George F. Aubin, Professor of French and Linguistics, is étonnant — an astonishing, prolific intellect, and a survivor. Tonight we celebrate his career dedicated to Assumption — spanning 43 years of teaching — to which we must also add six more years, recognizing that he completed both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at Assumption, too. 49 years ... ten years more than the number Jack Benny, another musician, found was a great number to linger on.

George was the first child in the Aubin family to survive. After two previous pregnancies had ended tragically, his mother was told she couldn’t have any more children, but George proved her wrong... something he continues to be good at. He not only survived, but his parents had in total eleven children, a good Catholic family of five sons and six daughters, all of whom are alive today. When George starts a program, it gets going strong. Together, George and his wife, Judy, his match in love and music, have a family of eight children, five of whom graduated from Assumption College.

After completing his studies in 1960 for the B.A. at Assumption in French (at a time when a good deal of the instruction was in French), George taught at the high-school level as he prepared his M.A. at Assumption in French, which he received in 1962. He then returned to Assumption, first as a part-time teacher in the Evening Division (1962-63), then full-time as an Instructor of French (1963). While continuing to teach at Assumption, he began his studies at Brown University for his doctorate. There he encountered a new intellectual challenge in the field of Linguistics, which would motivate and lead him to an exploration of Native American languages.

In 1972, he received his Ph.D. from Brown with a dissertation entitled, “A Historical Phonology of Narragansett.” George, by then an Assistant Professor of French and Linguistics, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1973 and to Full Professor in 1978. From 1972 to 1976, he chaired the Department of French. About that time, Assumption often ranked third in the nation for numbers of Master’s degrees awarded in French, around 50 per year. He had much to do with shaping the program in French, pioneering courses we still teach today. He is our institutional memory.

Students who take George’s courses in French have often expressed their gratitude for giving them unparalleled training. One woman, who took his French V and then went on to work in Washington, D.C., in intelligence, sought George out at a recent reunion to thank him in a rather unique way: “I hated you, your course, and everything you did. I cursed you every night with every name in the book. But then, I found that I could do French better than anyone else. Now anything that comes across our desks in French where I work, I get.”

Indeed, George set the college in new directions, too. He developed a whole new program in Linguistics, the study of human language, and created the Minor in Linguistics, which today is a unique feature of Assumption’s curriculum. No other college in the Consortium offers linguistics, nor do any of our peer schools. (I worry about us keeping the program, which gives a challenging, vital perspective on the human enterprise.)

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George lives linguistics. The world is his informant, and he is always interviewing, leading us on adventures of linguistic analysis. Just this week at the copy machine, I heard him ask Leka Bezhani, our Albanian part-time instructor of Italian, how Leka said American, foreigner, then man, and woman. From the answers, George extracted the romance roots of Albanian. These questions make our day. He pops in to ask the Ecuadorean, Juan Carlos Grijalva, Assistant Professor of Spanish, what “carajo” means, and they keep exploring Anglo-based neologisms like “flipeado”. It’s fun to “hangear” with George. When I read the newspaper or magazines, I am cutting stuff out, excited to share what I find with George, such as, for example, an analysis of the differences between British and American similes, between Prince Charles and Tom Cruise, based on whether the upper teeth show or not. George keeps us alert, intellectually engaged, and smiling.

Throughout his long career at Assumption, George has carved out an interest and deepened his reputation for expertise in Indian Studies, one of the fields of his doctoral work. Together, Ray Marion, Paul Mahon, and George established the interdisciplinary program in Indian Studies that continues today with team-taught courses each semester. George’s reputation in Native American studies is truly amazing. In 1975 he edited the first dictionary of Proto-Algonquian, which was published in Ottawa by the National Museum of Man. To date, he has 37 scholarly publications, always representing original work — no recycling of materials here. As a gardener, I particularly love the title of his 1988 article, “‘Girls Hunting Groundhogs’: a text in Golden Lake Algonquin.” A couple of years ago, he shared some of his current research with the department. He told of the 17th century bilingual French/Algonquin manuscript he had found in the Sulpician archives in Montréal and was working on in research trips to Canada. No technophobe, George ultimately gained permission to make digital photographs of the manuscript.

He also regaled us with his experiences interviewing extant speakers of Indian languages: his story about trying to set up appointments with an elusive 90-year-old Algonquin woman so he could interview her about her language, a woman who was always busy and out helping the “old people” who were ten to fifteen years younger than she, was memorable. But you have to get George to tell it.

George is a recognized expert on North American Indian languages and cultures. He has been called on to review manuscripts, articles, NEH and NSF grant proposals, and to be a consultant for the Houghton Library at Harvard. In addition, he has been the external evaluator of both M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and at the Université de Montréal as well as of the scholarship/research of Algonquianist colleagues seeking promotion to Full Professor at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba, and at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. You have to love reading George’s CV.

continues on page 6
FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Professor George F. Aubin
George F. Aubin, Emeritus Professor of French & Linguistics, was recently named a lifetime member of the Linguistic Society of America. He continues to be actively involved in his research, traveling to Vancouver, British Columbia, in late October of 2006 for the 38th Algonquian Conference, where he presented a paper, "Look at Negative Imperatives in Algonquin," which was based in large part on his study of several 17th century manuscripts.

Professor Bonnie Catto
Prof. Catto is gratified that her latest book *Latina Mythica* was the #27 best-seller for 2006 for Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers. Fame at last! Plus a few royalty checks. Who said academics doesn’t pay? She has begun work on volume II of *Latina Mythica*, but it will be a while before it hits the presses.

On January 31 Prof. Catto gave a presentation in the informal Library Conversations series entitled “Is the Past Relevant to our Future?” Some very interesting discussion ensued. Prof. Catto hosted dinner featuring middle Eastern cuisine on Feb. 15 with the Honors students in Hanrahan hall and discussed the Classics in our curriculum, among other things. In the fall semester on November 29 Prof. Catto hosted a trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts for the College’s Honors program, the Classics Club, and some French Club students. In all there were 27 students and 3 faculty who toured the wonderful Classics collection. We arrived on the very day that a new larger-than-life statue of Eirene (Peace) was installed.

Professor Maryanne Leone
Professor Maryanne L. Leone continues to research and write on the negotiation of identity in contemporary Spain. She recently published an article on fictional representations of recent immigration to Spain, “Colonizing Voices and Visions: Lourdes Ortiz’s ‘Fátima de los naufragios’ and ‘La piel de Marcelinda’” in *Revista canadiense de estudios hispánicos*, Volume 30, Issue 3, 2006. In Fall 2006, Prof. Leone co-organized a panel at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literatures, “Stages of Memory: Private/Public Spaces in Contemporary Latin American Theater and Peninsular Narrative” and spoke about Galicia as a post-colonial space. On campus, Prof. Leone is teaching a writing emphasis course in Spring 2007 on Contemporary Spanish Novel (SPA 365 WE) and, with her class, looking at representations of power and the influence of gender, class and historical context. As part of the course, she arranged movie tickets for her students to see the Spanish film “Pan’s Labyrinth” at the theater. In several of her classes, Prof. Leone and her students have been exploring podcasting as an interactive, multi-dimensional tool for learning. In Fall 2006, Prof. Leone and Prof. Grijalva taught Spanish IV/V as a Community Service Learning course in which students worked with seniors at Centro las Américas in Worcester. She and Prof. Grijalva also run the Spanish Table, a weekly conversation group at Charlie’s. For the second year, Prof. Leone has organized the Department’s Career Night to give current students the opportunity to hear alumni of Modern and Classical Languages talk about their experiences since graduation. Currently, Prof. Leone is working on her book manuscript “Borderland Spaces and Identities: Fictional Realities in Democratic Spain” and two recent projects on transatlantic perspectives of race, class, and gender, and on transnational sex trafficking and post-Franco Spain, as seen through the lens of narrative.
Professor Juan Carlos Grijalva

Prof. Juan Carlos Grijalva is currently writing a series of entries for the Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture (Thomson Gale). He is also working with Prof. J. Enrique Ojeda of Boston College on a book project on race, gender and policies of language in the romantic writer Juan Montalvo. This Spring’07, Prof. Grijalva was invited to give three talks: “Ventriloquism as Gender in Romantic Ecuadorian Literature” in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; and “Women Poets Encounter Male Stereotypes in 19th Century Latin American Literature” in the Departments of Modern Languages at Rider University, Princeton, NJ and Saint Thomas University, Saint Paul, MN. His conference proposal entitled: “The Masculine Romantic Discourse on Women Parody, Censorship and Violence in Juan Montalvo and Juan L. Mera” has been accepted for the next MLA Convention in Chicago, 2007. In addition, in May, Prof. Grijalva will be teaching a graduate seminar course on “Utopia and Latin American Thought” in the Program of Latin American Studies at Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar in Ecuador. At Assumption College, Professor Grijalva has organized a Film Series on “Corruption in Latin America” and invited film producer Primavera C. Garrido to speak at Assumption (Fall’06). He also coordinated a web-page project on Hispanic colonial literature with his students, which has received 600 visits during the Spring semester (http://www.assumption.edu/users/grijalva). With Prof. Maryanne Leone, Prof. Grijalva also coordinated a community service learning program at Centro de las Américas and The Spanish Table meetings. Recently, Prof. Grijalva organized a Afro-Latin music concert for Assumption students and faculty.

Professor Richard Bonanno

Richard Bonanno is now an officially tenured member of the faculty at Assumption College. He has remained committed to the growth of the Italian program and is proud to see two Italian Studies majors among this year’s graduating class: Cristina Beccarelli and Lindsay Piccioli. Bonanno has organized a tour of several colleges by Italian filmmaker Antonio Bellia, whose visit involved screenings of recent films. At Assumption Bellia met with students of Italian and led discussion following the screening of his 2006 documentary “‘A Pirrera.” As for scholarly endeavors, Bonanno presented a paper entitled “Frank Capra and Sicily” at the 2006 meeting of the Mediterranean Studies Association in Genova, Italy and will participate in the 2007 meeting in Évora, Portugal with a paper entitled “Rereading Boccaccio’s Masetto da Lamporecchio.” In March Bonanno traveled to New Orleans to continue research on a project dealing with the life of jazz musician Nick LaRocca.

Professor Arlene Guerrero-Watanabe, Director of Latin American Studies.

Arlene Guerrero-Guatanabe published an encyclopedia article on the Chicano poet Alberto Alvarez Rios for the Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poetry. Her article, entitled "The dual / duel aesthetics of Rosario Ferré’s Duelo del Lenguaje" was accepted for publication in the selected conference proceedings, Rosario Ferré: Lenguajes, Sujetos, Mundos, through the University of Puerto Rico. Prof. Guerrero-Guatanabe delivered a paper at the Transatlantic Studies Conference (La geotextualidad atlántica) at Brown University's Center for Latin American Studies. The presentation, "Bilingual Soundscape: Decoding the Languages of Reguetón," focused on her research on this contemporary musical genre, which has become very popular amongst Latinos in the United States. Most recently, Arlene attended the 5th Annual Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu, Hawaii where she presented a paper "El lenguaje del desafío: Narrative Strategies, Culture, and Defiance in Contemporary Puerto Rican Short Fiction."

Professor Eliani Benanion

Professor Eliani Benaion will be giving a paper entitled: “English Loans in spoken Portuguese: analyzing conversations of Portuguese heritage speakers in Massachusetts” at a conference in Applied Linguistics at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, August 2007. Currently, Professor Benaion is working on a Portuguese textbook project entitled Conversas em Portugues (tentative title), which has been accepted for publication by Prentice Hall.
Professor Dona Kercher, Chair

Dona Kercher, Professor of Spanish, presented papers at three conferences this year. In October she spoke on “Teaching Spanish Mysticism at a Catholic Undergraduate College: Issues of Relevance, Accessibility, and Self-Censorship” at the AEE (Asociación de Escritoras Españolas) conference at Georgetown University. In February she spoke at the VI Cine-Lit Conference at Portland State University in Portland, OR on “The Aura of Hitchcock in Fabián Bielinksy’s Films.” At Cine-Lit she also co-led a plenary workshop on “Teaching Hispanic Cinema” with Prof. Nancy Membrez of UT-San Antonio. In March she participated at a memorial panel on Bielinsky and Rebolledo at the 2007 Annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference, and presented “Bielinsky’s Debt to Late Hitchcock.” Most recently, in March, she attended the Foreign Languages assessment component of the NEEAN conference at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Emerita Professor Magda Castellví deMoor

Professor Magda C. deMoor published an article, “Narrativa del exilio y memoria en el teatro cubano: Recordando a mamá de Monge Rafuls” has been published in Texto y contexto teatral (Buenos Aires: Galerna, 2006), which analyzes the discourse of individual and collective trauma and memory within the conflictive space of exile. Magda also published a book review of El drama ritual indígena y el teatro de la Conquista by Marta de Paris in Alba de América, vol. 25, no. 47-48 (Westminster: Instituto Literario y Cultural Hispánico, 2006). The book focuses on the role that theatre played in the spiritual conquest, parallel to the destruction of the Indies. Paris’ study is a contribution to the open debate on colonialism and the subsumed cultures. Last Fall semester, the students of Magda’s SPA 120 Honors enjoyed their hands-on experience with the Community Service Learning component of the course. Their individual projects included work in after school programs, and help with immigration papers at a law firm. Magda is currently offering a workshop on Eva Perón and her time in the Worcester Public Schools program, “Curriculum and Professional Development/No Child Left Behind.” The Modern Language Association of America awarded Magda deMoor a life membership upon her retirement, in recognition to her long-standing commitment to the profession.

Professor Elisabeth Howe

Professor Elisabeth Howe is involved in many French-related activities on and off campus. She organizes the French Club, which has met three times so far this semester. In February she organized a “mini French film festival,” showing two films, “L’Enfant” and “Caché.” Both were followed by lively discussion among the participants. For Spring Break, she and Professor Zielonka took a group of students to Cannes in the south of France. They had a wonderful week, enjoying the balmy Mediterranean weather and the splendid views of the coastline, and visiting many interesting sites—medieval villages; a perfume factory; museums; two islands off the coast of Cannes; Nice; Monaco and Monte Carlo. Professor Howe is currently rehearsing her students to perform short dramatic pieces in French in Assumption’s Theater Workshop on April 2nd, complete with costumes, props and lighting. Off campus, she often attends lectures, films and plays in French in the Boston area, such as a speech by the French Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin, on issues concerning European and American foreign policy, held at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government on March 16th. She belongs to a French book group based at Schoenhof’s, Cambridge’s foreign bookstore, and will be attending its second meeting of this year in April. Professor Howe is currently writing a book entitled An Introduction to Close Reading: Explicating Literary Texts, under contract from Prentice-Hall. It is a guide for students, for use in Introduction to Literature classes, showing them how to analyze poetic, dramatic and prose texts. It will be ready for publication in 2008.

Professor Anthony Zielonka

Professor Anthony Zielonka gave a paper entitled “Bouvard, Pécuchet and the Pursuit of Science in Comic Mode”, at the Annual International Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, from October 19 to 21, 2006, held at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. He also chaired a session on “Texts” at the same conference. This semester, Professor Zielonka will be giving a paper on “Huysmans à Schiedam: sur les traces de Sainte Lydwine” at the International Conference: “Huysmans Chez Lui”, which is being held at the University of Nijmegen, in the Netherlands, on April 20-21, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of this major French Catholic writer, who was of Dutch descent. With Professor Howe, Professor Zielonka also organized a Spring Break Trip (March 3-11) to Cannes and the French Riviera, which included nine Assumption students, and one administrator and spouse.

Professor Tom Begley — Currently, under sabbatical.
We must remember George...

Under “Languages” he knows, there is a humble, and I would say, overly modest assessment: English (native); French (near native); German, Italian (read, limited conversational ability); Old French, Latin, Old Portuguese, Spanish (read) [wrong, he followed everything said during our Spanish Search Committee meetings]; Golden Lake Algonquin, Maniwaki Algonquin, Massachusett, Narragansett, Ojibwa (more than casual linguistic analysis). And then there follows the category “Languages Dealt with in Publications”: English; French; Eastern Algonquian / General Algonquian / Proto-Algonquian; Algonquin / Golden Lake Algonquin / Maniwaki Algonquin / Ojibwe / Ottawa / Saulteaux; Cree; Kickapoo; Mahican / Malecite-Passamaquoddy / Massachusetts / Narragansett / Wampanoag; Catawba; Crow; and Siouan: Tutelo, Ufo, Biloxi.

He has been a superb member of Search Committees in Spanish, French, and Anthropology, able to read dossiers for true intellectual quality and later engage diverse young candidates personally. There is no colleague who I am prouder telling other academics about when I talk about Assumption. I tell them not only about the Proto-Algonquian dictionary, but also that my colleague is quite a musician, as we have seen tonight. I don’t know how he has done it, fitting in lessons in jazz piano with a distinguished professor from Berklee, or how he does it now, running 3 to 5 miles several days a week, and playing gigs, often with his son Glenn on drums. What an incredible stamina and diverse talent!

George has unique, demanding ways of teaching, too. Here I pause for one recent statistic: in the college’s ranking of grade distribution, Linguistics — that is, only George — has been ranked as one of the college’s toughest areas for 7 of the last 10 years. Moreover, he is the only language teacher I know of who requests a piano in his classroom for his major-level course in French Oral Expression because he accompanies the students in songs to practice their pronunciation...

George has likewise undertaken many tough tasks of service to the college, always with great passion. For example, he has a long record of seeking justice, from the Committee of Inquiry Regarding Denial of Tenure to … the Parking Committee. God help the man who ticketed George’s car when he found no place to park on his way to class. He has never given any argument up easily.

I distinctly remember the time George was attending a conference in Boston, and, to be frugal, had taken the subway to get to the conference hotel. He listed the cost of a token on his travel expense account, only to be told that he couldn’t be reimbursed because he didn’t have a receipt for it. One dollar! For a long time, everyone who met him in the office heard about that travesty of justice. George had many other words for it … and many gestures!

George also has the reputation of having a somewhat stentorian voice at times. According to one senior colleague, quite a long while ago, in the heat of a debate at a faculty meeting, former President de Pasquale once referred to George affectionately as “my friend, loudmouth Aubin.” George was not terribly amused, so I’ve heard. But George usually does manage to make himself heard. He likes to teach at 8:30 am, and, probably because of the hour, he got a unique comment this past Fall: “He spoke so loud I got a headache.” To which I imagine George would respond with a “Baloney!”, accompanied by the appropriate gesture. A former student in Classics, French, and German once complained that he couldn’t concentrate in his classroom three doors down from where George was teaching, in French, because he could hear George and was distracted by him. Well, George tells me that neither he nor several of his musically talented children need mikes when they sing. It must have been a truly balanced and enormous sound at their family sing-alongs growing up!

I could go on with the list of George’s prestigious external awards, from NEH and NDEA Fellowships, to the uniquely titled “National Museums of Canada Urgent Ethnology Contract” (three of them!). Clearly, George Aubin deserves our recognition and gratitude for his service to Assumption. In retirement, he tells me he plans to go to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, for the Thirty-Eighth Annual Algonquian Conference there this coming Fall [George did in fact go to this conference and presented a paper, “A Look at Negative Imperatives in Algonquin”]. He has been to 26 previous annual meetings, which is quite a record. Much in demand in his field, we hope that George will continue to be around to share with us his joy in languages, and maybe still play for the annual French Christmas carol sing…

I know that “as times go by”, we at Assumption will always remember George, his stories, his wit, and say, “Play it again, George.” Thank you.

By Dona Kercher, Professor of Spanish Chair, Dept. of Modern and Classical Langs. & Lits.

With minor editing and emendations by George F. Aubin
Language Clubs

The Spanish Table

This school year of 2006 and 2007, Professors Juan Carlos Grijalva and Maryanne Leone formed a group called The Spanish Table, where every Wednesday at 4:00 in the afternoon, we met and had a social hour. But, this wasn’t any other casual meeting that students participated in. This group consisted of an upbeat combination of Spanish-speaking students and professors, who came together for one hour to basically do their thing, speak Spanish, of course. We formed many friendships through the wonderful language and shared interests with each other. It was a way of getting involved on campus and improving your Spanish-speaking skills. It doesn’t matter if you are fluent or just learning because we all respect each other and we learn from each other while having a great time. We hope you consider joining the Spanish Table during your first year at Assumption College because it’s a great way to meet others and step out of your comfort zone. We welcome you with open arms and we look forward to seeing you in the fall. ¡Esperamos verlos a uds. pronto y que tengan un buen verano!

Andrea DeLima, Deidre Daudt & Justin Scott

The French Club

The first French club meeting of the current semester was held on Wednesday February 13th in Campus Ministry, for an evening of conversation and French music (songs). For mardi gras (February 20th) we got together again to make (and consume!) crêpes. A mini French Film Festival was sponsored by the Department in February. Two intriguing films have been shown: Tuesday Feb. 13th at 7 p.m. in Kennedy 112: L’Enfant. Winner of the Cannes Palme d’Or Award, this tale centers on 20-year-old Bruno (Jeremie Renier) and his 18-year-old girlfriend, Sonia (Deborah Francois). Thursday Feb 22nd at 7 p.m. in K112: Caché, a psychological thriller with Daniel Auteuil and Juliette Binoche. Two students in French are currently studying abroad, both in Grenoble, France: Katie Pearson and Monica Cadime.

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Clubs...

The Classics Club

Our campus chapter of the national classics honor society, Eta Sigma Phi, initiated six students on February 12, 2007: Elizabeth Aube, Nicole Lavallee, Maureen Moriarity, Ashley Rode, Hillary Shorey, and Michael Valalik. After the initiation ceremony with other current members we had a planning session for other events and for the trip to the national convention. We are sending three students: Sierra Calla, Alexandra, Leonard, and Shauna Perkins to the convention hosted by Temple University in Philadelphia from March 30-April 1. They will participate in a certamen (classical quiz in Jeopardy style), visit the world-class archaeological museum at the U. of Pennsylvania, attend papers and presentations, and meet other classics students from around the country.

On the eve of the Ides of March the Classics Club held its annual Ides of March dinner complete with Caesar salad (of course), Chicken Apicius, hummus and pita, peas vinaigrette, nettle quiche, sparkling cider, and baklava. These were all prepared according to authentic ancient recipes. Dan Davey, a senior Classics major, hosted the event attended by 14 students on the first very nice day this spring. Their dedication was appreciated! Later in the semester the Classics Club and Eta Sigma Phi plan to have a make-your-own authentic Roman pizza night. Also, there has been much interest in making togas. Finally we will have an end-of-semester Horatian style picnic by the duck pond.

On October 23 the Classics Club hosted what is becoming an annual event: Paint your own pot and/or pumpkin. This was successful with 21 people creating some interesting art-work. During the fall we also watched episodes of the HBO Rome series. Students also attended lectures by Caroline Hanneman of Kenyon College on Greek tragedy on October 2. Her title was “I ask the gods respite from these toils.” Prof. Marc LePain talked on “Laocoon Revisited” on September 21. Our first meeting of the year was an organizational event on September 21.

Various alumni/ae have been heard from recently. Denis Deriev is attending the Yale School of Divinity. Lizzie Benestad, M.A.T. from U.Mass/Amherst, taught for a year or two in New Hampshire and is now teaching Latin and Greek in Rhode Island at Portsmouth Abbey. Matt Bavone, who graduated last year, is teaching Latin and Spanish at the Hillside School in Marlboro, MA. Melissa Lalli, also a May graduate, is attending graduate school in Medieval Studies at the University of Connecticut and is a T.A. in English Composition. Professor Catto also hears by mail periodically from Eva Owens, who is a teacher, and Mary Lee DeSantis. Jeff Namiotka has moved on from teaching at Cushing Academy in Massachusetts to a job at Western Reserve Academy in Ohio.

Keep those cards and letters coming folks! We like to know what you’re doing and how studying Classics has contributed to your life.

Chris Klofft, who took Latin with Prof. Catto, is now in his second year of teaching Theology here at Assumption.
Clubs...

Jean Slavkovsky, a Foreign Language major with Spanish and Latin, spent her fall semester Junior Year at Oxford University in England. She studied Ovid under the rather intensive British tutorial system. Brent MacDonald is often spotted volunteering at the College's Open House for incoming freshmen. He works as an administrator with Verizon. Margaret Adamczyk completed her M.A.T. in Classics at U.Mass Amherst two years ago and is now teaching at the Greater Hartford Charter Magnet School. Prof. Catto has seen her at various conferences. We now have a strong number of Classics majors in addition to a number of very good but as yet undeclared freshmen. In the fall, Prof. Nelson will be offering her CLT 210, Classical Mythology. She is teaching full-time at the Abbey Kelly Foster School here in Worcester. The Department is currently looking for someone to teach the LAT 101-102 sequence. Prof. Barry Knowlton has been teaching LAT 102 this semester but is leaving for a one-year appointment at Stonehill. Prof. Catto will be teaching her Introduction to Literature with Classical Emphasis, LAT 201, LAT 301: Historians (Livy Book I, some Suetonius - Julius Caesar and Augustus, and a bit of Tacitus' Annales), and Greek 201 in which grammar study is completed and there are readings from Plato's Apology of Socrates. Another busy year!

German Student Activities

German continued with its “food and language” theme. The Fall language classes celebrated “Oktoberfest” and Munich by enjoying a staple of Bavarian cuisine: “der Obatzte” – a cheese dish eaten with Pretzels or bread. In late Fall, the beginning German class learned about the old Habsburg city of Vienna and ate Prof. Solbakken’s homemade Sachertorte and Linzertorte mit Schlag. They left some to share with the intermediate German class and the Advanced German Grammar Independent Study students. Eve Summer ’07, a German and French major, and Eric Matthews ’08, a German major, were particularly appreciative that their efforts were finally rewarded with Tortes. Meanwhile, the students in the Spring German IV class gathered at the house of Prof. Solbakken and her German-speaking family for an evening of food, conversation and music. The class had already been treated to guest speakers from Berlin and Lübeck, both of whom commented on the energy and knowledge displayed by the students. They are now busy writing skits in German, to be performed and recorded with the help of fellow student and Media Center Worker Timothy Grieco ’07.

Consortium events for German students this academic year included a trip to the College of the Holy Cross to watch a performance of C.P. Taylor’s musical play “Good”, set in Germany during the early days of the Nazi Regime, and a reading at WPI by the Swiss novelist Hans-Jörg Schertenleib, MIT writer in residence. We will conclude the semester by attending a concert at Mechanics Hall with the German cabaret singer Ute Lemper.
Salamanca, Spain

As the best Spanish writer of all time, Cervantes appreciated the quaint city of Salamanca for what it was, a traditional and true university town that captures the hearts of all that visit. When I first arrived at my home away from home, I was amazed at the breathtaking architecture and the way of life around the city. I couldn’t believe that I was going to spend the next five months of my life in such a beautiful place. To experience life in a different country is difficult to put into words, because it changes your life in so many ways. You may go into your time abroad thinking you know so much about your country and the rest of the world, but nothing compares to living within another culture. At the end of your time away from home, you realize how much you have grown, and how lucky you are to have had this experience. Not only did I grow as a person, but I became almost fluent in the Spanish language and saw so many amazing things along the way. I extremely recommend studying abroad, not just in Spain, but anywhere in the world. The best way to learn more about this world we live in is to experience it. My best advice is

Spring Break on the French Riviera

A group of students, mostly from French classes, spent the whole week of Spring Break in the south of France on a trip led by Professors Elisabeth Howe and Anthony Zielonka. Based at an Assumptionist International Center in Cannes, they explored not only Cannes itself and two islands off the coast (one of which boasts a fort where the Man in the Iron Mask was imprisoned), but also many interesting and spectacularly beautiful places in the area. By bus or by train they made day trips to Villefranche, with its chapel decorated by Cocteau; the exquisite Villa Ephrussi on Cap Ferrat; the old town of Nice; St Tropez, a favorite venue for the rich and famous; Grasse with its perfume factories; St Paul de Vence, a medieval village perched on a hilltop, and the famous Maeght Art Museum nearby; Monaco, and Monte Carlo’s celebrated Casino. Other delights included many delicious meals, shopping in open-air markets, choosing pastries in pâtisseries, sampling crêpes, lots of walks in the open air with plenty of sunshine and temperatures in the upper 60’s, palm trees everywhere and mimosa and other colorful flowers blooming in abundance. The group had a wonderful time and now shares some happy memories!

German and Philosophy in Munich

“Choosing the right study abroad program depends on your expectations and needs. If the primary purpose is to improve your ability in the local language, I would recommend selecting a program which places its students directly at the university. Often, the relationships you establish early set the course for the entire year. If you have extra-curricular interests (sport, music, yoga etc.) see if the city has a club you might join. In relationships to “locals”, be sure they know you’ve eschewed a year at Assumption to learn their language, and not for them to show off their English!”
Jared Becker ’02, German and Philosophy major and alumnus of JYM in Munich, is a graduate student at Middlebury College. He is spending this academic year in Berlin. Though his first love is philosophy, Jared is getting an M.A. in German, the first student of Prof. Solbakken to earn a graduate degree. Wunderbar! Lee Desrosiers ’07, a German minor and a Philosophy major, attends the prestigious JYM program in Munich and is enrolled at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, considered the best university in Germany. Lee, always a singularly focused student, enjoys Munich tremendously. His German – judging from e-mails – is now flawless – as is his Bavarian.
Conference: From Cervantes to García Márquez
By Professor Julio Ortega of Brown University

On Tuesday, February 6, 2007, Professor Julio Ortega gave a conference entitled: “From Cervantes to García Márquez.” Prof. Ortega spoke about the inter-textual relations between El Quijote by Miguel de Cervantes and One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez.

Latin Music Concert

The Afro-Latin music band Mango Blue performed at Assumption on Friday, March 23. This event was possible thanks to the economic support of the Program of Latin American Studies, the Student Government Association, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures and the Department of Arts, Music and Theater.

New Courses on Latin American Studies:

Introduction to Latin American Studies, LAS 200
Spring 2007

Contemporary Mexico, LAS 400
Fall 2007

The Department of Latin American Studies responds to the increased interest in the societies of the region and to the need to understand their historical complexity, political and economic systems, social structures, and literary and artistic expressions. The history of the Latin American nations and the development of their distinctive identities since pre-Columbian times through the establishment of modern democracies offers a challenging range of areas to explore. The growing presence of Latino communities within the United States gives another dimension to the field of Latin American studies.

For more information, please contact:
Prof. Arlene Guerrero-Watanabe
Director of the LAS Program
E-mail: aguerrer@assumption.edu
Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

We offer courses in seven languages: French, German, Ancient Greek, Italian, Latin, Portuguese and Spanish, as well as linguistics and comparative literature. Majors are available in French, Classics, Foreign Languages, Spanish, and Spanish with a concentration in Hispanic Culture and Civilization; minors are also available in Comparative Literature, French Studies, German Studies, Italian Studies, Latin American Studies, and Linguistics. Through the Worcester Consortium students can also arrange special majors in German, Italian and other languages. Students are encouraged to undertake double majors combining either two languages, or a language with a major in International Business, Politics or Social Rehabilitation, among other options.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Two colleagues have been recently granted tenure in our department:

Prof. Arlene Guerrero-Watanabe (Spanish)
Prof. Richard Bonnano (Italian)

For further information, contact:
Dona Kercher, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures
Founders Hall 213
E-mail: dkkercher@assumption.edu

Special Note
A note of special appreciation to Mona Heffernan, Department Secretary, for her extraordinary work, patience and support; and to our language part-time instructors: Mary Bierfeldt (French) who has been working for 18 years in our department; Elisabeth Solbakken (German), 11 years; Maria C. Warren (Spanish), 4 years; and Rose Mambert (Italian), one year.

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE
500 Salisbury Street, P.O. Box 15005
Worcester, MA 01609-1296
Admissions (508) 767-7000
www.assumption.edu