The last academic year was a very difficult one for LLC. As I am sure all of you have learned, one way or another, several degree programs were deactivated in October 2010. This affected the standing of the department and the university as whole, but at the same time, it brought together all those who believe in the importance of a comprehensive liberal arts education that does not marginalize competence in other languages. We are thankful for all your support.

As was announced in the spring newsletter, the French and Russian minors were reinstated. We have just been informed that the Italian minor has also been reinstated. Students can again declare these minors. Students can also work with faculty to declare student-initiated interdisciplinary majors in French, Italian or Russian Studies.

Despite the challenges, LLC welcomed two new full-time visiting faculty, Eduard Arriaga-Arango and Jesse Barker, and is currently conducting searches for two assistant professors of Spanish who will start in fall 2012.

As usual, a variety of excellent events have been held in the department this fall, but I’d like to highlight two here. In October in celebration of the legacy of former Distinguished Professor of Spanish, Gonzalo Torrente-Ballester, LLC, International Studies, the University Library, and the Writers’ Institute collaborated on a conference on Torrente-Ballester and an exhibit of his works. Our LLC graduate students impressed me with their excellent presentations at the conference sessions. Many participants were surprised and delighted to learn UAlbany boasts such a distinguished literary figure. LLC also cohosted an event on the Poetry of the Afro-Caribbean poet Aimé Césaire, on the occasion of the first complete publication in English of his 1948 collection, Soleil cou coupé (Solar Throat Slashed). I invite you to read more about these and other events within this newsletter.

As the financial situation of the University starts to improve, especially with the highly anticipated NY SUNY 2020 legislation, LLC will be part of the rebuilding effort and will play its part in continuing to offer a solid and diverse education to all our students. We hope to share with you more good news in the coming newsletters. Meanwhile, best wishes for a wonderful new year to all of you.

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Gonzalo Torrente Ballester Conference

LLC in collaboration with the Office of International Education and the University Libraries hosted a conference to honor the life and work of Gonzalo Torrente Ballester (GTB). Ray Bromley, who was instrumental in putting this event together and who also chaired the first session of the conference said, “We organized the conference to restore GTB to the collective memory here -- to remind UAlbany and the Capital Region that one of Spain’s most distinguished authors lived and taught here. He wrote his most important works during and after the years that he spent in Albany. He also wrote nonfiction about UAlbany as well as our region. One of his most famous novels, La Isla de los Jacintos Cortados, is set in our region and university. It features real and fictional UAlbany people and real local places in its story.”

Torrente-Ballester, one of Albany’s first Distinguished Professors is one of Spain’s leading 20th century fiction authors and widely studied in Hispanic literature. His time in Albany is noted as being the most productive time in his career as a writer. He was Distinguished Professor of Spanish Literature when he retired. The event was highlighted by a special guest appearance by Álvaro Torrente Sánchez-Guisande, one of Torrente’s nine children, who followed in his father’s footsteps with a career in higher education.
Spain in the City

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his fall Jesús Alonso-Regalado (UAlbany Library Bibliographer) and Jesse Barker (UAlbany Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish) organized a trip for UAlbany Spanish students to New York City’s Cervantes Institute in connection with the GTB exhibit. The Cervantes Institute, UAlbany, the Fundación Gonzalo Torrente Ballester and PAMAR (Pan American Musical Art Research, Inc.) are jointly celebrating the life and work of GTB. According to Jack Johnson, an LLC Spanish Lecturer who also attended, “The Cervantes Institute was a great segue for those who saw the Albany exhibit. It was a panoramic view of GTB punctuated by art and literature.”

Per Jesse Barker, “A group of students and professors met at Collins Circle just before 8am on Saturday November 12th, ready to explore traces of Spain in New York City. Fortunately, we were able to stop for coffee on the way so everyone would be awake. Our next stop was the Cervantes Institute, located in a beautiful indoor patio in midtown Manhattan. We were given a tour of the library, full of movies and books from all over the Spanish speaking world. We also saw the exhibit on the life and works of Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, the famous Spanish writer.

Ouch.

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Spanish graduate students read from Torrente – GTB's work as a photo journalist that chronicled his stay in Albany played in the background. From left to right: Yisaiy Tejas, Jesús Alonso-Regalado (UAlbany Library Bibliographer), Alejandra Orte and Karina Wallace. Not pictured is Eduardo Ramos, UAlbany grad student who also read an excerpt from GTB's work.

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**Students in Senegal - Summer 2011**

When Eloise Brière of French Studies completed her graduate degree work in Toronto, Canada in 1992, she embarked on a trip to a little village in Senegal helping chaperone 40 students with three other colleagues. After witnessing the change that this international travel elicited, she knew if she ever had the chance to do it again, she would. In summer 2010 she found herself discussing with Dr. Kevin Hickey of Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Dr. Cheikh Ndiaye of Union College a previously planned trip to Senegal that never transpired.

This summer, Professor Brière got to take 16 students to Senegal, West Africa on a three-week study abroad course in a unique collaboration with Professors Hickey and Ndiaye. Students experienced Francophone Studies first-hand, getting to know Senegalese culture and the Senegalese people by being immersed in daily life, living, eating, speaking French and learning Wolof (a local language) with local families, touring a variety of different sites, and even working with nonprofit organizations in areas related to their academic studies. Students learned much on the trip and were moved by their experiences. The highlight for everyone was when they arrived at Tene-Toubab Sereer, the home village of Professor Cheikh Ndiaye of Union College, one of the coordinators of the Senegal trip. It is located near Diakhiao, the site of the Sereer ethnic group in Senegal. Everyone was impressed by the warm welcome they received (dancing, drums and food) and enjoyed the festive gathering that took place to celebrate their visit.

Another highlight was a visit to Espérance Soho Bade, an artistic community owned and operated by Gerard Chenet who migrated from Haiti in the early 1960’s to Africa. Some of their stories follow. For more pictures visit http://www.albany.edu/llc/Senegal_summer_study.shtml.

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**A New Course!**

As a result of the Senegal trip, UAlbany’s Department of Women’s Studies and the Documentary Studies Programs are creating a spring 2012 course in which students will create a documentary film about this trip covering spring preparations, how the trip was funded, events during the trip, how participants’ worldviews were affected and what participants are doing now. Plans also include making an interactive online site about the trip. Links will be provided at www.albany.edu/llc when they are available.

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**Penina Faustin**

“I had always had a desire to visit Africa so that I could touch base with the African roots of Haiti. After we had been there for a few days, I began to see a lot of connections between Haiti and Senegal. At times I felt as if I was back in Haiti because of the landscape, the village structure, the roads and stray dogs running around the streets, searching for food. Hearing the locals speak, I had a moment of what I call a linguistic truth: I heard words that were quite similar to Haitian Creole, especially with the use of the pronouns. The rhythm of the language was also quite similar. It amazed me that Haiti had retained so much of its African language roots. I felt connected. I was here, in Africa, finding my identity, the root of who I was and I’m a hybrid of different places, not just one. Sometimes it was hard to be there, especially when we got to see the slave quarters. The rooms were empty, but the spirit of what transpired still had the ability to affect me emotionally. I realized that I could have been one of the slaves who stayed behind in Africa, that because of colonialism I am who I am today. For me it was like the past became the present! My graduate work is focused on the study of feminist life in developing countries and the feminist voice coming out of the colonial past. I never would have imagined that I would get to stay in the house of the great grand relative of Senegalese author and feminist Mariama Bâ, who wrote: So Long a Letter and Scarlet Song.”

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**Dani Britt**

“What I took away from this trip most of all was the interactions with new people. Everyone I met was extremely nice and generous no matter how much they had to offer. The poorest people on the street would offer to share their food with me. Regarding the cross cultural interactions on the beach, even though I did not speak an ounce of the language I was able to communicate with the guys by playing soccer, much like others were able to use music to communicate. They were very accepting of me after the initial shock that a girl played soccer. I had so many wonderful experiences in Senegal. Going to the village and watching a wrestling match, going to the markets, and the memory of playing soccer with the guys on the beach will stay with me forever. If I learned one thing from this trip it’s that one really has no clue what another culture is like until one is thrown into it. I am a History major and for me to be able to see and actually stand in the place where slaves...were warehoused and treated as less than animals was a remarkable experience...I didn’t know whether to comment on the reality I was beginning to see or cry over the sad truth about the slave trade that had taken place here.”
Jordan Taylor

I grew up on Long Island and although poverty was not something unfamiliar to me, the degree of poverty in Senegal was much greater than what I was used to. It made me realize how much we really do have and how fortunate we are living in America. I have always wanted to go to Africa. I feel like it is a mystery to the rest of the world because of the stereotypes and stories about it. I had no idea what to expect. We were assigned readings and assignments but no book or movie could compare to the firsthand experience of actually going. It’s something I feel every person should do if the opportunity is there. Our trip to Goree had the biggest impact on me emotionally. Seeing the slave house and the conditions many of these people are living in, when we start playing everything else in the world seems so irrelevant. Music has become a remarkable place; the singing, restaurants, markets and children turned the location into something great. I think that just illustrates the power of the Senegalese people and the African nation!

For me the impact music has in Senegal was unforgettable! I bought a Djembe drum early on in the trip and I brought it with me almost everywhere I went. I would find myself playing with people almost everywhere and I found myself thinking “Despite the conditions many of these people are living in, when we start playing everything else in the world seems so irrelevant.’ Music really is a great thing. It’s so powerful and has the ability to move people. I will never forget that. Senegal will forever have a piece of my heart. I laughed, I cried, I learned and I loved!”

Ashley Fayou

While in Senegal, I did internships at several different schools and childcare centers. I was able to see complete opposite sides of the spectrum when it comes to education in Senegal. From private schools to public schools started by locals searching for ways to education their children, the disparity between the two houses of education was quite glaring.

Bethany Reichen

The whole village welcomed us with drums and dancing, cooked a meal for all of us, and showed us their school. We brought them school and medical supplies for which they were extremely grateful. It was an amazing night! The kids loved having their pictures taken and then looking at them on our cameras.” At times French major Bethany Reichen was in a variety of situations where playing the role of translator was invaluable. “Translating not only gave me a kind of power, but also a kind of pride in my education. Before that moment I did not know that I could speak French not only in the classroom but also in the ‘real world.’”

Kalima Johnson

“Up until I was six years old I practiced the Islamic religion since I have a Muslim father. This religious practice included wearing the hijab, attending the mosque and praying five times a day. After 9/11 I experienced verbal abuse from individuals who had knowledge of my past religious practices. Many of my peers would tease me telling me that my people had attacked America. After a while I started to hate my Islamic past. I disposed of many things that reminded me of my Islamic practices such as my hijabs, the Quran, and I even became ashamed of my Islamic father. As I grew older I realized that I should never allow anyone to make me regret who I am. Participating in the Study Abroad trip to Senegal, a country that is 93% Muslim, allowed me to revisit my discarded religious practices. From this trip I learned that not all Muslims are terrorists, there are bad individuals in every religion. Going to Senegal allowed me to come back home and tell those that had negative things to say that I witnessed loving Muslims, that there are countries in which Muslims live in peace.

While in Senegal I constantly came into contact with street beggars without shoes and proper clothing. These were poor conditions; however these individuals had rich spirits. I witnessed poor children smiling and playing with each other, demonstrating that they found wealth in each other’s company. The most persistent memory of me being in Senegal would definitely be meeting the principal at de la Rue (my first internship). Hearing the principal’s dedication to the street students was uplifting and inspiring. He farmed various days out of the week, sold his produce and then invested this money into his school. The farmer expressed that he was once a street child. Speaking with a dedicated individual like this reinforced the reasons I should be committed to helping children, they are the future and if you can redirect a child’s life you can redirect the future. Just being at de la Rue reinforced my thinking that being financially poor does not make you poor. The school is not funded by the government; their resources are limited. Students have to write on paper sized wooden boards with chalk because they can’t afford paper. I witnessed the principal cutting paper in four pieces in order to have enough for the students. At times the principal had students ranging from ages six to twenty one. These are poor conditions, however, I didn’t see poverty. I saw wealth in the children’s high spirits whose faces lit up at the sight of their powdered milk lunch. I saw wealth in the twenty one year old student who also worked as a cook after school. I saw wealth in the volunteers who spend their days and money in traveling to the school in order to create a better life for the children in this school. Most of all I saw wealth in the principal who sacrificed his life in order to improve the lives of these children.”

Thanks to all of you who have opted to receive the newsletter via e-mail, helping LLC participate in our campus wide Go Green Initiative! We look forward to hearing from more of you.

Email: jmacmillan@albany.edu

Join LLC’s new Facebook page: Facebook.com/uallc
**Césaire Event**

Eloise Brière pictured with A. James Arnold, who co-authored a new translation of Aimé Césaire's Soleil Coupé (Solar Throat Slashed, Wesleyan University Press) at the Poetry of Aimé Césaire event in October 2011. It was hosted by the New York State Writers Institute and co-sponsored by LLC, Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies, English and Africana Studies. Special readings were done by Glyne Griffth of L.A.C.S. and Pierre Joris of English. The reading was followed by an in-depth discussion on the translation of poetry in general. When asked how he and his co-author were able to translate the French into English in a manner that retained each piece’s originality, Professor Arnold responded that it was not an easy task to undertake. He and his co-author had to consult with one another frequently and would often times use unequivocal terms that conveyed the same meaning as they were better suited to the overall message of Césaire’s work.

**When in Rome...**

When in Rome…

University at Albany and Stony Brook Italian students studying abroad this summer took language classes in Italy and with the help of LLC’s Maria Keyes and their professors, took full advantage of the opportunity to explore various Italian cities including Rome, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Naples, Pompippi and Capri. Students at Russian Learners Club watch the Russian cartoon version of Winnie the Pooh in its famous 1958, translation by Boris Zakhoder, which dates to 1958. Russian Learners Club meets during the semester to give language students additional practice speaking and hearing Russian in informal settings. Native speaking exchange students and children of Russian emigres join Russian-speaking faculty and recent UAlbany graduates to create a bubble of “Russian language space” at UAlbany. Sometimes the format includes tea from an electric samovar and stollen; sometimes the setting is a nearby coffee house. Cultural activities include Russian films and internet curiosities, learning and performing songs, and attending concerts by visiting performers.

**Le Cercle Français – French Club**

The French Club, Le Cercle Français, is in full swing again this fall. Club president Cassandra Bouzi and vice president Alex Esposito hung the French Club banner in the Campus Center to kick off the semester. Monday evenings the club meets and engages in activities focusing on French language and culture. One of the first club activities was a T-shirt design contest won by Jessica Unverzart. Coming next is a Bal Masqué (Masquerade Ball) on January 28 in the Campus Center that will raise scholarship funds to help bring a Haitian student to UAlbany to study. Also planned this spring is a club trip to Montreal. Says Cynthia Fox, the Club’s faculty advisor, “It’s really a pleasure to be working with such a dedicated, imaginative and energetic group!”

**Deutsche Kaffeestunde - The German Table**

Members of the German Table gather at the university’s Campus Center for conversation and coffee.

The Deutsche Kaffeestunde meet weekly to discuss everything from day to day life in German cultural practices and politics. They also enjoy talking about their own cultural backgrounds as the group is quite culturally diverse. Because everyone’s level of German is different, the conversation mixes with English. Anyone interested in trying out their German language skills and learning more about all things German is welcome.

For their last meeting this semester, the club sampled stollen, Germany’s holiday fruit and nut bread. Das schmeckt! Stalin’s Throat Slashed, Wesleyan University Press). Russian Learners Club includes tea from an electric samovar and snacks; sometimes the format includes stollen and other traditional foods, played Bocce, danced in the streets and immersed themselves in Italian American culture for a day of fun and relaxation in Little Italy.

**La Dolce Vita - The Italian Club**

In September 2011, La Dolce Vita spent the day in NYC to attend the Annual Feast of San Gennaro. The festival celebrates the life of Saint Gennaro of Naples, Italy who died for his belief in Christianity. Club members sampled traditional Italian foods, played Bocce, danced in the streets and immersed themselves in Italian American culture for a day of fun and relaxation in Little Italy.

**Scopa**

A popular Italian game played in most regions of Italy is believed to be at least 400 years old. The goal is to “sweep” all your cards off the table. Tournament winner Alex Mundo will get to play Italian instructor, Maria Keyes, an avid Scopa player. There are two main versions of the game, classic Scopa also known as Scopetta (“small Scopa”) or Three-Card Scopa, and the most widespread version known as Scopone Scienifico (“big scientific Scopa”) which requires more practice and memory.

For more information on Scopa see http://a.pollett.tripod.com/scopa.htm.

**When in Rome...**

Maria Keyes and students met with Gianni Alemanno, mayor of Rome, while visiting the Room of Flags in the Capitol’s city hall (pictured above). Students got an educational inside view of how the Italian government operates. The mayor, delighted to see their enthusiasm, expressed a desire to return the favor by inviting New York State in the near future! Students also visited the Capitoline Museums where they got a firsthand view of the antiquity of Rome. Students at Russian Learners Club watch the Russian cartoon version of Winnie the Pooh in its famous 1958, translation by Boris Zakhoder, which dates to 1958. Russian Learners Club meets during the semester to give language students additional practice speaking and hearing Russian in informal settings. Native speaking exchange students and children of Russian emigres join Russian-speaking faculty and recent UAlbany graduates to create a bubble of “Russian language space” at UAlbany. Sometimes the format includes tea from an electric samovar and stollen; sometimes the setting is a nearby coffee house. Cultural activities include Russian films and internet curiosities, learning and performing songs, and attending concerts by visiting performers.

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For more information on Scopa see http://a.pollett.tripod.com/scopa.htm.
**Faculty News**

We welcome this semester two new Spanish Visiting Assistant Professors, Eduard Arango-Arriaga (University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario) whose focus is 20th-21st century Latin American and Caribbean literatures, music and art, and Jesse Barker (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC) whose interests lie in 20th-21st century Spanish narrative. Several new lecturers also join us, including: Gretchen Oliver French University in the High School Liaison, Mary Lou Vredenberg Latin, Anna Barletta Italian, Sarit Moskowitz Hebrew, and Lynn Stone Russian.

This December Visiting Assistant Professor Jesse Barker will have his article, “The Nocilla Effect: What is New about the New Wave of Spanish Narrative” published in the Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies.

In April Elise Brière presented: “Du Mutisme à la Violence Chez Marie-Célie Agramont et Fabienne Kanor” at the Caribbean Unbound V: “Voudon and Criolitude” conference in Lugano, Switzerland. In summer she had an article published in the French Review, “Ventiloquizing the Native: Whose Voice is it?” The highlight of her summer, however, was hosting a trip to Senegal, West Africa with students from the University at Albany, Union College and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. In October, in collaboration with the New York State Writer’s Institute, she organized a discussion and reading panel in October titled “The Poetry of Aimé Césaire with A. James Wills” at the MLA conference January 2012 in Seattle, WA.

This fall Assistant Professor of Slavic and Eurasian Studies Timothy Sergay has been on a semester’s release from teaching duties to work on his writing and research. He has now finished a literary translation project: an annotated English translation of a contemporary Russian historical-memoiristic novel, A Gloom Descends Upon the Ancient Steps (Luzhizna myla na staruye stupeni), by Aleksandr Pavlovich Chudakov (1938-2005). First published in journal form in 2000, Gloom tells the story of a boyhood and youth among hardly political and ethnic exiles in Soviet Northern Kazakhstan from the late 1930s to the early 1960s, with scenes of Moscow university life of the 1960s to early 70s. In Russia the novel was a critics’ favorite and has sold out several editions. A French edition of Gloom, titled Anton, translated by Macha Zontina and Catherine Guetta, was published in 2003. The book’s literary reputation in Russia has only grown in the years since its first publication, years marked by the author’s unexpected and sudden death in October 2005. Gloom is now shortlisted for the Russian Booker Prize for Best Novel of the Decade 2000-2010; a winner will be announced in early December. Chudakov’s widow, literary executor, and lifelong intellectual partner, Marietta Chudakova, a leading historian of 20th century Russian literature, social critic, and author, has agreed to contribute a special foreword for English-speaking readers to the English edition of Gloom. The manuscript is being reviewed for the foreign literature list of a distinguished university press.

David Wills was keynote speaker at “Written in Blood,” a Graduate Romanian Student Association Conference at the University of Pennsylvania in March 2011. Wills presented: “Bloodless Coup: Love in the Heart of Technology,” Earlier that month he was invited to give a seminar on the crisis in the humanities at Syracuse University, where he spoke on “From the Mercantilism of Language to the Commerce of Thinking.” He has published “Meditations for the Birds,” in ed. Anne Berger and Marta Segarra, Demenageries: Thinking (of) Animals After Derrida. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011; “Automatisches Leben, Also Leben,” trans. Clemens Krümmel, Zeitschrift für Medizinhin- schaft 4, 1 (2011), and “The Audible Life of the Image,” Journal of French Philosophy 18, 2 (2010): 43-64 (Special Issue: Godard and Philosophy).

Mary Beth Winn has been invited to speak at an international colloquium on Louise de Saisies, mother of King Francis I, in December 2011 at Romorantin, France. She will discuss Louise’s library: the manuscripts and printed books that she commissioned, inherited, or collected as mother of the king and Regent of France. Next summer, she will participate in a conference on the visual and textual representation of justice and power in medieval French manuscripts, to be held at the Université d’Orléans under the auspices of Le Studium, Institute of Advanced Studies. She has collaborated with musicologists Lanta Youens of George Washington University and Barton Hudson of West Virginia University to produce the critical edition of the 200 chansons by Thomas Crequeplou, a renowned Renaissance composer. The last two volumes of the seven-volume set were just published in October 2011 by the American Institute of Musicology.

Dutch lecturer and native speaker Janny Venema recently published Kiliaen van Rensselaer (1586-1643): Designing a New World, “A biography of one of the founding directors of the Dutch West India Company and a leading figure in the establishment of the New Netherland colony” (SUNY Press website). This fall her work won the 2011 Annual Hendricks Manuscript Award which includes a $2000 prize. Professor Venema, who works at the NYS Library, “it was a project several years in the making and involved extensive research here as well as in Europe.” The book offers new glimpses into the history of this area of NY and hope that it will provide answers to the many questions we are asked regularly at the New Netherland Research Center.”

**Comments, Feedback, and Updates**

LLC thanks everyone who has taken time to write us. We always appreciate your feedback! Contact us at: Languages, Literature and Cultures University at Albany Humanities 235 1400 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12222 or email languages@albany.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!

Join LLC’s new Facebook page: Facebook.com/uall
The Italian minor is back!

We just received the news in January that the Italian minor has been reinstated. At the present time LLC students can minor in 6 languages: French, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Students wishing to major in French, Italian or Russian Studies can do so by working with faculty and declaring a student–initiated interdisciplinary major combining coursework in LLC with that of another department (LLC’s website news page has details).

I first found out about the Santander scholarship to study abroad in Santiago de Compostela, Spain in 2009, the first year it was offered at the University at Albany. I thought about applying during this time but decided against it because I wasn’t sure if I wanted to study abroad for an entire year in a to apply the following year, I found out a few months after that I received one of the scholarships and I could not have been happier! While I was still hesitant about the length of time I would be spending abroad, I knew it was an opportunity that I would be crazy to turn down. The scholarship pays for the tuition at UAlbany as well as the required health insurance and other fees and also covers rent and food. As far as Europe goes, Santiago de Compostela is a relatively cheap city to live in. I met some amazing people from all over Europe and the rest of the world and my Spanish greatly improved in 3 short months. There are hundreds of exchange students at USC (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) and there are opportunities to improve your language skills everywhere. Galicia, the region in which Santiago de Compostela is located, is different from any other part of Spain that I have visited before. Other than the torrential rain that the area experiences every year, the province has some wonderful characteristics that make it a very unique part of Spain. The food was fantastic. Every visitor needs to try pulpo (octopus), at least once while there. The cathedral in Santiago de Compostela is breathtaking and there is even an option to do a rooftop tour. Another important part of the city is the number of peregrinos (pilgrims) that come to visit each year. Santiago de Compostela is a famous pilgrimage site and there are thousands of people who still walk its paths. As for the classes, I enrolled in classes with native Spanish speakers and I also continue to study French. Next semester, I plan on looking for work as an English teacher for my days off. It’s a good way to start gaining experience in teaching. Learning English in this city is surprisingly easier than trying to learn Galician. It’s the national language of the Galician region and is one of many Spanish languages spoken in Spain. The first three months have gone by so fast and it seems like one semester would not be enough time to learn or experience everything that Santiago de Compostela has to offer. It also gives me more time to travel to other fabulous countries in the EU!

Congratulations to French major/Spanish minor Pamela Akurado whose abstract “Variation and Maintenance of Spanish in Colorado: The Case of Fort Lupton” was accepted for presentation at the Undergraduate Conference on Language Variation and Language Contact in March 2012 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She also received a scholarship from the conference to cover travel expenses.

Alicia Krause attended the July 7-August 2, 2011 Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America. Held every two years, the Institute took place at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Classes, lectures, workshops, and mini-conferences were given by well-known international linguists such as Jacqueline Toribio of UT Austin, Douglas Pulleyblank and Diane Ohala of the University of Arizona and many more. Alice took four courses and focused on phonology. “Contact Spanish in the US,” one of the most memorable classes, was co-taught by Spanish linguist Jacqueline Toribio and French linguist Barbara Bullock (both from UT Austin). “The Institute has really inspired me to finish my dissertation and explore new areas of research. It was a busy month with attending classes and lectures and writing papers, but I also had some time to go to Rocky Mountain National Park and check out festivals and restaurants in downtown Boulder.”

Zahir Munin published “la docencia de las estructuras sintácticas del verbo gustar: el presente y el pasado.” in the Revisión de Investigación Lingüística (2010). The article examines the intrasitive complexity of verbs like gustar in different contextual situations. He also published “Clearing up Native English-speaking Students’ Semantic and Morphosyntactic Confusion with Spanish por and para” in the Journal of Linguistics and Language Teaching (2011). The article proposes a simplified resolution for helping students understand how the Spanish prepositions por and para are correctly used in dissimilar contexts.

Alejandra Olarte, who is currently ABD will present two papers in March 2012 at the Northeastern MLA Convention in Rochester NY. The first, “Espacios conquistados en El país de la canela de William Ospina” (“Conquered Spaces in Cinnamon Country by William Ospina”) will be presented at a panel and the second, “Realismo mágico y Borges” (“Magical Realism and Borges”) will be presented in a roundtable setting.

Danielle Jouët-Pastré earned her French doctorate in spring with her dissertation, “Récits de filiation: étude de trois perspective différentes dans la littérature québécois contemporaine.” Her research compares the evolution of three authors: Ying Chen, Sérgio Kokis and Naim Kattan whose novels demonstrate new forms of identification through biological markers (filiation) of culture based on choice rather than heritage (affiliation).
H eather Hart, who graduated in May 2011 with her French BA, currently works in the office of Congressman Mathias Rose of the 80th District Council, in New York City. “I started on July 25th. I sent out a resume to a few different places that were hiring that I had heard about either by word of mouth or by online postings and was very happy to hear back from the Councilman’s office in June.” Her knowledge of French allows her to be of help to a few different places that were hiring that she had heard about.

K evin Kanarek studied English and French at UAlbany. After graduating in 1978, he lived and worked in Paris for five years as a technical writer and translator at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCDE). After getting a Masters in Interactive Telecommunications at NYU, he worked as an educational technology consultant for Bertelsmann where he focused on media literacy, online publishing and project-based learning. Currently he works with Green21, a series about sustainability being developed for public television and online media. He also serves as a freelance web producer and editor for content-driven, social sites including Children of the Amazon. “I still remember the courses and teachers that every year he received an honorary doctorate from some university in Spain or Latin America. Eventually he became director of the Real Academia Española, which he served honorably. During his last year at UAlbany he fancied a couple of times. I thought then that it was his heart. I was wrong; his wife knew better, having been advised that he had cancer. She never said a word; and he did not know. I can only imagine his hidden pain. They were a very loving couple, who had fallen in love in high school, and had been together ever since. They had seven children, all distinguished professionals now. Manolo was a caring family man, Church, family and literature: that was his life. He loved them and served them well. Once we were talking one evening at an Antonio Machado’s poem’s: “sólo eras buen sentido de la palabra bueno. I am good in every sense of the word!” and Manolo said that he would like to be remembered not as the professor, the academician, the philologist, but as a good man. And so we should: Manuel Alvar, el bueno.

Associate Professor Maria Westmoreland: “When I arrived at UAlbany in 1990 I was surprised that someone so distinguished as Manuel Alvar, a past president of the Real Academia Española, was on the staff at an upstate university in New York, thousands of miles from Spain. Over the course of his career, Professor Alvar published roughly 100 books, countless articles, and was a bridge in the Spanish-speaking world between scholars working in the area of historical linguistics and of dialect studies; he was the most distinguished Spanish linguist of his generation. In addition to his many research accomplishments, the thing I remember about him was his generosity towards students and colleagues; he was a very gracious man. It should also be noted that his wife was also a very nice lady and was herself an accomplished scholar.”

Alumna Claire Ziamandianis (SPN PhD, 1990), currently Associate Professor of Spanish and Chair, Foreign Language Department at the College of Saint Rose, shared this excerpt from “An Unexpected Pilgrimage,” posted October 16, 2011 at 12:35 pm (http://blog.timesunion.com/xisteca/an-unexpected-pilgrimage/4296/). “I arrived a few days before my scheduled pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela so that I could spend some time in Madrid catching up with friends. As it turned out, everyone was busy today, Sunday, so I hopped a bus to Chinchon, to visit my dissertation director, Dr. Manuel Alvar, affectionately known to his students as don Manuel. It is quite customary to expect family members or very close friends to impact your life, while they are at your side and also long afterwards. At other moments, someone enters your life in a different capacity, as co-worker, mentor or even bartender, and like a quick shift of a Rashí’s cube, that person becomes one who has a lasting influence on your life.

Don Manuel was that person for me, as well as his wife, doña Elena. Don Manuel taught at SUNY-Albany, in the graduate program in Hispanic literature, but more importantly, they taught me about humanity. The real lessons that I learned from him were about being a good person, in his case, a Catholic. When I was a俗用, he would tell me about the importance of family and personal relationships, and how important it is to be a good person. He was a very kind man, and I will always remember his smile and his warm personality. Don Manuel was a true gentleman, and I will always remember him with fondness.”

HCCL remembers

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Manuel Alvar (continued)

Manolo’s (as he was called by family and friends) love for food, and we visited many a restaurant in the area. Professor Alvar directed many dissertations, and was very well liked by his doctoral students. He was a very hardworking, who started his visits to the library early in the morning, and produced nearly every week an article for the ABC, a popular Spanish national daily newspaper. It seemed that every year he received an honorary doctorate from some university in Spain or Latin America. Eventually he became director of the Real Academia Española, which he served honorably. During his last year at UAlbany he fancied a couple of times. I thought then that it was his heart. I was wrong; his wife knew better, having been advised that he had cancer. She never said a word; and he did not know. I can only imagine his hidden pain. They were a very loving couple, who had fallen in love in high school, and had been together ever since. They had seven children, all distinguished professionals now. Manolo was a caring family man, Church, family and literature: that was his life. He loved them and served them well. Once we were talking one evening at an Antonio Machado’s poem’s: “sólo eras buen sentido de la palabra bueno. I am good in every sense of the word!” and Manolo said that he would like to be remembered not as the professor, the academician, the philologist, but as a good man. And so we should: Manuel Alvar, el bueno.

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Manuel Alvar, affectionately known to his students as don Manuel. He is settling in well and looking forward to continuing to improve his French skills over the course of the coming year in France.

Interested in stories from other alumni? Visit www.albany.edu/llc/alumni.shtml. We'd love to hear your alumni stories too. Email us at languages@albany.edu
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Thank You! ¡Gracias! Merci! Grazie! Danke! Toda! Spasibo! Shukran! Obrigado! Gratus!
ERRATA

Page 1
Torrente-Ballester was given the Distinguished Professor title when he was hired by UAlbany and did not retire from UAlbany.

Page 4
Professor Briere completed her graduate degree work in Toronto, Canada in 1982.

Page 10
LLC is delighted to report that A Gloom Descends Upon the Ancient Steps [Lozhitsia mgla na starye stupeni] by Aleksandr Pavlovich Chudakov was awarded the Russian Booker Prize for Best Novel of the decade 2000-2010 in December 2011.