

Newsletter



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Educating for Justice

The Department of
Foreign Languages & Literatures

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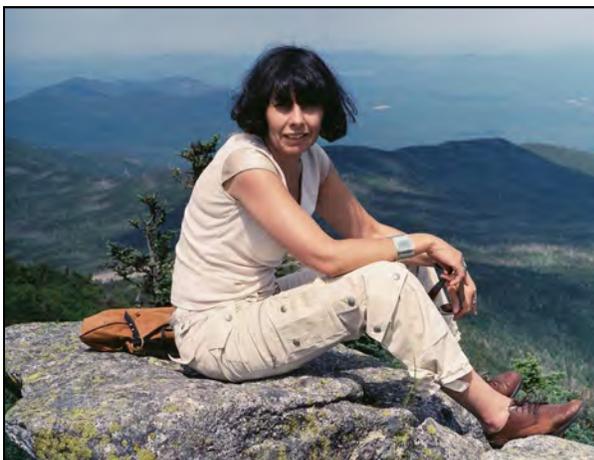
September 2010

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first issue of the new Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures *Newsletter*. The department provides courses on languages, literatures, film, and cultures to broaden students' understanding of peoples, nations, and international affairs. Knowledge of these important fields of study prepares students in any major to better understand contemporary issues and to perform at a higher level in their chosen professions and in life.

Through this occasional newsletter, we plan to inform the John Jay College community about how we are achieving our mission; to publicize the professional accomplishments of faculty, staff and students in the department; to circulate announcements of upcoming activities and events; and to provide other information of interest. The department welcomes cooperation with other programs, as well as suggestions that would help it to better meet its mission and goals.

Silvia Dapía



Roxanna Reyes Lecture



Mark your calendars now for an important event. As part of the Ronald H. Brown Lecture Series, Magistrate Roxanna Reyes, the Deputy Attorney General for Women's Affairs in the Dominican Republic, will make a presentation at John Jay College. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is co-sponsoring Magistrate Reyes's lecture along with the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program and the Department of Latin American Studies. The topic of her lecture will be "Femicide: Legal and Cultural Perspectives on Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic." Prof. Clara Castro-Ponce from the Department of Languages and Literatures will serve as interpreter. The lecture will be held on Thursday, October 28, 12:30-1:45 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at 445 West 49th Street. We look forward to seeing you there!

Londoño Awarded Soto Scholarship

The department is pleased to announce that David Londoño has been awarded The Juan A. Soto Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2004 by Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández in honor of her father. It is given each year to a student who excels in Spanish.

Department Kudos

Wanda Arriaga was honored by HOLA, the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors, with a 2010 award in the category of "Best Performance Actress," for her work on the play "The Imp prosperous Case of Miss Piña Colada." The show has enjoyed a tremendous commercial success and Mrs. Arriaga has received very positive reviews for her performance in all major newspapers in the city, among them *The New York Times*.



Clara Castro-Ponce presented a paper, "Estrategias retóricas en la *Admiración operum dei* de Teresa de Cartagena: admiración y maravilla" ("Literary Rethoric in Teresa de Cartagena's *Wonder at the Works of God: Marvel and Wonder*") in July 2010 at the 92nd American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Conference in Guadalajara, México.

Jill Robbins received a Professional Staff Congress-CUNY grant to attend the ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages) conference in Boston in November.

Raúl Romero co-authored the essay "Il Livro do Desassossego di Fernando Pessoa/Bernardo Soares: epifania e poema in prosa" ("The Book of Restlessness of Fernando Pessoa/Bernardo Soares: epiphany and prose poetry"), with René Pedro Garay, in the anthology *Studi su Fernando Pessoa* (Perugia, Italy: Edizione dell'Urogallo, February 2010).



Silvia Dapía presented a paper, "Borges y la lírica: Poesía sin sujeto" (Borges and Poetry: Poetry Without Subject) and chaired a session at the International Colloquium "Borges Poet," which was held in Leipzig University, June 23-26, 2010 as part of the program of events for Guest of Honor Argentina at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2010, the same year Argentina celebrates the bicentennial of its declaration of independence. She was also awarded a Fellowship from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) to participate in the Colloquium.

Sue Ellen Rothberger participated in a seminar at the RMC Research Corporation sponsored jointly by the New York City Department of Education and the United Federation of Teachers. As a Peer Observer of teachers in the city school system, she shared her experiences with other Peer Observers.



Raúl Rubio published the article "Cosas cubanas: economía, ideología y estética de la cultura material cubana" ("Things Cuban: The Economies, Ideologies, and Aesthetics of Cuban Material Culture") in *Espéculo: Revista de estudios literarios* (Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain), Volume 44 (March-June), 2010. He also reviewed Esther Whitfield's *Cuban Currency: The*

Dollar and "Special Period" Fiction in *Hispanic Review*, Volume 78, No. 3 (Summer, 2010). Recently he was elected to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Ethnic Studies.

Liliana Soto-Fernández presented two papers "Latinos in the US: The Self and the Family" and "Assessment at the University Level," and presented Dr. Gerardo Piña, President of the Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (ANLE), at the 92nd meeting of America Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Guadalajara, México in July 2010. She was also named collaborator to ANLE.

Upcoming Events

October 22, Visit to El Museo del Barrio—Join members of the Spanish faculty at the preeminent museum of Caribbean, Latino, and Latin American art, featuring “Nueva York (1613-1945).” Presented in collaboration with the New-York Historical Society, this intriguing special exhibition reveals the powerful role that Latinos and Spanish-speaking countries have played across four centuries to help shape New York into the most culturally vibrant city in the world. Art works, documents, printed books, artifacts, a work by Puerto Rican artist Antonio Martorell, and a documentary by Ric Burns all serve as testaments to this dynamic history. Join us at noon on Friday, October 22, at the Museo del Barrio, 1230 Fifth Avenue (at 104th Street). If you plan to attend, please contact Prof. Silvia Dapía by October 20 at 212-646-5517 or at sdapia@jjay.cuny.edu.

November 5, Screening of *Nine Queens*—Directed by Fabián Bielinsky, this film offers an introduction to Argentina’s new wave genre with a consummate con-movie starring delightfully shady con-man Ricardo Darín hoping to make a mint out of counterfeit stamps. Filmed on location in Buenos Aires, the movie cleverly sets the action against the backdrop of Argentina’s real economic crisis. Prof. Raúl Romero will host the event and offer comments about the production. The film—in Spanish with English subtitles—will be shown at 2:00 pm on Friday, November 5, in the Lecture Hall.

Our Work-Study Students

We are fortunate to have in the department this fall the services of two exceptional students who will provide administrative support. Please join us in welcoming

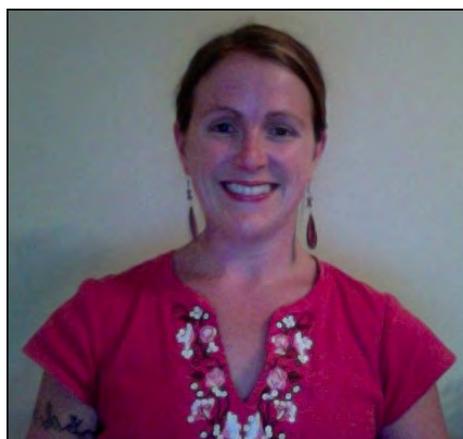


Nicole Perrino

Samantha Eltenberg and Nicole Perrino. Samantha is pursuing a degree in Deviant Behavior and Social Control. She has office experience in the Office of Student Development at Long Island University and has been involved in volunteer work in the community. Nicole is a first year graduate student in criminal justice.

New Language Lab Coordinator

The department is pleased to welcome its new language lab coordinator. Kat Mendez has been working as a language instructor in many capacities since 2004. She began her career at the Arcadia Community Center in Louisville, Kentucky, and continued on to teach high school level Spanish at the Westminster school in Simsbury, Connecticut. During this time she has had extensive experience with teaching, tutoring, and language lab technology. She graduated with a masters degree from the Middlebury Language School in 2010 and is currently enrolled at the CUNY Graduate Center in the doctoral program for Hispanic and Luso Brazilian studies. Kat also teaches Spanish at City College along with her work in the Foreign Language Lab at John Jay College. She resides in West Haven, Connecticut, with her family.



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