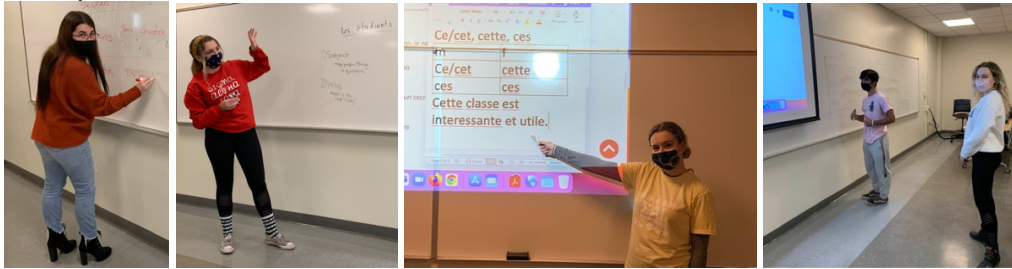


A l'Ecoute Newsletter Fall 2021 Department of Modern Languages

PACs -Peer Academic Coaches. This fall SUNY Potsdam has organized **recitation sections** especially designed to help support first year students.



Here is **Rebecca Matte** (majors in music & French) serving as PAC or Peer Academic Coach, working with a recitation section for French 101, with Emma McGaugh (L) & Justin Mossey (R). She reports, "It has been a truly formative experience for me and one of the highlights of my semester! I think my favorite part of being a PAC has been creating and teaching mini lessons. While I'm a music education major, I still thoroughly enjoyed teaching French lessons, drawing on my experience to plan effective and fun activities. As a result, I am now looking into completing a teaching certification program for French after my undergraduate studies. I've learned so much, and the program has given overwhelmingly positive takeaways to everyone involved. Enrolling in a beginner/100-level course recitation is something I would recommend for any incoming student."

ARABIC STUDIES NEWS - two majors!

Arabic studies has two honors students, Gracey Sutton and Lacie Castile (Center, below), who are planning interdisciplinary majors in Arabic Studies. Lacie is working with professor Lunt between semesters in order to join the ARAB 203 tutorial in spring semester.



FIELD TRIPS ABROAD ??? We still give thanks that our Spain-Morocco travel course January 2020 made it back before the pandemic. Now, with our usual fieldtrips to Montreal forbidden for a fourth semester in a row, the WAYS 101 Minority Rights class (who had a unit on issues pertaining to wearing of the hijab) and students from Arabic 101 took our field trip on campus to the Ummah club's table in the lobby of the Student Union to answer and ask questions on Islam, and to try on a hijab. The intent of the Ummah, and the result, was to de-politicize this aspect of Muslim clothing. Photos: left: Lora Lunt; center: Lacie Castile (Arabic 101) middle, Destiny Guinee (WAYS 101), right; right photo: Shannon Boyle (Music major, harp specialist), January 2020 in the weaver's studio in Fes, Morocco, dressed in a hand-woven veil as if prepared to face desert winds and blowing sand.

"Conversation Partners" - VIRTUAL EXCHANGE and a continuation of our MEPI Partnership

Again this semester, students (this time the beginning Arabic class) had the chance to have a "Conversation Partner" with a student of one of the 8 Tunisian professors from the Higher Institute of Management, Tunis, who had spent 2003-2004 at SUNY Potsdam improving their English and having a chance to teach business, in a grant project funded by the MEPI (Middle East Partnership Initiative) and directed by professors Edwin Portugal and Lora Lunt. Some partnerships were very successful, and the program made a difference in our students' learning; others had problems scheduling and connecting regularly. Exchange professors providing this opportunity for our students were **Imene Chakroun** (this fall and last spring) now teaching at the Tunisia Business School and **Mourad Touzani**, now teaching in Rouen, France (conversation partners for students in *French for Business* spring 2021).

ALUMNI NEWS

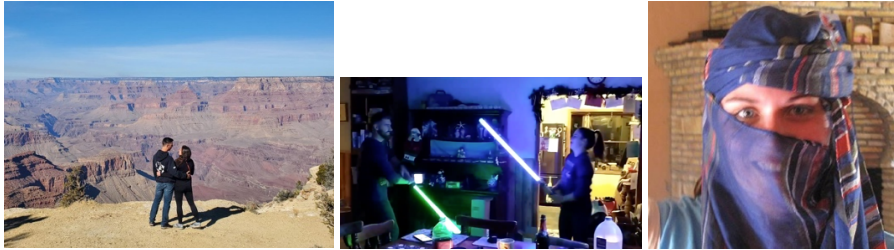
FRENCH MAJORS

Gemma Small (French, History, & Education) has just finished her student-teaching for certification as a history teacher in the Watertown area, an experience that confirmed her love of teaching. We are also proud to report that

her award-winning KILMER research paper "*A Look at Blue Lotus through Language, Imagery, and Historical Setting*," has been published by The Johns Hopkins University in their Macksey Scholastic Journal (Vol 2: Issue 1) 2021. In her study of the *Blue Lotus*, one of the adventures of the Tintin cartoon stories by Belgian writer, Hergé, Ms. Small analyzes and compares the relative expression of racism in French, English, and Japanese texts and cartoon animations. Gemma worked with professors Imai (History) and Lunt (Modern Languages) on her project funded by a Kilmer grant, summer 2020. Here is a link to her article:

<https://mackseyjournal.scholasticahq.com/article/28193>. Ms. Small has just been hired to teach 7th, 8th, and 11th grade classes in Morristown and has found a biweekly French discussion group based in the Syracuse area currently meeting virtually. Virtual French conversation hour sounds like something we could emulate!

John Davidson (French major, Arabic Studies minor) who we last heard was teaching English to non-native speakers at Weedsport Central School, NY, reports: "Je suis enthousiaste de partager avec vous que j'ai trouvé un bon job comme professeur remplaçant dans le secteur scolaire de Canastota." We wish him "bon courage" during these times that have been so stressful for teachers as well as students.



Left: Victoria & Matt stopping at Grand Canyon. Center: having fun. Right: Morocco 2014

Victoria Congleton Koegel, who was part of the 2014 field course, "Women & Democracy," traveling through Morocco (see photo on the right), is still traveling: she has just moved from California to Virginia, where her husband, Matt Koegel, will be attending seminary to be a Chaplain for the navy. Victoria has applied to work at Liberty University and is hoping that she will have more chances to speak French here on the east coast! Maybe like Gemma she will find (or start) a French conversation group.

Samantha Becker is back from Baltimore and teaching middle school French and Spanish in the South Colonie Central School District, while working on dual certification in NYS. Samantha was the winner of the Annette Plante award to help fund a semester studying in La Rochelle, France her junior year. She has been very adept at finding teaching jobs in French and Spanish without having done an undergraduate degree in education.

David Magowan (French and Music/voice) is enjoying Christmas with Brigett Barrett Magowan and baby Daniel.



Yanilvia Reyes Medrano (French major, native speaker of Spanish) writes, "For the past two years I have been working with Safe Horizon as a Senior Case Manager, working with victims of domestic violence. I learned how to write and file petitions to Family Court to help victims get an order of protection against the person causing harm. Also work with a lot of victims that speak Spanish and French. I'm currently learning how to play the piano, taking driving lessons and writing my first book about transformation. A story of how God transformed my life. I'm also planning on visiting Peru next month to learn about the culture and the amazing people."

Pascale Verly: Pascal is finding French to be essential in her work with three countries in Africa helping women and families. She reports: "Je suis à Baltimore où je travaille avec Jhpigo.org, une institution de santé publique internationale sous la bannière de The Johns Hopkins University. Tout va bien, mais le cœur est triste pour Haïti. Je travaille avec 3 pays de l'Afrique de L'Ouest et Centre (tout en français), uuf!"

Candace Black, now World Language Associate at the Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages (OBEWL-NYSED), has put her background in French to work piloting the **revised standards for world languages** for NY State. "Her team of professionals ... are leading workshops throughout the year to prepare educators, administrators, parents, and students throughout the state for this exciting shift." (NYSAFLT December 2021 newsletter) Workshops include 1) Vocabulary development, 2) the role of grammar in proficiency development, 3) Lesson Plans based on the standards, 4) Standards-Based Curriculum planning. Recordings of these and upcoming workshops, with Facilitation Guides are available on the [World Language Professional Learning website!](http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/professional-learning) (<http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/professional-learning>)

In addition to the Unit Plan Exemplar Development Program, OBEWL will offer two full-day work sessions summer 2022 for teachers in each of seven regions of New York on Regional Collaborative Unit Design, to collaboratively work with teachers of the same language to design thematic units and plan curriculum. Sessions are free of charge and participants will be offered CTLE credit.

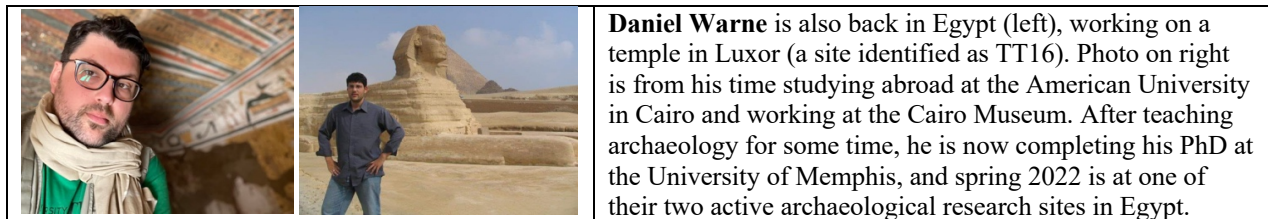
NYS world language educators and administrators are meeting virtually to discuss and share their questions, concerns, and suggestions with NYSED. Educators interested in attending can complete the google form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0bR3mz9CMI1PmO4scirJuMtM1O2C-xzrSrk8_th9xXSYzTA/viewform. All meetings for 2021-22 will be on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Questions about world language programs or implementing the new standards may be directed to Candace Black, World Language Associate (candace.black@nysed.gov).

ARABIC STUDIES



Amy Wilson has arrived in Egypt January 2022 to serve as Team Archaeologist helping director Bryan Kraemer with the mapping and planning of Wadi el-Hudi Site 9 fortified settlement. January 7 she was able to visit the Temple of Ramesses II, Abu Simbel (left), where in 2014 (right) she was able to catch the glow of the rising sun.



Daniel Warne is also back in Egypt (left), working on a temple in Luxor (a site identified as TT16). Photo on right is from his time studying abroad at the American University in Cairo and working at the Cairo Museum. After teaching archaeology for some time, he is now completing his PhD at the University of Memphis, and spring 2022 is at one of their two active archaeological research sites in Egypt.

FACULTY NEWS

Mylene Catel is writing a bilingual French novel called « the corridors of silence » The novel explores the relationships between times lost and regaining memories, hushed up living and boisterous echoes. She was recently interviewed by Pearson Publishing House about her using Facebook to teach a class through social media. She published a poetry book “L’Atteinte” (or “Target”) with French Editions (Stellamaris).

For her new WAYS 103 course **French in North America: Talking about Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** (given in English), **Lora Lunt** is preparing extracts from her collection used as text in FREN 103 - *Spark: Nos Etudiants, Leur Histoires* - a compilation of life stories by SUNY Potsdam alumni with Francophone connections. She is translating them into English for this class on diversity in America. We are thankful to our diverse students for their contributions to enriching our curriculum to inform us about Francophone lives in West Africa, North Africa, the Caribbean, and even Madrid, NY! This fall Lunt reviewed a book, *Journals of Salt*, edited by Haifa Zangana, a translation from Arabic of journals by Tunisian women who had been jailed and tortured for political reasons, such as just wearing a hijab, or whose family members had been incarcerated under the regimes of past presidents Bourguiba or Ben Ali. *Journals of Salt* presents a powerful message of women's resilience in the face of political terrorism. She is still working on her translation of a novel by the first Tunisian-Jewish-Arab woman novelist, Nine Moati, *Les Belles de Tunis*, the story of 3 generations of a Jewish family in Tunisia in 19th & 20th centuries.