From the Chair

We have exciting news to share about what happened in our department last year. In the fall of 2012, Dr. Pilar Pérez Serrano was granted tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. We congratulate her for these important achievements. Dr. Graeme Bird presented his research on papyrus with two students during our fall departmental convocation. Dr. Leasa Lutes presented information about her trip to Cuba during our spring departmental convocation. In March, the Cercle Français and I organized several events to celebrate Francophone week. In April 2013, the department organized a poetry reciting for Symposium. Several students recited poems in different languages and the event was very well attended. Several professors, administrators and students took part in a video highlighting French at Gordon: A Living Language, now on our website. I was in charge of organizing the Languages and Linguistics Undergraduate Colloquium (LLUC) which was held on April 6, 2013, and which is co-sponsored by the department of Languages and Linguistics and the department of English. This year Dr. Moisés Park and Dr. Chad Stutz will co-organize the event.

Several professors developed new courses to add variety to our curriculum: Professor Bird created a new Linguistics course: “Writing Systems of the World.” Professor Park created several new quad courses and a summer online course on Latino literature and culture, food metaphors and 21st century Latin American cinema. Professor Pérez Serrano created two courses on narratives of the Spanish Civil War and literature and marginalization in Hispanic narratives. Professor Thuswaldner created a course for the Salzburg Institute titled “On German Christian Thought and Culture: From the Enlightenment to the Present Day.” The class was co-designed and co-taught with Pamela Thuswaldner, Tom Brooks, Susan Brooks, Nick Brooks, and Jim Zingarelli. Finally, several professors developed and taught semester long and summer courses for the graduate school of education.

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

Emmanuelle Vanborre
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Department of Languages and Linguistics
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Alumni News

Gabriel DiMauro ’10 just completed his master’s thesis titled “L’Esprit gästronomique en France: les contours d’une cosmologie nationaliste, ontologique et exclusive” at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Aix-en-Provence. He is presently working at the International Bilingual School of Provence.

After graduating with a B.A. in International Affairs and minors in Latin American studies and Spanish, Jessica Allen ’13 traveled to D.C. for an internship at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). While there, Jessica worked with the Cuba policy program and development (fundraising) department. After the summer, Jessica accepted and began a full-time, paid position as an undergraduate intern with Wittenberg Weiner Consulting, where she will be working onsite in the Secretary’s Global Partnership Initiative Office at the U.S. Department of State.

Honors, Awards, and Honor Society

Alpha Mu Gamma, the National Foreign Language Honors Society, inducted seven new members into its Gordon Chapter, Kappa Epsilon. 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! The following students were inducted: Tessa White (Combined Languages, German and French), Jessica Mohrmann (German), Courtney Gingras (Linguistics, French), Molly Connolly (Spanish), Truett Smith (Linguistics), Rachael Albury (Spanish), and Annie Battles (Spanish).

This year’s recipient of the Royce Miller Language Achievement Award was Emily Lyle, a Spanish major. Linguistics majors Courtney Gingras and Truett Smith received the Marion Jackson Carter Endowment Awards. Hope Johnson and Christina Alvernaz presented their honors thesis in Linguistics and graduated with departmental honors.

Congratulations to these students!

Alumni Updates

We would like to invite our alumni to keep us informed about their lives after Gordon. Please send your updates to: Emmanuelle.Vanborre@gordon.edu
Highlights from the Department

Oktoberfest is a German celebration dating back to October 12, 1810 when Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Sachsen-Hildburghausen were married. The Crown Prince invited citizens of Munich to be part of the wedding festivities which were held on the Theresienwiese (Therese’s meadow, named after the Princess), now located directly in the city of Munich.

Today, Oktoberfest is celebrated in Munich from the first Saturday after September 15th through the first Sunday in October. The mayor of the city begins the ceremony by opening the first beer barrel and calling out, “O’zapft ist!” (Beer is flowing!). Over time, the occasion has become a festival where over 6 million visitors, some from all over the world, gather in Munich. The Bavarian festival brings the city and the surrounding area around 800 million Euro in profits, serving as the largest beer festival in Germany.

Pictured above: students in Beginner German 101 joined in to celebrate Oktoberfest at Gordon College in September. Music, lots of pretzels, and listening to the well-known Bavarian song “In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus” were all part of the fun.

Spanish Theater

During the summer of 2013, Pilar Pérez Serrano visited Spain and conducted interviews with different theater authors in Madrid. She was invited to an event at the SGAE (Sociedad General de Autores y Editores de España) where many authors, editors, and critics paid homage to Patricia O’Connors, a Spanish theater critic from the University of Cincinnati. As part of her research in emergent contemporary Spanish theater, Professor Pérez Serrano attended the XXIII International Seminar of the Centre for Literary and Theatrical Semiotic Research in Madrid, which this year was dedicated to young theater authors at the UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) also in Madrid.

Above left: critic Patricia O’Connors, who was recognized at the event for her long trajectory promoting Spanish theatre in the U.S. and beyond. Center: Dr. Virtudes Serrano from the University of Murcia, Elena Cánovas (author), Fermín Cabal (author). Seated: Paloma Pedrero (author and director).

At right, from left to right: Dr. Pilar Pérez Serrano, Juana Escabias (author and critic), Patricia O’Connors, Dr. Diana de Paco (author and professor) and Dr. Virtudes Serrano (professor and critic, University of Murcia) at the SGAE in Madrid, Spain.
Faculty Publications and Presentations

Graeme Bird wrote several book reviews for Choice (on spelling and on the Iliad) and a Stillpoint article, “Variations on an (A. J. Gordon) Theme.” He attended workshops at Baylor University, discussing papyrology and ancient manuscript editing. He gave a brief presentation on the progress of his own Homeric papyrus project. Dr. Bird also lectured at College of the Holy Cross: "Homer and Jazz? An Oral/Aural Comparison of Homeric Poetry and Jazz Improvisation." He presented in an electronic Festschrift in honor of Greg Nagy's 70th birthday: “Performance.”


Pilar Pérez Serrano published "El canto de las sirenas: concienciación y supervivencia en la era del capital" in Estreno: Journal of Contemporary Spanish Theatre. She presented “Juana la loca: Historia, memoria e identidad en el teatro de María Jesús Romero” at the North East Modern Language Association in Boston in March 2013. She co-chaired a panel with Dr. Moisés Park: “Trauma and the Body: Witnessing Violence in Contemporary Literature" at the same conference.

Gregor Thuswaldner presented “Cultivating Humanity’ in Austria: A Study Abroad Program as a Potential Think Tank for Students” and “Education Abroad Programs in German-Speaking Europe in an Age of Globalization and Virtuality,” at Emory University in March 2013. He gave a talk titled “Stefan Zweigs Humanismusbegriff,” Adventakademie, in Salzburg, Austria, in December 2012. He presented “Morbus Austriacus: Thomas Bernhard’s Critique of Austria in Frost (1963),” at the North Carolina German Studies Seminar and Workshop Series, moderated by Prof. William Donahue (Duke University), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in October 2012. He also co-organized the 2012 Adventakademie, Kardinal-Schwarzenberg-Haus, Salzburg, in December 2012 as well as the 2012 Salzburg Institute of Gordon College Summer Symposium on “Making Sacrifices: European Visions of Sacrifice,” University of Salzburg, Austria, in July 2012.

Emmanuelle Vanborre chaired a roundtable session on “Haiti after the Earthquake: the Shape, Role and Power of Writing” at NeMLA in Boston, March 2013. She presented “Métissages culturels dans les Antilles francophones” at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Baltimore, MD, in March 2013. In August, she gave a workshop for New England French teachers at the French Consulate on the use of technology in the language classroom. She wrote several book reviews for Choice and French Review and an article on Camus that is part of a volume she edited during her sabbatical. It was published in October 2012 by Palgrave MacMillan.