From the Chair

In the beginning of the spring semester, Gregor Thuswaldner announced that he was stepping down as chair. After six years of leading the department, Professor Thuswaldner will devote more time to the German major, the fast-growing linguistics program, the Salzburg Institute of Gordon College, and his own research (which is now focusing more on linguistics). I was nominated by the department to succeed him in the fall. We thank Professor Thuswaldner for chairing the department with such enthusiasm and diligence for so many years.

As usual in our department, many interesting and diverse cultural activities happened in and outside the classroom last year. In April 2012, Pilar Pérez Serrano brought to campus Diana de Paco Serrano, a renowned Spanish playwright and professor of classics at the Universidad de Murcia, Spain. Professor Pérez Serrano organized several events on the theme “Hope in Spanish Contemporary Theater” with de Paco Serrano on Gordon Symposium Day (more details on page 3). Gregor Thuswaldner was interviewed by Ruth Rybarski (ORF, Austrian Public Television) about his new monograph on the Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard. The interview aired in the ORF’s news show Zeit im Bild in January 2012. In my Quebec Studies class, I hosted Jean-Stéphane Bernard, the director of the Quebec Government Office in Boston, as well as the renowned Quebec writer Marie-Claire Blais.

Finally, we are very pleased to announce that our Mandarin program is up and running again. Our new adjunct faculty member is Lei Carter. She was born and raised in Beijing, China. She has several years of experience teaching and working in Christian institutions in and around Boston. It is her second year teaching elementary and intermediate Mandarin in our department.

In this newsletter, we are highlighting students’ achievements as well as our faculty’s academic work.

Emmanuelle Vanborre
Department Chair, Languages and Linguistics

Emmanuelle Vanborre and Jean Stéphane Bernard, director of the Quebec Government Office in Boston
Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society Kappa Epsilon Chapter Inductions

Alpha Mu Gamma, the National Foreign Language Honors Society, has inducted several new members since our last newsletter. We recognize all these students for the distinction they have attained in the study of languages. For those of you on campus, make sure you congratulate them when you see them in the hallways!

**Fall 2009:** Adrienne Eldredge and Jon Ray

**Spring 2010:** Kaitlyn Ebbott, Daniel Gestal, Lauren Kiessling, Samuel Kim, Andrew Pottorf, Kristen Todd and Bret Wilkes

**Fall 2010:** Ellen Ash, Kristen Beebe, Sophia Buchanan, Elizabeth Macdavitt and Kassandra Shattuck

**Spring 2011:** Samantha Pierce, Annika Dixon and Christine Hunkler

**Fall 2011:** (pictured at right with Professor Pilar Pérez Serrano) Amy Holcombe, Haley Berl, Emily Laco-razza, Jonathan Ray (AMG president), Jessica Kane and Rebecca Sindel

**Spring 2012:** EunYong Kang, Virginia Daugherty, Ashlie Busone, Amy Nicols, Victoria Petway, Chelsea Lecander, Katie Zarrilli, Joanna Gallagher and Jang Yoon

Congratulations to these students!

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Sophia Buchanan: Fulbright Scholar

Sophia Buchanan ‘11 won a Fulbright award for the 2011–2012 academic year. Originally from Falmouth, Massachusetts, the German major and English minor was awarded the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to Germany. A member of the Alpha Mu Gamma Language Honor Society and the Phi Alpha Chi Honor Society, she was also awarded the Dean’s Scholarship and Howe’s Scholarship. During her junior study year abroad at the University of Heidelberg, she taught English as a second language (ESL) as an intern at a high school in Heidelberg. She also taught ESL classes in Lynn, Massachusetts while she was a student at Gordon.
Is There Hope in Theatre?

Insights on contemporary Spanish drama

On Symposium Day, April 19, 2012, we had the honor to welcome Dr. Diana de Paco Serrano, Spanish playwright and professor of classics at the University of Murcia, Spain, to our campus. She arrived accompanied by her parents, Mariano de Paco and Virtudes Serrano, both acclaimed and esteemed theatre critics in Spain. Gordon was their first stop in a list of colleges and universities in western Massachusetts (among them UMass Amherst and College of the Holy Cross, Worcester) in which they taught graduate workshops and gave various theatre presentations. As part of the events prepared for them at Gordon, students from the Languages and Linguistics and the Theater Arts departments collaborated on a dramatic bilingual reading of one of de Paco’s short plays, *Su tabaco, gracias*. The reading was followed by a question and answer open forum and a presentation by Professor de Paco prior to the performance of *The Bacchae*. The events were sponsored by AHIMA (Asociación de Hispanistas de Massachusetts), as well as the Languages and Linguistics and the Theatre Arts departments at Gordon. Mr. Pablo Sánchez-Terán, consul of Spain in Boston, attended all presentations together with many Gordon students and friends of the college.

The event was the second organized by AHIMA since its creation. The proposed principles of this organization are threefold: To talk to, not about, creators in the Hispanic, Latin American, and Latino world; to bring cultural enrichment to the local communities where we live and work; and to promote inter-institutional collaboration in the fields of Hispanic studies. We look forward to future collaborations and to hosting events that will showcase significant work from various Latin American and Spanish authors.
Faculty Publications and Presentations

Damon DiMauro wrote “On Acquired Tastes, Or The Virtues of French Cheese” for Gordon’s online column *Faith + Ideas* in October 2011. Professor DiMauro also developed a new Theological French course for Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

In a faculty forum presentation on April 11, 2012, Graeme Bird discussed connections between jazz piano and Homeric poetry. The link was in how improvisation can apply to both jazz and to oral poetic composition and performance. In this blog interview he discusses the concept of "improvisation" as it relates to Homeric poetry. Professor Bird is working with some students on transcribing and eventually editing and publishing a Homeric Greek papyrus that is on loan to Gordon College from the Green Scholars Initiative. Professor Bird received the Distinguished Junior Faculty Award in May 2011.

Moisés Park participated in several academic conferences last year and presented papers on Chilean cinema and pedagogy. His essay “Sexualization of the Oriental Ruins: Moreno-Durán’s Mambrú, the Colombian Battalion, the Korean War, Picasso and the (Marilyn) Monroe Doctrine” was published in *Peripheral Transmodernities: South-to-South Intercultural Dialogues between the Luso-Hispanic World and “the Orient”* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing: Cambridge, 2012). Professor Park created a new course, Poetry and Poetics in Chile, that will be taught in the spring. He also wrote a piece for *Faith + Ideas* in April 2012 titled “Reading Poetry as a Second Language.”

Pilar Pérez Serrano received her doctorate from Boston College in December 2011. The title of her dissertation is “La rebelión de Los esclavos: tragedia y posibilidad en el teatro de Raúl Hernández Garrido.” Her article titled “Nina Velilla: disolución de la identidad y procesamiento del trauma en Los engranajes de Raúl Hernández Garrido” was published in the conference journal *Estreno* in October 2011. Her piece titled “Pa Negre: What the Academy Awards Missed” appeared in *Faith + Ideas* in February 2012. She also wrote several book reviews on Spanish theater.

Gregor Thuswaldner’s piece that appeared in *Faith + Ideas* in December 2011 was reprinted as “My View: A Silent Night in Salzburg” in the *Salem News*, also in December 2011. In January 2012, Professor Thuswaldner was interviewed by Ruth Rybarski of Austrian Public Television, ORF, for the *Zeit im Bild* news show about his new book on Thomas Bernhard. In November 2011, Professor Thuswaldner co-organized the 2011 Salzburg Institute of Gordon College Fall Symposium on “The Return of the Repressed? Intersections of Religion and Culture Today” at Gordon College. He also co-organized the 2011 Salzburg Institute of Gordon College Summer Symposium on “Die Wiederkehr des Verdrängten? Religion und Kultur im Europa der Gegenwart” at the University of Salzburg, in Austria. Professor Thuswaldner gave several presentations at academic conferences in the U.S. and Europe on literature and linguistics.

During Emmanuelle Vanborre’s sabbatical in fall 2011, she wrote a chapter and edited a book on the originality and complexity of Albert Camus. It was published by Palgrave Macmillan in October 2012. She presented at several academic conferences on Haiti after the earthquake, and on teaching diversity in the language classroom. She also wrote several book reviews on literary theory and French fiction. She developed a new course, to be offered in the spring, that will introduce French Caribbean Studies to undergraduates at Gordon.