School of Arts & Science Honors
Convocation
May 11, 2011

Canfield Scholarship, French: Allen J. Ferris
Spanish: Danielle Tuttle
Departmental Scholar Award,
French: Caitlin Mannion
Spanish: Elizabeth Boss and Autumn Carey
Annette Plante Scholarship: Elora Garland
ML Scholarship: Allonah Hammonds

From the Desk of the Chair
Welcome to the eighth issue of SUNY Potsdam Modern Languages Newsletter.

The year 2010-2011 ends with increasing numbers of majors and minors: a total of 135 (fall)/132 (spring) majors and minors: 25/21 majors and 22 minors in French, 54 (fall and spring) majors and 20/22 minors in Spanish, and 14 (fall)/12 (spring) minors in Arabic. It has been a successful year despite the College's difficult financial situation, yet thanks to the department dedicated faculty who did not hesitate to give a hand. With a lot of work and effort, the department has sustained regular course offerings, made progress in furthering the Modern Language Student Learning Outcomes Assessment program, and embarked on the integration of undergraduate research in its curricula.

This year was marked by the non-renewal appointment, one year before the tenure decision of our junior faculty, Dolores Martin. Despite the support of the personnel committee and my full support, as Chair, and that of the ad-hoc committee, it was decided not to renew her appointment. It was a very long and stressful summer.

Céline Philibert was certified Oral Proficiency Interviewer (OPI) and rater in French. This is a limited certification recognizing her competence in rating interlocutors with novice to advanced proficiency level. She will pursue her work and training to obtain full certification in 2013.
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trying to understand what could have led the administration to an unsupported decision. Dolores was a major partner in our Student Learning Outcome Assessment, Departmental Undergraduate Research, SPAN and FREN 101 restricted sections to true beginners, and on line programs. Professor Martin was scholarly active while working on the major tasks the Department had to complete these last years, and on campus and community for the best of our students. She contributed to the increase in the numbers of Spanish majors and minors (from 51 in the fall 2006, 60 in the fall 2007, 62 in the spring 2008, 71 in the spring 2010, to 76 in the spring 2011). At our regular meetings, she was always ready with her assignments completed on time, and offered her support for new promising initiatives. She brought to the Department her knowledge of societal issues in Spain (expertise that is urgently needed, as per Department’s external reviewers), her expertise in literary and cinematic narratives and her research on women’s issues. In line with the President’s charge to develop partnerships with foreign institutions, Dolores participated in conversations and meetings with colleagues from la Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Huelgado, Mexico. Professional (maintaining solid academic standards and always being there for her students who needed help), ethical, and hard-working, she will be missed by both faculty and students. The department joins me to wish her the best in her future position.

It has been a very trying semester and a summer that took a lot of me. As Chair, I have always been supportive of the faculty and have visited junior and adjunct faculty as regularly as I could, providing advice and support. I feel disheartened at the end result of our work to keep Dolores part of our team. In spite of what happened to the Department, we all look forward to the maintenance of the fifth teaching line in Spanish. As always, I wish all of us and my readers the best for the holidays and a happier New Year.

Céline Philibert

Travel courses
China May 31 - June 15, 2011

A travel course led by Yan Diaz will be offered in the two/first weeks of June. The travel course will allow students to get an introductory look at the Chinese language and culture. Students will obtain three credits hours with the completion of LANG 195. The trip will lead participants to the districts of Beijing, Xi’an, Suzhou, Shanghai, Wuzhen, Hangzhou, Huangshan, Shanghai and Hongkong.

Ning Cai
Ning joined the Department of Modern Languages at the beginning of the fall semester, teaching one section of Chinese 103. The Department is excited at the idea that a native speaker instructor from the community will teach for us, assuring continuity to the program. Ning has a split work commitment with the Department of Biology. Subsequent to a semester when SUNY Potsdam will not offer a Chinese course, Ning is to teach in the fall 2011, as Chinese 102 will be offered this time, at SUNY Potsdam.
Our faculty

Gunnar Anderson
Gunnar completed a Title III Curriculum Development project on improving the Media Arabic course.

Dolores Martin

Oscar Sarmiento

Liliana Trevizan
Liliana presented “Michelle Bachelet: el museo de la memoria y los derechos humanos at the XXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association on October 6-9, 2010 in Toronto. She reviewed a manuscript on Memory in Chile for the University Press of America, and was a reader of Prologue new edition of Robert Neustadt, in CADA Dia Art Action by Cuarto Propio, 2010. She also contributed a curriculum transformation individual faculty Title III summer 2010 to add undergraduate research to one of her syllabi.

Lora Lunt
Lora delivered a paper on the Arabic Studies program at the Cultures and Languages across the Curriculum (CLAC) conference with Céline Philibert. She Chaired a session at the CLAC, conference, in Saratoga, on September 25, 2010. She also presented a paper on Arabic Studies and undergraduate research in Arabic. At the 2010 NeMLA (Northeastern Modern Language Association) convention, she organized and led a Round Table discussion on pedagogy for teaching Arabic, "Arabic Studies: Challenges & Successes, Pedagogy, Texts, Personnel," in New Brunswick, on April 9, 2011. She has been working with readers on two publications accepted provisionally for publication by Mellen Press.

Céline Philibert
Céline had an article "Le regard cinématographique maghrébin contemporain, peut-il sortir la femme de son autisme?" published as a book chapter in Figuration et mémoire dans les cinémas africains, ed. Jean Ouédraogo, L’Harmattan France, 2010. pp. 208- 228. She presented "Implementing Arabic across the Curriculum at SUNY Potsdam", at the CLAC (Cultures and Languages across the Curriculum) 2010 National Conference "CLAC in Practice: Evolving Pedagogies for Teaching Cultures and Languages across the Curriculum," at Skidmore College, NY, on September 24-25, 2010. She also presented "Arabic in Undergraduate Research", "Arabic Studies: Challenges and Successes" at the 2011 NEMLA Convention, in New Brunswick, NJ, on April 7-10, 2011. She participated in the Title III Integration of Undergraduate Research in the Department of Modern Languages, in Arabic, French and Spanish Studies, and worked closely with Dolores Martin, Mylène Catel, and Lora Lunt. As grant coordinator, she wrote the grant proposal and the mid-year report. She attended the 2011 Quebec Winter Symposium, «Expressions culturelles du nationalisme au Québec,» in Montreal, QC, on April 1-3 2011, and the 2010 ACTFL Convention, in Boston, where she completed an OPI Workshop (in order to apply for the full OPI Tester Certification).
Mylène Catel co-organized a colorful event “Les Fleurs françaises” for French students to deliver beautiful performances in French.

Lora Lunt held a special session for ARAB 380 students to present their research results. SUNY Potsdam, Morey 253, May 2011. This was a great event that can serve as a model for the Department!”

Céline Philibert took her FREN 304 students to Montreal to meet with professor Maillé from Concordia University. They were to complete their interviews that were part of their research topics on Contemporary Quebec. Beforehand, interviews with francophones were conducted in coffee houses, in the Plateau area, French speaking part of Montreal.

Liliana Trevizan and Oscar Sarmiento (as the driver) took six students (four students from SPAN 304 and two other Spanish students who were invited to attend) to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR), in Ithaca, in May 2011. In addition, Liliana accompanied two Spanish students to the Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities, held at Clarkson University, on April 14, 2011.

Maintaining ESL courses
ESL 497

Mylène Catel, Lora Lunt, Céline Philibert, Michele Pinard, and Elvira Sanatullova (from the school of Education) generously offered to co-teach ESL 497, as an additional teaching responsibility, so that international students and students interested in ESL have the opportunity to work together. Lora Lunt taught ESL 190 in the spring, as part of her regular teaching load.

Céline Philibert
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