

## NOT ALL IS LOST: PRESERVING THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF *LOS ISLEÑOS* IN NEW ORLEANS

BY KELLY QUINN, SPANISH MAJOR

During spring break this past March, nineteen Salem State students and one staff member traveled to New Orleans to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Composed of students from different majors and backgrounds, the group came together around one common goal: spend one week of our lives dedicated to helping the people of New Orleans—no work too small, no request too big.

As one of those students, I expected many things—FEMA trailers, abandoned houses, even lost pets—but there were many things that I had not expected to see. Although a place that has always been known for its mixture of cultures, I think many of us had assumed—incorrectly—that these too would have been washed away or somehow damaged by Katrina. Luckily, we were wrong.

We stayed at what was once an elementary school, a place that is now called “Camp Hope.” As we met to debrief at the end of the day our leader announced that there would



Student volunteers in St. Bernard Parish

be a presentation that evening from a group called “Los Isleños.” With its roots in St. Bernard Parish, this group was described as the “only other place in the world” that speaks the variety of Spanish found in the Canary Islands. St. Bernard Parish contains a community of *Isleños* who are

descended from Canary Islanders. They arrived there around 1780 and they are sometimes referred to as “Spanish Cajuns.”

That evening we gathered in the cafeteria to listen to three elders from this local community. Through songs they call *décimas* and informal conversation, they described how their community had lasted from the eighteenth century until present times. Surprisingly, the biggest struggle it seems to face is not the loss of certain artifacts but the continued disuse of its dialect and cultural practices amongst its youth. Ironically, it seems that the events of Katrina have allowed for a reevaluation of this trend, to a degree, with many youth recommitting themselves to the culture.

It was clear: not all was lost.■

## SPRING BREAK IN MOROCCO: FROM CASABLANCA TO AGADIR

BY JARED HOPKINS, ARABIC STUDENT

From March 8th through the 18th, Aziz El Madi, an Arabic instructor at Salem State led a handful of students on a trip to Morocco. The trip was advertised as a tour of three major cities, several cultural excursions, and days of lounging on the African-Mediterranean coast.

Beginning in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city, the trip progressed onward, leading the travelers to the world's second largest mosque (Hassan II), several hours of scenic desert-

driving, along some of the windiest roads, and countless cultural journeys.

Among some of the most memorable moments of the trip were those in which cultural and language barriers were encountered, giving the four accompanying Arabic students a first-hand look at life in the Arabic world. How-



Several students on the way to the souk (market), accompanied by their Arabic instructor, Aziz El Madi, giving hints and tips on proper bartering.

ever, most situations encountered were accommodating to

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### Did you know?

According to a recent article in the *Boston Globe* (April 15, 2007), one of the “hottest jobs” in today's economy is in the field of translation. “The need [for translators] is expected to grow 26% by 2014” says the *Globe*. Most translation jobs require native or near-native fluency in several languages. To find out more about the field of translation, check out the website of the American Translators Association: [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org).



## JARCHA POEMS

### BY GRADUATE STUDENTS IN DR. DOLL'S SPN 706

One of the earliest conserved poetry from Spain, the "muwassaha" written in Arabic or Hebrew, has a last stanza known as a "jarcha."

Jarcha themes include the absence of a loved one (usually occasioned by the battles of the Reconquest), the sorrow over parting, and the expression of this emotional pain to one's family. They can also recall the physical delights of love.

Jarchas were written in southern Iberian "Romance" (a form of early Spanish) with many Arabic and Hebrew words interspersed throughout. Following early literary tradition, these poems are written in a woman's voice and submitted anonymously.

"Meu sidi Fernando,  
bechame da'l-nazma duk,  
Ven para mí  
Mi habib, ¿dónde está?  
Qué dolor tan grave por la distancia  
Bechame, bechame dulcito,  
tu boquilla de habb al-muluk."

¡Amante mía, amante mía!  
Cómo deseo saborear tu olor dulce.  
¿Oyes la canción de mi boca de  
nohte?  
In non, me dejarás desesperada y  
fría."

"En solo pocos años  
me haces tanto daño.  
Siempre siento tu ausencia  
en mi presencia."

"Ya um(m)a me mima mi morenito  
Los labios líquidos y el olor  
de noche lo siento a mi lado."■



## ¿QUÉ PASA? QUOI DE NEUF? DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Good bye to our graduates!

Another school year comes to an end and it's time for some of our students to graduate. We are both sad and happy to see them go.

Six students will be graduating with a **BA in Spanish** this year: Estevao Bida, Elise Goyette, José Liria, Alicia Martins, Rebecca Santiago and Brenna Suslak. Best of luck to you all! Don't forget to stay in touch! See you all after the graduation ceremony at the bottom of the ramp at O'Keefe! Don't forget!

And for the second year in a row we will be having graduates from the **MAT-Spanish** program! This year there are two of them: Elizabeth Díaz and Nicsa Dagger Cain. Congratulations!

There are also several of our **minors** graduating: 7 in French, 4 in Spanish, and 6 in language combinations. ¡Hasta pronto! À biéntot! A rivederci!

### Department Awards

As it's been customary for the last few years, the Foreign Languages Department will grant awards to students

at its **end-of-year party** on May 10, at 4pm at the LRC.

For all to know, the award recipients this year are:

**Excellence:** Undergraduate: Inés Arroyave, Danielle Kurkovelos, Samantha Lewis, Javiera Lagunas, Sarah Lopez, Kelly Quinn, and Ryan Sova. MAT-S: Elizabeth Diaz, Jennifer Quigley, Anna Staubitz, and Julie Wall.

**Achievement:** Danielle Alain, Jessica Hendrick, Nicole Marchant, Erina McWilliam, Adrienne Rahlson, Sarah Silva, and Marybeth Stocking.

**Service:** Grazia Crivello (Italian Club); Samantha Lewis, Erina McWilliam, Jocelyn Pade (French Club); Kelly Quinn (New Orleans), Sarah Silva (Spanish Club).

### Faculty News

As you can see in the opposite page there will be a new addition to the department next year, Dr. Anna Rocca. A warm welcome to her.

Congratulations are in order to Dr. Echevarría-Morales who will be getting married this summer. She will be taking a year-long leave of absence too, and she will be greatly missed.

### Clubs

The French Club had a great year this year, with numerous well-attended campus-wide events (a benefit concert, two movie nights, a Quebec cultural festival, a French restaurant dinner in Boston, plus the upcoming Petanque picnic and dinner), in addition to weekly planning meetings and attendance at all SGA mandatory meetings and events.

The Italian and Spanish clubs, under the leadership of Grazia Crivello and Sarah Silva respectively, have also been working hard to get off the ground, holding one movie night event each and getting ready for next semester when they will be full-fledged clubs with an actual budget. Both presidents **strongly encourage students to participate** in the clubs. Look them up at language lab, at the departmental website, or on **Facebook**. There's a lot of work to be done, and a lot of fun to be had too.

Overall, it's been a wonderful year and we all look forward to one that's even better, come September.■

## SUMMER BOOK & FILM SUGGESTIONS, EN ESPAÑOL

BY ANNA STAUBITZ, SPANISH MAT STUDENT

Here are two suggestions for summer leisure reading and viewing! *La sombra del viento* or *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón is a work of fiction. This mystery begins for a young boy, Daniel, in the beautiful city of Barcelona when his father takes him to the Cemetery of Books to choose a book which will influence the rest of his life. As the story unfolds during the period of the Republic, the Civil War and succeeding years in Spain, the central theme of the horrors of that war that continue to bubble to the surface is aptly softened with humor and

a complicated love story. The central characters find great strength in reading and writing, even something so seemingly unimportant as the path traveled by a Mont Blanc pen lend rich images to this book.

*La ley de Herodes* (2000) is a film by director Luis Estrada. It is set in 1946 in rural Mexico, and is a parody of the corruption promulgated by the long standing powerful political party, PRI. The theme is serious but presented with humor. The background music is especially expressive and the presentation of the poverty of rural Mexico is realistic.

Watch for the PRI button and the spectator shoes!

Somehow, the humor presented in both the book and the movie helps us to approach and reflect upon difficult issues. Some friends recently helped me to clarify some of my feelings about the instantaneous nature of T.V. and the Internet, and the fact that reading especially gives us the time and space to process and reflect, and then share. My neighbor recommended the book; the movie title came from Denise Dresser, a Mexican writer and political commentator.■

## NOTES FROM ARGENTINA: THE STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

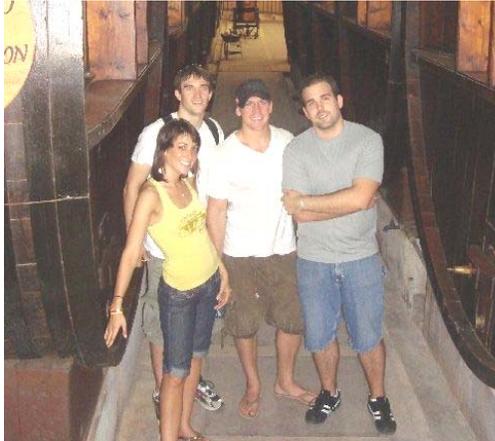
BY CHRIS WOLFORTH, SPANISH MAJOR

Greetings from South America! My name is Chris Wolforth, an undergraduate at Salem State with a double major in Spanish and Chemistry. Right now I am on a semester abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am having a great time and there is so much to do. I really feel everyone should study abroad during their college career, especially people who study languages. It is a really amazing experience.

I have been here for just about three months and my Spanish has im-

proved dramatically. Also I have already visited a couple of different parts of Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile. Traveling around South America is very inexpensive and is very interesting to see how things are here.

Living in a foreign country for a while definitely helps you grow as an individual and to see things from a different



At a bodega in Argentina with friends.

point of view. It looks good on a resume to say that you have been abroad, as it shows that you are independent. When you are in college it is the best time to take advantage of study abroad programs. You have the time, financial assis-

tance, and the best conditions for learning another language and culture. You know that after you are done with college, you will need to start a "real job" and you will be lucky to travel to a foreign country for a short vacation, never mind live there.

If anyone is thinking of study abroad and you have any questions, feel free to write to me (chrisw1308@hotmail.com). ■



During a visit to the countryside, we stopped to talk to some agricultural workers picking grapes.

## PERMETTEZ-MOI DE VOUS PRÉSENTER...ANNA ROCCA

The Department of Foreign Languages is delighted to announce the hiring of a new full-time, tenure-track faculty member, Dr. Anna Rocca. Dr. Rocca will begin teaching in fall 2007. As a native of Italy who holds a Ph.D. in French and Francophone Studies, Dr. Rocca will be teaching Italian and French courses next year.

Dr. Rocca was born in Rome, where she earned

her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Philosophy at a university called "La Sapienza." She later came to the United States to complete a Master's de-



Dr. Anna Rocca

gree in French at the University of Oregon. From Oregon, she moved to Louisiana, where she studied French and Francophone literatures at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.



While at LSU, Dr. Rocca had the unique experience of working directly with the author who would be the object of her dissertation,

the Algerian novelist, playwright and filmmaker Assia Djebbar. Dr. Rocca has since published a book on Assia Djebbar's works, entitled *Assia Djebbar, le corps invisible: voir sans être vue* (Editions Harmattan, 2005).

Join us in welcoming Dr. Rocca to the Department next fall. *Bienvenue!* ■

## MAY DAY! MAY DAY!

by Dr. Jon Aske

Since this issue of *Lingua Franca* is slated to see the light of day on or around May 1, I thought I would make mention of this very important date, which is a holiday in most countries of the world (but not the United States).

May Day, or the first of May, was celebrated as a traditional summer holiday in many pre-Christian European traditions. Unlike other pagan holidays which were co-opted by Christianity, including Christmas, May Day remained in the social subconscious of many European peoples and had well-known popular manifestations, such as the Maypole.

May Day resurfaced in the 20th century as a workers' holiday, presumably to commemorate the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which workers clashed with the authorities in their struggle to win the eight-hour workday. It is thanks to actions such as this one that workers gained their rights in the early days of capitalism.

So happy May Day to you all! You might want to celebrate it, even though we live in the only country where this workers' holiday is not celebrated. Remember that the eight-hour workday and the weekend were hard-won concession from employers. You may want to have yourself a little riot (in the good sense, of course) and take the time to stop and smell the flowers! ■





## SALEM'S FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY CENTER, INC.

Tucked away in a small office on Washington Street, just down the road from Salem State College, is a social service agency that helps low-income families and individuals work toward their dreams of jobs that pay livable wages, stable families, and stronger, healthier connections to their community.

Over the years the staff at the Family Self-Sufficiency Center have found that the biggest barrier most of their clients face is language. Many are Spanish speaking, first-generation immigrants who are trying to learn English, and a significant number have poor reading and writing skills in their native language. With little formal schooling and low literacy levels, these individuals are unable to take advantage of many of the vocational and educational opportunities that might help them find a job, succeed in the workplace, or become citizens. Daily tasks that most of us take for granted—such as taking the T, banking, getting a prescription filled, or helping a child with homework—can be daunting.

The Center works with clients at their own paces, through individual tutoring or small classes of 8 or fewer students, to help them build language skills as well as essential life skills. This problem-solving approach to teaching language has proven critical in helping participants make important strides toward meaningful self-sufficiency.

In addition to the teachers on staff, there are opportunities for volunteers who are interested in working one-on-one or in small groups with adults who need a bi-lingual approach to learning, and who would benefit from a supportive setting that can help overcome the anxiety and frustration that result from years of 'falling through the cracks' in other learning environments. If you are interested in learning more about our program, and about our volunteer opportunities, please call 978-745-7409 and speak to Barbara Ryther, Programs Director. ■

**Family Self-Sufficiency is one of 11 area social welfare, health care and legal aid agencies participating in the department's "Community Placements" course offered every Fall. If you are interested in volunteering for or interning in any of these agencies, please contact Dr. Doll at x6259**

## BALEARIC ISLANDS CULTURE WEEK IN NEW YORK CITY BY DR. KRISTINE DOLL, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

New York City welcomed some of Spain's top creative talent to the Balearic Islands Culture Week recently (February 12-18, 2007). Poets, photographers, musicians, writers, translators and film makers celebrated the



rich cultural contributions of the Balearic Islands in a series of events including exhibitions, concerts, recitals, poetry readings, and discussions of literature. As one of the speakers, I was honored to be invited to discuss the art of translation and to read selections from my recent book of translations (Catalan-English) of the poetry of one of Majorca's most beloved writers, Joan Alcover.

Miquel Mestre, one of Majorca's

leading poets, commented on the sensitivity of the work, adding that Joan Alcover would have been delighted by the richness and the musical cadence of these translations. Majorcan author, Antoni Vidal Ferrando, emphasized that Alcover is a poet equal to or surpassing his European contemporaries. It was wonderful to hear that my translations have helped to spotlight Alcover's importance, to make him known to a wider audience and to situate him within the world canon.

Included among the distinguished attendees during the week's events were the honorable Jaume Matas, president of the Government of the Balearic Islands, Francesc Fiol, Consul of Culture and Education, Gabriel Janer Manila, president of the Institut d'Estudis Balearics, authors Carme Riera and Antoni Vidal Ferrando, poet Miquel Mestre, photographer Miquel Salom and com-



poser, Antoni Parera Fons.

Concurrently, the Guggenheim museum was featuring, "Spanish Painting from El Greco to Picasso: Time, Truth and History." The decision to group art by theme allows viewers to reflect upon seemingly different perspectives simultaneously, such as an El Greco portrait and one by Picasso, resulting in a very unusual experience. ■

## SPRING BREAK IN MOROCCO (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

not only those speaking broken Arabic, but also those wishing to stick with their native English tongue.

From the crowded marketplaces, full of color and aroma, to the stretches of sandy beaches, there

was, no doubt, opportunity for all to enjoy. For those physically exhausted from the sheer amount of touring and shopping, there was the *hammam*, a Turkish steam bath quite similar to an American spa, though more personal. For those with a more independent stretch of imagination, there were ample opportunities for exploration, including trips to the



zoo of Agadir, a huge array of Western nightclubs, and countless cafes to grab a shot of Moroccan whisky (mint tea!).

And for those who wanted personal interaction with the locals, there were several lunches and dinners alongside the families of Aziz and Jawad (an accompanying business student

at SSC). These events, much more than a meal, formed lasting friendships, and forged an open awareness for life in Morocco.

All in all, the trip was a highly successful, relaxing, and beautiful experience. From the cuisine, to the

drives (desert, snow-capped mountains, beach), and most importantly to the people — those with even a slight interest in Morocco would have gotten a lot from this experience.

To learn more about the trip and to see many more beautiful pictures, head over to the trip's **website**: [www.lrc.salemstate.edu/morocco2007](http://www.lrc.salemstate.edu/morocco2007). ■

## MEETING MARIO VARGAS LLOSA AND HIS LAST NOVEL

BY DR. FÁTIMA SERRA, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Last November I had the privilege to participate in the *III Congreso Internacional: escritura, individuo y sociedad en España y las Américas* at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Arecibo. My good friend, the Head of the Spanish Department, Dr. Evelyn Jiménez Rivera, invited me to present a paper on current Spanish prose fiction. I met Dr. Rivera while we were both International Graduate students at UMass Amherst many years ago. I never get tired of telling my students that one of the most rewarding gains of studying abroad is the international friends' network that one acquires that stays with you for life. Dr. Jiménez and I visit regularly, read each other's papers and follow each other's careers very closely. We are constantly in contact, sharing our personal and professional lives. That is why I ended the semester in Puerto Rico last fall.

I love going to conferences. It is the perfect environment to discuss at length all the new happenings in your field, learn about other literatures and rejoice in the good company of old friends. I would like to share with you some of the things I learned at the *III Congreso Internacional* in Puerto Rico. The guests of honor were two great writers: Luis Rafael Sánchez from Puerto Rico, and the Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa. Being a great admirer of the latter one, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to listen to him, to eat with him, and to share some thoughts about his work with the "experts." I also cherish the signed volume of his last novel that is

sitting now on my desk. Therefore, I offer you a reflection/review of the book and the commentaries that I gathered at the different discussions at the conference.



The book is *Travesuras de la niña mala* by Mario Vargas Llosa (Alfaguara, 2006). In this book, the main character, Ricardo, from Lima, Perú, fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming an international translator in Paris. After he achieved his dream in Paris, he had the first reencounter with a woman from his adolescence, *la niña mala*. She will be a constant in his life, but not a continuous one.

Their lives collided and separated through the years. During his life journey, the narrator reflects on the political trajectory of his estranged country, Perú, and his own life as an exile. The beauty of the novel is the nostalgic thread that intertwines the narrator's memory and his love story. The longing for *la niña mala* is somewhat a metaphor for the longing of his country and the life that could have been. His nostalgia is comparable to

that of other writers, such as Isabel Allende, of Chile, and Elena Poniatowska, of Mexico. Over a cup of coffee, Professor Aníbal González, of Yale University, argued that the old warri-

ors had traded the revolution for love. There is a sentimental movement to use passionate love or brotherly love, as a world changing agent. Initiated by Colombian García Márquez, it has been followed by others, as is the case of Vargas Llosa. The narrator tells us about the failure of the Peruvian Revolution and his somewhat tragic love affair with "the bad girl." We do not choose our land, and we do not choose the people we fall in love with. The novel honors that. Ricardo, as an old man who now has trouble doing his old job, honors the love of the not-so-perfect lover, of the not-so-perfect country, of the not-so-perfect revolution. But he touches us with all three.

*Memorias de la niña mala* could not be just "another novel." It had to be what it is: a combination of all forces of today's Latin American prose fiction. ■

## To "v" or not to "v"!

by Dr. Jon Aske

Did you know that in Spanish the letter "v" is pronounced the same way as the letter "b"? In other words, Spanish "v" is not pronounced like English "v".

If you didn't know this, you can be forgiven for it. People who should know better are often confused too and pronouncing Spanish "v" as in English "is particularly notorious among school teachers throughout the Spanish-speaking world", as well as in the US. This is often called "pedantic v", because those who use it seem to assume that the way the "v" is pronounced in English and French is the correct way to pronounce it (though that is not how it was originally pronounced in Latin).

It seems that the influence of English may also be responsible in part for this pronunciation in the Spanish of English-Spanish bilinguals. Linguist John Stevens found that Spanish instructors at the University of Southern California pronounced the letter "v" like English "v" 40% of the time!

The situation is somewhat complicated by the fact that some of the medieval Romance dialects of southern Spain, as well as Portuguese, did have the English-like labiodental pronunciation of "v". Not so the Castilian Romance, the northern Iberian ancestor of the Spanish language now spoken by over 400 million speakers.

By the way, Spanish "b" and "v" don't always sound exactly like English "b" either. They do only when they are at the beginning of an utterance (that is, after a pause) and after a nasal consonant (m or n, as in *también, convento*). This b sound called a bilabial stop. In all other contexts these letters are pronounced as a bilabial fricative sound. And guess what? The English "v" is a fricative sound too!

Would you like to learn more about the Spanish sound system? Take SPN 412, Spanish Linguistics the next chance you get! ■



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Foreign Languages Department

**END OF YEAR PARTY  
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 4PM  
AT THE LANGUAGE LAB**

**All Are Invited!**

**Come for food, fun,  
and friendship!**

## SPRING SYMPOSIA: UNDERGRADS & GRADUATE STUDENTS PRESENT ORIGINAL RESEARCH

BY DR. NICOLE SHERF, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

There are few occasions in life in which accomplishments are formally celebrated and applauded. It is important to participate in them when they occur, either as a participant or as part of the audience. Faculty sponsor, Dr. Nicole Sherf, is proud to announce two such upcoming events: the **Undergraduate Research Symposium** on **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** (morning) and the **Graduate Research Symposium** on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Come celebrate your classmates' hard work and accomplishments and support them as well, as part of the audience. There are several opportunities in the Department of Foreign Language MAT in Spanish and the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish in which participation in the Symposium is either optional or required, so it makes sense for you to attend early in your program of studies in order to better understand the process that you will have to undertake in the future.

Four MAT in Spanish graduate students will present the action research projects that they developed as part of the professional level six-credit methods course sequence. Topics related to the use of technology in teaching Spanish, the support of student learning in mixed level classes and the teaching of reading skills in Spanish will be addressed. At the undergraduate level, eight students will present their research, developed as a part of the Senior Seminar capstone course for the major. They investigated topics related to issues and strategies teaching of Spanish at the elementary and secondary levels, the value of community service programs, technology in the modern foreign language classroom, the teaching of reading to learners of Spanish, the psychology of language learning and the professional needs in the field of translation. All presentations are con-

ducted in Spanish. Please go to the departmental main **webpage** or contact the Foreign Language Office for **more information about the time and place**.

### Undergraduate Research Symposium

**Ana E. Beltré:** Los servicios comunitarios como método de enseñanza de un idioma extranjero

**Estevao Bida:** La eficacia de la tecnología en la enseñanza de lenguas extranjeras

**Danielle P. Kurkuvelos:** La enseñanza y el aprendizaje de español en la escuela secundaria

**Alicia C. Martins:** El proceso de aprendizaje de una lengua extranjera

**Candy J. Melo:** El papel de las artes en el aprendizaje de una segunda lengua

**Claude Pierre:** La comprensión de la lectura: Métodos y estrategias

**Rebecca Santiago:** La importancia de aprender una lengua extranjera desde los grados primarios

**Brenna M. Suslak:** La interpretación en los campos médico y legal

### Graduate Research Symposium

**Susan Bailey:** ¿Cómo es posible diferenciar la instrucción para niveles diferentes en la misma clase?

**Renee Botticelli:** Las estrategias de lectura en una clase de idioma extranjero

**Catherine Gallivan Frost:** Investigación activa en la clase: EL uso de CONJUGUEMOS.COM en la clase de español en la escuela intermedia

**Julie Wall:** La integración de la tecnología para mejorar la enseñanza de la cultura ■

## FRENCH CLUB HOSTS "MAMADOU"

BY DR. ELIZABETH BLOOD, FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The SSC French Club was proud to welcome Salem-based Senegalese singer Mamadou Diop and his volunteer organization A3D on campus in March. Mamadou sang songs in his native language while his group showed the spiritual power and beauty of the African drum, or "tam-tam." The French Club donated \$200 to A3D, which donates time and goods (computers, sewing machines, etc.) to the development of small villages in Senegal and sponsors cultural awareness activities in Salem. "Mamadou" plays regularly in clubs in Salem, Beverly and Boston. Check out upcoming gigs at [www.mamadou.com/](http://www.mamadou.com/)

