary assignment, Cladia is currently implementing camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) within that community, an initiative which encourages young women to become active leaders by building their self-esteem and confidence, increasing their self-awareness, and developing their skills in goal setting, assertiveness, and career and life planning.



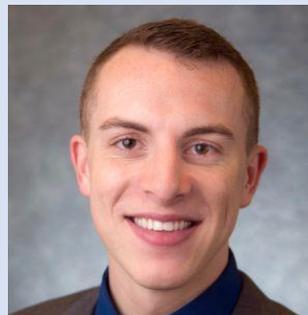
Cladia's official Peace Corps Volunteer picture.

THE SPOTLIGHTS CORNER

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNA CLADIA PLANTIN

Cladia Plantin (Class '12, FREN) is currently serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jacmel, Saint Lucia. Jacmel is a small farming community comprised of about 500 people, shrouded by the verdure of the historic and agriculturally rich Roseau Valley. As a literacy teacher for grades 1 and 3, she works under Peace's Corps' primary literacy project which mission is to help improve literacy among students in the Eastern Caribbean. In an effort to cultivate a culture of reading within her school and its community, Cladia set out to rejuvenate the school library. The thought was that if children have an inviting space to read, not only will they acquire new academic skills, they will also be one step closer to becoming change agents in their own communities. To

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNUS BEN CONARD



Graduating senior Ben Conard from East Setauket, N.Y., received the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) fellowship, funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Congress. The fellowship annually provides 75

American and 75 German young professionals the opportunity to spend one year in each other's countries, where they study and live with hosts on a cultural immersion program. "I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to study fair trade, entrepreneurship, and innovation in Germany," said Conard, "Working in these fields will be an exciting experience as Germany is an internationally recognized leader in these movements." Conard, a business

administration major and German minor, will spend eight weeks studying German at the Carl Duisberg Centrum language school. Following completion of the language phase, he will relocate to a permanent placement location for the remainder of the program, where he will immerse himself in German daily life and culture through studying and later interning in his career field. "Ben was absolutely the perfect candidate for this award," said Cynthia Klima, associate professor of German, Central & East European Studies and Humanities, who advised Conard on the fellowship.

THE CORRESPONDENCE CORNER



27 December 2015

Hi Everyone,

Hope all is well, and that you are all enjoying the holidays. Several weeks ago, I returned home after teaching English in Santiago through the English Opens Doors Program. While there were certainly challenges and frustrations

along the way, the program was overall a positive experience. Being that my school was located in an extremely disadvantaged area of the city, it was difficult to motivate students to learn. Around 70% of students had a parent in jail, and most lived in fear of neighborhood drug and gang violence. However, it was a great opportunity to make a difference in the community, and I feel that several of my students developed a genuine interest in the English language. While teaching in Santiago, I also began to search for business-related job opportunities. It was my goal to find an international business position in which I could gain valuable experience in a Spanish-speaking environment. Luckily, I met a businesswoman who forwarded me information regarding an internship opportunity with a consulting company. The Santiago-based firm specializes in helping companies expand into the Latin American market, and offered me the internship position upon interviewing. I will be starting this January.

I am very excited to begin this next chapter, and hope that it is the start of a career in international business. However, none of this would have been possible without the help of the Spanish Department at SUNY Geneseo. You all challenged me to grow both personally and academically, and sparked my initial interest in foreign languages. Most importantly, you provided me with the support needed to reach my full potential. I am extremely grateful for the foreign language education I received at Geneseo, and will take that knowledge and experience with me always.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Matt Pechman (Spanish alumnus, Class'14)