FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

We are happy to present our second departmental newsletter. In it we showcase the many exciting opportunities available to our students in Spanish in the classroom and beyond, as well as some of the options open to our graduates following their time at Gordon.

Several classes in our department incorporate a service-learning element involving the Gordon-in-Lynn program, which allows students to interact with native Spanish speakers and connect to the immigrant population. In our Artist Spotlight, Alysa Obert shares her interpretation of her culminating semester project for Advanced Spanish Writing. Samuel Kim reflects on his own immigrant experience through his work last spring as the student intern at the Community Minority Cultural Center.

Apart from their required semester- or year-long study abroad, many of our Spanish students also participate in student-led mission trips during school vacation and semester breaks. Gordon offers students the chance travel to the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, and Ecuador. Jennie-Rose Saucier and Patricia Chan bring two views of their work last Christmas Break north of Quito alongside Gordon alum Paul Reichert ’02.

This semester brings several changes and new faces to our department. Given the approval of the new major and minor in Linguistics, our department is now known as “Languages and Linguistics”. As such, we would like to welcome into our department our colleague, Graeme Bird, Assistant Professor of Classics and Linguistics, and co-director of the Linguistics Program. We would also like to introduce our three part-time instructors in Spanish: Crystal Anthony, Earl Orlando Darlington and Sonja Noll.

Our departmental family has also grown over the past months. At the end of March, Assistant Professor of Spanish Pilar Pérez gave birth to a second daughter, Irene Lucía. At the end of October, Pamela Thuswaldner, Instructor of German, and Gregor Thuswaldner, Associate Professor of German and department chair, welcomed their second son, Alexander Samuel.

Lastly, as my husband and I are returning to our native South Carolina at the close of the fall semester, I would like to thank my colleagues and students for a wonderful 10+ years at Gordon. As you have blessed my life richly, I wish you the same: ¡Dios les bendiga!

Jennifer Beatson Martin

ALUMNI UPDATES

As you can tell from the newsletter, there are many things going on in our department. We would like to invite our alumni to keep us up-to-date about their lives after Gordon. Please send your updates to:

Gregor.Thuswaldner@gordon.edu
“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has one from the beginning to the end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

I do not consider myself an artist. I’ve never taken an art class and although on occasion I might get a creative burst, these moments are few and far between. Often, I find myself stuffing the images and pictures in my head into little black words on a blank page. However, last semester I discovered something that I have termed an “everyday epiphany”: some experiences transcend words. I do not mean that they are unable to be communicated, but that words do not do so adequately. A wise friend told me that thoughts are not necessarily in words, so I decided to paint what I thought.

This painting took me awhile to complete. There were many, many layers and it changed quite a bit because as I struggled to express what I had learned. Besides the paint itself, most of the elements that I used found me. The glass was sitting outside of Lane, and the chain was on the ground in a Lynn parking lot. The use of oil paint was also specific to symbolize the density and the texture of the issue of immigration. I used complementary colors to draw stark contrasts that I saw apparent in my experiences in Lynn and at Gordon, and I used pieces of trash to express some of the polluted thought that I saw in Lynn, in the issue of immigration and in academia as well.

As I reflect on my experience in Lynn, I have only begun to realize the imprint it has made on my heart. Lynn has helped me to engage the terms of duty, service, mercy, justice, and suffering in the context of an omnipotent God by grounding what I learned in theory in the reality of experience.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

On Cinco de Mayo, Latin American Studies major Mariška Bolyanatz ‘08 presented her Pike Honors Thesis entitled “La mujer chilena bajo la dictadura de Pinochet: Antecedentes, opresión y resistencia.” Building on her junior year abroad in Santiago, Chile, her study was an exploration of Chile under Pinochet, particularly how it affected women of all social classes and their reactions to the various types of oppression that they encountered. Following her graduation, Mari was selected as Fulbright Grant recipient to Lerma, México, where she is serving as an English Teaching Assistant at the Universidad Tecnológica del Valle de Toluca. Follow her adventures at http://mariinmexico.blogspot.com.
INTRODUCING OUR SPANISH ADJUNCTS

Professor Crystal Anthony

Crystal Anthony began her current career path after living and teaching in Honduras for two years following her undergraduate studies in Movement Science at Gordon College. Upon returning to the United States, she completed a master’s degree in education at Harvard Graduate School of Education and studied French through the Harvard Extension Program. She currently teaches Spanish and French full time at Manchester Essex Middle School and is pursuing a second master’s degree in teaching Spanish. Apart from teaching, she enjoys traveling and competitive running.

Rev. Dr. Earl Orlando Darlington

During his undergraduate days, Gordon alum Earl Orlando Darlington ‘76 studied Spanish, Linguistics and New Testament Greek. He then received an M.A. in Linguistics (Spanish concentration) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.A. in Missions & Evangelism from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and most recently earned an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Oral Roberts University. He also serves as an adjunct professor for Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston (CUME). Professor Darlington has served for 26 years as an associate pastor with International Family Church. His extensive travels have taken him to Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Sierra Leone, and Trinidad on short-term missions.

Professor Sonja Noll

Sonja Noll studied Spanish, German, and international studies at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. She later completed a master’s degree in Comparative Literature (Spanish and Norwegian) at the University of Washington in Seattle. She has lived in and studied the languages of Spain, Germany, Norway, Russia, and Israel. In between languages, she has done freelance work as an editor and an indexer, making indexes for books published by Eerdmans, Baker, and InterVarsity Press, among others. Professor Noll is currently working towards a master’s degree in Old Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.
Bridging Cultures Through Language—Samuel Kim ‘10

I was born in Germany to my Korean missionary parents who raised me to speak German. Until I was about sixteen I didn’t even know how to express myself in Korean beyond simple survival phrases like “Dad, what are we doing?” or “Mom, I’m starving!” My friends were mainly Germans, and I considered myself one of them. Hence, I avoided being with Korean-Korean people, who would speak Korean non-stop, asking many questions and exposing my lack of knowledge of Korean.

When I was a junior in high school, I came to the U.S. as an exchange student and had a shocking experience. Suddenly, I was no longer considered German, but rather a small, confused-looking Korean kid with a funny heavy German accent.

Because of that experience, I started learning Korean. At home, my parents and I began to communicate exclusively in Korean. By using Korean, I got closer to my parents and came to know my extended family in Korea on a much more intimate level than I had before. Language has been an important bridge that connected me to my family and my heritage.

What I experienced and observed last semester as the intern with Gordon-In-Lynn at the Community Minority Cultural Center is similar. Every Saturday we would go into Lynn to teach English as a Second Language to recent immigrants from diverse places like Peru, Haiti and Ukraine. However, rather than us just teaching them, they would teach us as well, sharing their rich life experiences and their attitude of immersing themselves in a completely different cultural setting as they seek to learn a new language.

Learning Korean has been an important part of connecting with my family. Similarly, learning English has been important for the people at the CMCC to grow roots in the U.S and to connect to a new society. When we make efforts to communicate with our family and neighbors in whatever language, we are able to connect to them and cherish the diversity of our world. That is why I am passionate about learning more languages and helping others do so as well. At Gordon College I am majoring in Spanish and Secondary Education. My dream is to support and establish Christian international schools around the world.

Want to learn about Gordon grads who are bridging cultures?

Check out the work that Christine Brinn ‘06 (pictured center at right) is doing in an urban neighborhood of San Diego, CA. Follow what she’s learning through her two-year internship with Harbor Mid-City Church (www.harbormidcity.org) on her blog, “Discovering Grace: A Daughter’s Journey” (christinebrinn.blogspot.com).

After completing her M.S.Ed. in TESOL at the University of Pennsylvania, Janna Scheflen ’04 serves as a church planter and English teacher in Trnava, Slovakia with Mission to the World (www.mtw.org).
Covered in sawdust and with the potent scent of wood stain in my nose, I endeavored to get to know a girl named Laura under the hot Ecuador sun on the first day of the trip. While we sanded and stained our eucalyptus wood, there were a lot of silent moments as I mentally pieced together questions in Spanish. I proudly pulled these sentences out, only to fall back into a lengthy silence after Laura answered my question with simply one or two words. After a few rounds in this pattern, my limited Spanish vocabulary began to run dry and I started to slip in some English. Though a little frustrated, I realized that this trip with the Gordon La Vida Outdoor Education Program would most certainly be a learning experience as I strove to improve my Spanish speaking skills.

During the trip, our group became friends with a few Ecuadorian interns, Dani and David, who were learning English. As some of us in the group spoke un poco de Spanish, we often met halfway, communicating in Spanglish. I can recall joyous evenings around a campfire learning words that are never taught in Spanish class—words like chévere, which means “cool,” and ¡chuta mangos!, an exclamatory phrase used in place of profanity. In the spirit of cultural exchange, we made an effort to translate the English tongue twister “Sally sells seashells by the seashore” by incorporating some Pictionary along with our faithful friend Spanglish. Attempts at translation frequently ended in laughter, and it often took a long time to communicate the meaning of a single word or concept, whether from English to Spanish or vice versa. In the end, however, the feeling of, “OH—that’s what you were talking about,” always signaled a triumph.

In the midst of these fun moments of “learning,” it was encouraging to know that I was not alone—Laura, Dani, and David were struggling to learn and speak a second language as well. Speaking another language always requires leaving your comfort zone, taking risks, and making mistakes, so that, in time, practice makes perfect. But if at first you don’t succeed, Spanglish always works.

Pictured at right: El Refugio intern David, with Gordon Outdoor Education staff members Katie Madden (Spanish, ’06) and Holly Libert (Music Performance, ’06)

ALUMNI


Juan Bradley ’08 was commissioned into the US Army as Second Lieutenant on May 16, 2008. Following his Basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, his first assignment will be as Cultural Awareness Assistant Instructor at Fort Lewis, WA.

After completing a two-year internship with the Boston Higher Education Resource Center/Alcanzando Logros Para Hispanos Ahora through Congregación León de Judá, Erin E. McNally ’05 has entered the Master’s Degree Program in International Development, Community and Environment at Clark University.
Re-creando Refugio—Patricia Chan ’09

My sophomore year at Gordon, I met missionaries Paul and Beth Reichert at their supporting church in Gloucester. They introduced me to their program in Ecuador, El Refugio, an adventure-based, leadership-training center working with Ecuadorian church youth. Given my love for both Spanish and the outdoors, my interest was immediately sparked. Over Christmas Break, I received the opportunity to work with this program.

I could tell you many stories about the teenagers we worked with, the ropes course we helped build, the trail we cut through the cloud forest, and the hikes we took, and the volcanoes we saw. But one of the most influential parts of the trip was connecting with the workers and kids through language.

Ask most of the core staff at El Refugio, and their stories are uniquely different yet strangely similar. Most had no intention of ending up with the program, yet somehow found themselves there anyway, loving their work and serving with whole hearts. One good friend I made had even been on a set path to a career in marine biology, working at Sea World in California, when God called her to Ecuador to visit her old youth pastor six years ago. Since then, she’s been working with El Refugio. While arranging for a different course of life, God was secretly preparing her for His will.

I feel strangely similar regarding my interest in Spanish. I have been taking Spanish classes since my freshman year of high school. Without a major, minor, or any particular reason in mind, I am drawn to it, and I can’t explain why. Once I set foot in Ecuador, however, the pieces seemed to fall into place... my passion for outdoor education... my years of Spanish... a desire to connect with people through language. I now see this seemingly undirected interest in Spanish as preparation, preparation for my future.

All I can say is that these events have led me to believe even more strongly in God’s will. As Thomas Merton prayed, “I do not see the road ahead of me... nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.” I often struggle with the question of knowing what God’s will is, or if my inclinations are simply my own desires. But looking back (isn’t that always how it is?), I realize that God has been preparing me through language for a long time.

After all, as Proverbs 16:9 states, “El corazón del hombre traza su rumbo, pero sus pasos los dirige el Señor.”

Want to learn more about the ways Gordon students and alumni are combining Spanish with the great outdoors?

Check out the Gordon-in-Lynn photojournal by intern Claire Kinnen ’10 (pictured center at right) at http://www.gordon.edu/gilphotojournals.

While pursuing doctoral studies at the Instituto de Estudios Internacionales of the Universidad de Chile, Peter Lewis ’02 has begun an ecotourism venture offering bike tours of Santiago (http://www.labicicletaverde.com/).
Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society Kappa Epsilon Chapter Inductions

On February 6, 2008, outgoing president Elizabeth Dowling inducted three new members into the Gordon College Kappa Epsilon chapter of the Alpha Mu Gamma national foreign language honor society: seniors Lara Cofsky (French) and Heather Trubiano (Spanish), and sophomore Emily Suttmeier (Spanish), who was also elected president at the business meeting.

At the September 24, 2008 meeting, Emily Suttmeier welcomed four inductees and confirmed each one for a position on the slate of newly elected officers (see below). Please welcome this year’s new members!

Abigail Sawyer, President
Abby Sawyer is a sophomore from Wenham, MA. She is a Spanish major who plans to add the new Linguistics major and a French minor as well. She currently serves as a Spanish TA and as the departmental assistant for Languages and Linguistics. A participant with Mexico Outreach in 2008, Abby will lead a return trip to La Casa de la Esperanza Orphanage in Tijuana in January 2009. Her other activities include working at a local barbecue restaurant, babysitting and spending time with her family. Abby hopes to one day pursue full time missions work in South America.

Molly Lawry, Vice President
Molly Lawry is a junior from Iowa City, IA double majoring in Spanish and Biology. She has served as both Spanish TA and tutor, and hopes to pursue a career in science in a Spanish-speaking country. She has previously played on the Gordon College Varsity Women’s Soccer team and is currently a member of the Women’s Lacrosse team. She loves to travel and is excited about the opportunities Spanish will open for her at home, abroad, and in her scientific career.

Vladimir Minev, Secretary
Vladislav Minev is a junior Business Administration major from Sofia, Bulgaria. In addition, Vlady is pursuing a minor in French and serves as French TA. He is a third year manager in Dining Services and a Crew Leader in Physical Plant. He is also serving as a second year RA. Vlady plays midfielder on the Gordon College Varsity Men’s Soccer Team and enjoys spending time with family and friends, dancing and Bulgarian food.

Morgan Thorwall, Treasurer
Morgan Thorwall is a sophomore Spanish and German major from Wheaton, Illinois. This year she is serving as an intern with the Gordon in Lynn program and is working with two adult ESL classes at Ford School. She loves getting to know the people she meets at Ford as well as spending time in Lynn. Back on campus, she serves as a Spanish TA and hopes to pursue a career that will allow her to use both Spanish and German frequently. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, traveling, and learning new languages.
Professor Ian Drummond

On September 29, 2008, Adjunct Instructor Ian Drummond was presented with the Academic Service Award for excellence as a part-time faculty member. Professor Drummond teaches Geography and Western Civilization in the History department and Latin in the Languages and Linguistics department. He holds a B.A. from George Mason University and an M.Div. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and is an M.A. Candidate in Classics at Tufts University.

Dr. Graeme Bird

Another Gordon Latin instructor, Professor Graeme Bird, was likewise honored for his exemplary teaching as this year’s recipient of the Dr. Marvin Wilson Award for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities. Dr. Bird is a native of New Zealand and has been teaching full-time at Gordon since 2001. His interests include Greek and Latin language and literature, Indo-European linguistics, and early English literature. He enjoys exploring the connections between such diverse disciplines as Homeric poetry, historical linguistics, Greek mathematics, computer programming, and jazz improvisation (he plays piano professionally and for relaxation). He co-directs the Linguistics major and minor and oversees the minor in Classics.

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Jennifer Beatson, Associate Professor of Spanish

- External reviewer, Examining Committee of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Houghton College, March 2008.
- Elected as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Massachusetts Alpha chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization of Women Educators.
RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Graeme Bird, Assistant Professor of Classics and Linguistics
- Book chapter, “Critical signs – drawing attention to ‘special’ lines of Homer’s Iliad in the manuscript Venetus A” in a Harvard UP book dealing with a medieval Greek manuscript of Homer’s Iliad (forthcoming).

Damon DiMauro, Professor of French

Pilar Pérez, Assistant Professor of Spanish
- Her doctoral thesis proposal, "Mito y función social: el teatro de Raúl Hernández Garrido," has been accepted by her dissertation committee at Boston College.

Gregor Thuswaldner, Associate Professor of German and Linguistics
- Visiting Professor, Salzburg College, Salzburg, Austria, Summer 2008.
- Elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the recently founded American Friends of the Documentary Center of Austrian Resistance.

Emmanuelle Vanborre, Assistant Professor of French