



LINGUA FRANCA

A BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE

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You say *bocce*,
I say *pétanque*

WORLD'S TOP 10 CITIES FOR FOODIES!

For great food and cool restaurants... some surprises!

1. Barcelona, Spain
2. Brussels, Belgium
3. Hanoi, Vietnam
4. Las Vegas, USA
5. Lyon, France
6. New York, USA
7. San Francisco, USA
8. Rome, Italy
9. Tokyo, Japan
10. Vancouver, Canada

*List compiled by
msnbc.com!*

PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS, ORIGINAL ANSWERS: FOREIGN LANGUAGES STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUMS

BY DR. KRISTINE DOLL, ACTING CHAIR, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Why does Mexico's flag depict an eagle devouring a serpent? Can you learn to speak a foreign language easier if you surf? Will karaoke help to improve your pronunciation?

These are just some of the provocative questions explored by four graduate and eight undergraduate students who will present their studies on a wide range of topics at the college's two research symposiums this spring.

The **Graduate Research Symposium** will be held on Saturday, May 6. The department's representatives are scheduled to present from 10:30-11:45a.m. in the Underground room of the Ellis Campus Center. This is the first year that Foreign Languages has had graduate students prepared to showcase their work. These presentations were developed and refined in the thesis-writing course, MAT900,

under the direction of Dr. Kristine Doll. Come support your graduate colleagues and discover the professional quality and originality of their work.

Barbara Collins will present: "Conversaciones y retratos: el poder de música sobre la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de una lengua segunda."



Nicsa Dagger-Cain: "I Speak English, ¿para qué más? Una exploración hacia la actitud que se tiene en los Estados Unidos sobre el aprendizaje del lenguaje español u otra lengua."

Elizabeth Díaz: "De dioses de-

moníacos a vírgenes morenas: el desarrollo de símbolos religiosos en el México colonial."

Steven Sofronas: "Soy, eres, es, somos, sois, son: los límites del aprendizaje de una lengua extranjera fuera de contexto y sin motivación."

The **Undergraduate Research Symposium** will be held on Monday, May 8 at the College's Dining Commons. Starting at 8:30a.m., the symposium will highlight a variety of empirical, scholarly and creative work. Under the direction of Dr. Ana Echevarria-Morales, eight undergraduate Spanish majors will present original research on topics ranging from the impact of illegal immigrants on the U.S. economy to the American fascination with Cuba to questions in second language acquisition and teaching methodology. Come enjoy the following presentations!

Heather Cahill will present: "La fascinación americana con Cuba"

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STUDENT PROFILE: STEVEN SOFRONAS, MAT STUDENT

BY DR. NICOLE SHERF, MAT COORDINATOR, FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Steven Sofronas was one of the first to be accepted into the MAT in Spanish program that began

in the fall of 2004, and he will be the first to graduate this May. He moved quickly through the program taking

up to three courses in a semester. Last school year he taught Spanish at Lynn Classical High School and moved this year to Hamilton-Wenham High School. He has taught all levels of Spanish through the Advanced Placement course. He is an avid surfer and especially loves the warm waters of Costa Rica, where he is known to have spent many a February break.

¿Why did you choose Salem

State College's MAT in Spanish program? First off, it was a lot more convenient and affordable than the few other programs in Boston. Also I thought it would be exciting to be a part of something new. I started taking education courses at Salem State before the program started, but I knew they were in the process of putting it together. I was really looking for a program that emphasized Spanish rather

(continued on p. 3)



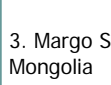
2006 Photo Contest winners!

The 12 winning photos, to be published in a 2006-2007 calendar on sale this May, capture the diverse travel experiences of the following SSC students, faculty, and administrators :

1. Thomas Hallahan, South Africa



2. Marcie Talbot, France



3. Margo Steiner, Mongolia



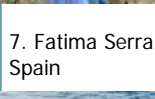
4. Jacqueline Landau, Nepal



5. Julia Lawrence, England



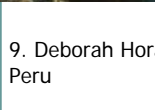
6. Henry Zbyszynski, St. Kitts



7. Fatima Serra, Spain



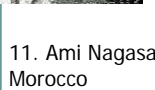
8. Heather Cahill, Cuba



9. Deborah Horan, Peru



10. David Filiberti, Italy



11. Ami Nagasaka, Morocco



12. Bo Hatfield, China

All photos submitted will be included in a free screensaver, downloadable from the Department website. Calendar sales will support the Department's HOPE award, a scholarship to support international humanitarian work by undergraduate students. Congrats to our winners, and thanks to all for the beautiful photos!

QUÉ PASA? QUOI DE NEUF? DEPARTMENT NEWS ABOUNDS

BY DEPARTMENT FACULTY, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Congratulations to our Graduates! This year, the Department is graduating nine Spanish Majors: Rachel Smith, Heather Cahill, Aniluz Rodriguez, Jaime Grazio, Cristina Fernandez, Kate Coelho, Angela Lafontant, and Linda Zamorano. Congratulations to



you all. We will also say "hasta la vista," "au revoir," and "ci vediamo" to many of our Spanish, French, and Foreign Languages Minors. And finally, we bid farewell to Steven Sofronas, one of the first students to be accepted to the MAT in Spanish program, who will become the first to graduate this spring. He



currently teaches at Hamilton Wenham High School. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck in future endeavors. Please

stay in touch and let us know where your studies and your travels take you in the future.

"Spring Fling" Ends the Year in Style: The Department's annual "Spring Fling," complete with a decadent chocolate fountain, was a great success. The Department recognized award recipients and graduating seniors and indulged in some much needed revelry. See photos this page.

Announcing New Programs: The Department has received approval for a new **Italian minor** and to initiate an **Arabic language** program! Look for new courses starting in Fall 2006!

Summer Study Abroad: The Department is again offering intensive summer language programs in Oviedo, Spain and Quebec City, Canada. If you are interested in participating next summer, contact Dr. Serra (Spanish) or Dr. Blood (French) next fall for more information.

French Club Becomes Official: The French Club has been granted official club status by the SGA! Thanks to Stephanie Izzicupo and Kenny Chan for their hard work on our behalf. Next year, we will have a budget to fund our annual activities, such as our Pétanque Tournament, "Conversation and Crêpes" gatherings, restaurant and museum outings, film nights, and more. We will be looking for new Club officers next fall, so if you



are interested in joining or becoming an officer, join our email list (see the Dept website) to stay informed of upcoming meetings.

DELE Exam: If you want some recognition of the time you have invested in learning Spanish, you can take the



DELE, Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language granted by the Instituto Cervantes here at SSC. We host the exam every Spring and this year it will take place on May 13th. If you wish to do it next Spring, contact Prof. Serra (fatima.serra@salemstate.edu) in March 2007. Or consult: <http://www.cervantes.org/>

PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS, ORIGINAL ANSWERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kate Coelho: "Los inmigrantes ilegales: ¿beneficio o detrimento para la economía y la cultura de los Estados Unidos?"

Daysi García: "La problemática de los estudiantes abusivos en el salón de clases."

Cristina Fernández: "¿Es más fácil para los niños aprender una lengua?: Teorías sobre la

adquisición de lenguas."

Elise Goyette: "La preparación de lecciones para la enseñanza de una lengua extranjera a niños: o cuándo sea grande quiero ser maestra."

Rachel Smith: "La mujer indígena contemporánea en Latinoamérica: la negociación entre la tradición y el cambio."

Jaime Grazio: "El bachillerato en español: la enseñanza no es la única opción."

Amanda Wilson: "Federico García Lorca: Las mujeres de la trilogía de la tierra."

Congratulations to all on your work this semester. We hope to see you at the symposiums. ■

STUDENT PROFILE: STEVEN SOFRONAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

than only courses in Education. From the start, I found Dr. Sherf to be extremely knowledgeable and supportive, and this has also been the case with all other professors I have studied under in my experience here.

¿What did you enjoy most about your experience here?

The people, both students and professors, have been great. I think we have started a nice community within the program. It was nice to know that there are people there to support you and provide you with new ideas. I am also proud of being among the first students to complete the requirements of the program.

¿What was your biggest challenge as a graduate student?

My biggest challenge is everyone else's biggest challenge: juggling classes and coursework with a teaching job. Looking back to when I first started

teaching, I would have never thought that I could do it, but now it just seems normal. I give a lot of credit to people I know in the program who not only teach, but also have children at home. I don't know how they do it.

**"I suppose the best advice I could give is to stay focused and try to take advantage of the knowledge of your professors and your colleagues."
-Steve Sofronas**

¿Do you have future plans to continue your studies?

I'm sure I will continue my studies in the future. I enjoy taking classes and learning new things. I would really like to learn another language, so I think that would be on the top of my list now that I've freed up some time. But I am also looking forward to some time off to regroup and plan for the

future.

¿Do you have any advice for current and prospective MAT in Spanish students? I guess for me the biggest challenge of this experience has been prioritizing what I needed to do. It can be overwhelming trying to plan and evaluate materials from your own classes while keeping up with graduate work, especially when taking two courses a semester. I suppose the best advice I could give is to stay focused and try to take advantage of the knowledge of your professors and your colleagues.

¿Any question you can think of that would be relevant? No, but I just want to take the opportunity to thank all of the professors and students in the program for all their support. I think the people are what can make education great, and the MAT in Spanish program at Salem State is no exception. Thanks again! ■

PROGRAM REPORTING ABOUNDS IN THE FL DEPARTMENT

BY DR. NICOLE SHERF

The Department of Foreign Languages has undergone a flurry of report and proposal preparation over the last four years, including a Self-Study, a review of the Spanish BA by the Board of Higher Education, and the process is currently underway to prepare our licensure programs for accreditation. The faculty has grown as a team in its work to assemble the necessary components of each of these projects, and the students of the Department were able to participate as well through various surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

During the fall of 2004, surveys were administered to graduated majors and minors, current majors and minors, and students in language requirement courses for other majors. The surveys were used as a part of the Department's Self-Study, a report sub-

mitted to the Administration summarizing the goals and mission of the Department. An external evaluator, Dr. María Brucatto from Merrimack College, visited campus last spring to attend classes, meet with the faculty and Deans, and facilitate various focus group sessions with students.

Our intent with the surveys was to discover the areas of need as well as to be able to highlight the strengths of the Department. Overall, students stated they are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the quality of language courses and feel that courses meet their needs. Students ranked the faculty as the top strength of the Department, followed next by course opportunities. The most exciting news was the almost unanimous response from students that they were taking the language for personal interest and

that they intend to use their language skills in their future careers.

Students listed concerns about language lab hours and the lab requirement, as well as the expansion of languages taught and study abroad opportunities. They saw extra-curricular activities as both a strength and a weakness. We look for guidance from the students in ways to increase enrollment in extracurricular activities, as well as seek suggestions for new field trips, programs and events.

As the Department expands, we ask students to let us know what they need to make their experience with us a more fulfilling one. We are currently looking into a Foreign Language Lounge, a Foreign Language Dormitory and a summer abroad experience for the graduate level. Let us know what you think! ■

What's Cooking in our Spanish Classes?

BY DR. FÁTIMA SERRA

One of the highlights of last Fall's graduate course, the Cultures of Spain, was our field trip to a Spanish restaurant, Taberna de Haro, a cosy tavern in Brookline. We were given a gastronomical tour of Spain by the chef/owner, and we now know where to get the best *cerdero* (lamb) and the freshest *centollos* (crabs). Our *Tapas* banquet, accompanied by a glass of *sangría*, included the *tortilla española*, a staple in every household in Spain. The recipe follows, along with a picture of our students enjoying it. As one of our students said: "The evening was a stupendous way to experience a bit of Spanish culture locally. I hope this will be a tradition in future culture classes." But, you don't have to wait for the class, sample Spanish delicacies yourself at Taberna de Haro, 999 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA (617-277-8272).

Dr. Michael Weber, History Department, visited our classes twice this year, illuminating all of us with his knowledge of Medieval Spain and the unique *Convivencia* (living together) of Christians, Jews and Muslims. We learned to appreciate the legacy of Islam in our Western culture, and were offered a good explanation of why Spaniards love their *Jamón Serrano*—another Spanish staple. Apparently, the consumption of the dried, cured pork delicacy was a sign of being a true Christian, not a convert.

Tortilla Española
5 medium potatoes, cubed
1 large sweet onion, chopped
5 eggs
1 tsp salt

1. In a 10-inch nonstick skillet, heat 1 cup of oil. Add the potatoes and onion. If the oil does not cover the potatoes, add more. Cook over high heat for 15-20 min or until the potatoes are cooked through. With a slotted spoon, remove the potatoes and onions from the fat and transfer to a plate to cool slightly.

2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs. Add the cooled potato mixture and salt to the eggs.

3. Discard the oil in the skillet. Add 1 tbs oil to the pan and heat on medium. Pour the egg mixture into the pan and cook, shaking it gently to keep the mixture from sticking to the sides or the bottom of the pan.

4. After 5 minutes, or when firm, remove the pan from the heat. Put a plate over the skillet. Turn upside down. Slide the omelet back into the skillet so the soft side is down. Continue to shake the skillet for 5 minutes or until the bottom of it is golden brown.

5. Transfer to a serving platter and enjoy!
(Adapted from www.latienda.com)





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YOU SAY *BOCCE*, I SAY *PÉTANQUE*: THE HISTORY OF A EUROPEAN GAME

BY DR. ELIZABETH BLOOD, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In Italy, they call it “*bocce*,” in France, they call it “*boules*” or “*pétanque*,” in Spain, “*petanca*” or “*bolos*.” Whatever you choose to call it, the game, played widely in the public squares and parks of cities and villages across Europe, consists of tossing a set of heavy balls towards a target of a smaller ball. The object is to come as close as possible to the target ball, even if this means knocking one’s opponent’s ball out of the way.

This year, the Department of Foreign Languages organized its third annual *pétanque* tournament on the green behind Sullivan Building, and many students were introduced to the game for

the first time (see photos, left).

The origins of the game of *pétanque*, or *bocce* as it is more commonly known in the United States, can be traced to ancient Egypt, appearing in graphic representations that have been dated to 5200 BC. From Egypt, the game traveled to Greece and Rome. The Romans spread it throughout Europe where it became a popular game for nobles and peasants alike in the Middle Ages. In fact, it became too popular, distracting people from more serious pursuits. For this reason, it was banned by Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV in the 14th century. The game was revived a year later, however, when doctors from the medical school in Montpellier, France argued that it was a

therapeutic cure for rheumatism.

The game came to the U.S. during the colonial era, and we can find “lawn bowls” courts in Williamsburg, Virginia (built in 1632), in New York City (1664), and at George Washington’s home Mount Vernon (1732). There was a resurgence of *bocce* after World War II, with the arrival of a wave of European immigrants, but the game has been played continuously for millenia. To find out more about American *bocce* and *pétanque* clubs throughout the United States, consult one of the following sites: www.bocce.com, or www.usapetanque.org; or join us for our tournament next spring! ■