



Newsletter

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures



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A Message from the Chair

Welcome back! And to those of you who are new to John Jay College, welcome aboard!

The department enjoyed a successful year in 2013-14. Student enrollments increased, our faculty exceeded the campus average for publications and professional conference papers, the department co-sponsored a conference with the Basque Institute and the CUNY Graduate Center, and the number of extra-curricular educational opportunities for our students increased significantly.

We are looking forward to another good year in 2014-15. Having achieved our primary goal last year of developing a proposal for the department's first undergraduate major, our new primary goal this year is to move that proposal successfully through the approval processes at John Jay, CUNY Central, and the New York State Department of Education.

Since providing an excellent educational experience for our students is our ultimate mission, another important goal for the year is to promote educational extracurricular activities such as visits to museums, the theater, film screenings, ethnic festivals, and other events that will enhance their understanding of the languages and cultures they are studying.

A third goal, related to this, is the expansion of the new Modern Language Club established last year. In its first year of existence, the Club conducted several activities including accompanying Prof. Raúl Romero to a performance of the play "El amor en los tiempos de cólera" by Caridad Svich based on a novel by Gabriel García Márquez, at the Repertorio español.

I wish to thank all of those whose efforts made last year a success, and to wish everyone good luck in the new year we are beginning.

Silvia Dapía

Modern Language Enrollment Increases

Although enrollment totals for the fall of 2014 are not official yet, enrollment in the department's language courses looks strong and appears to be growing. Based on CUNY First data it appears that overall undergraduate enrollment is up about two percent, subject to some possible change at the end of the drop/add period and the final payment deadline.

Using the CUNY First data, the following table compares department enrollment from the fall of 2013 with projected enrollment for the fall of 2014, arranged by the individual languages the department offers.

Language	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Change	Percent
Arabic	101	132	31	31
Chinese	103	111	8	8
French	98	119	21	21
German	55	73	18	33
Italian	141	179	38	27
Japanese	70	104	34	49
Portuguese	54	95	41	76
<u>Spanish</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>842</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	1,318	1,655	337	26

The data also suggests that there are 46 students enrolled in the Spanish minor and 30 in the new Translation and Interpretation Certificate Programs.

Students Study Fernando Botero



Students in Prof. Marlenys Villamar’s summer Spanish 102 course discussed the work of Botero as part of the cultural content that is part of language acquisition. This is not only intended to improve their communicative competence but cultural awareness. Fernando Botero is a Columbian artist and sculptor famous for from “Boterismo,” a figurative style that portrays people

in overstated size. His works can be found in Paris, New York, and many other places in Europe and North and South America.

From the left the group includes José Alarcón, Narissa Lawson, Alyvia Jean-Charles, Prof. Marlenys Villamar, George Castro, Christopher Jones, Ben Holten, Terrence Doyle, Melih Kizilirmak, Dylan Arencibia, and Steven Aponte.

Welcome Prof. María Julia Rossi !

The department is delighted to welcome María Julia Rossi as assistant professor of Spanish. Prof. Rossi received her Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from the University of Pittsburgh where her dissertation, titled “Las dependencias. Figuras del servicio doméstico en la obra de Silvina Ocampo, Clarice Lispector y Elena Garro” (“Dependencies. Figures of Domestic Service in the Works of Silvina Ocampo, Clarice Lispector and Elena Garro”), is a study of domestic representations within Garro, Lispector and Ocampo’s fiction. She also holds an M.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. from the Escuela Provincial de Teatro y Títeres N° 5029 in Rosario, Argentina. While working on her doctorate under the direction of Dr. Daniel Balderston, Mellon Professor of Modern Languages and Chair, she also completed the requirements for certificates in Women Studies, Cultural Studies, and Latin American Studies. Her teaching and research fields include Southern Cone Literature, Twentieth Century and Contemporary Latin American Literature, Latin American Cinema, Women’s Literature, Literary Criticism and Theory, Translation Studies, Genetic Criticism and Archival Research.

The holder of a prestigious Andrew Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Prof. Rossi has given over twenty conference papers, invited lectures, and other professional presentations at venues in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, the United States, and Uruguay. She has teaching experience at the University of Pittsburgh and the Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Rosario, Argentina. Her teaching philosophy is to engage students in the learning process through active class participation; through mentoring, advising and support for student research; and the incorporation of multi-media technologies as both pedagogical tools and a means to engage students with real productions of

the Spanish speaking world such as short movies, newspapers and blogs.

An accomplished researcher, she is the author of “‘Hay un verso que está siempre en mi memoria’: derivas de lectura en las reflexiones de Borges sobre la Divina Commedia” (“There is a verse that is always in my memory’: Reading drifts in Borges’s reflections on Dante’s Divina Commedia”) which appeared in *Variaciones Borges* [34 (2012): 67-84]; “Entrevista a Alan Pauls” (“Interview with Alan Pauls”), *Hispanamérica* [41.123 (2012): 51-59]; and “Entrevista a Leopoldo Brizuela” (“Interview with Leopoldo Brizuela”), *Hispanamérica* [40.119 (2011): 45-51]. She also co-authored with Prof. Balderston “Edición genética de cuatro cuentos de Silvina Ocampo,” (“Genetic Edition of Four Short Stories by Silvina Ocampo”) *Escritural. Écritures d’Amérique latine* [5 (2012): 309-62] and co-authored with Carlos Torres Moll a translation of Peter Straub’s *La cámara oscura* (Barcelona: Minotauro, 2008, *In the Night Room*).

When living in Barcelona, she worked as editor for Aurum Publishing House, Barcelona, Spain; and a reader for El Aleph Publishing House (Barcelona, Spain), De Vecchi Publishing House, and Círculo de Lectores (Reader’s Circle; Barcelona, Spain). She also served as an editorial assistant at the Borges Center, University of Pittsburgh, and is a member of the editorial board of *Badebec. Revista del Centro de Estudios de Teoría y Crítica Literaria* (Rosario, Argentina).

Prof. Rossi is conversant in Spanish, English, Catalan and Portuguese and has a reading comprehension of French and Italian. She is a member of the Latin American Studies Association, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and the Modern Languages Association.



Welcome New Faculty

Timothy J. Frawley holds a M.A. in German Language, Literature and Cultural Studies from Georgetown University and an M.Phil. in German Language and Literature from Columbia University where he is a Ph.D. candidate. His dissertation explores the history of German literary comedy and satire, while his other interests include 18th through 20th century literature, philosophy, critical theory, and the avant-garde. His recent teaching experience includes Columbia University and New York University. Prof. Frawley is also the coordinator of the language lab.

Youngmi Lim earned an M. A. from Queens College, CUNY, and her doctorate from the CUNY Graduate Center where her dissertation was “Becoming Japanese: Contested Meanings of Race and Nationality in Contemporary Japan.” A native of Japan, she has recent teaching experience at the New School University, Lehman College-CUNY, and Adelphi University. She is the author of “Korean Fan Dance for Fun: Performing Alterity in Contemporary Japan” *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* (May, 2014), “Reinventing Korean Roots and Zainichi Routes: The Invisible Diaspora among Naturalized Japanese of Korean Descent” in *Diaspora without Homeland: Being Koreans in Japan*, edited by Sonia Ryang and John Lie (University of California Press); “Heito supīchi to maioritī chinmoku kōka—Rekishiteki haikē kara mietekuru mono” [Hate Speech and Silencing Effects on Minority—What Historical Backgrounds Illuminate], *Journalism* (Asahi Shinbunsha; November 2013), several book reviews, and , and several published translations from Japanese to English and English to Japanese.



Waltraud Raninger holds a graduate degree from the Karl-Franzens-Universität in Graz, Austria, where she

also earned a Diplomas in Interpretation and a Diploma in Translation. She completed a Certificate in Translation from New York University where she also has experience teaching German. As a freelance translator and interpreter she has worked with businesses, cultural organizations, legal firms, and government agencies.



Want to Increase Your Career Opportunities?

Adding a credential in interpretation and/or translation is a wonderful way for students in various majors to enhance their employment possibilities. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a 42 percent employment growth rate in these fields as opposed to the general growth rate of 14 percent. Students completing this option will be prepared to take the State and Federal legal interpreter certification exams, the American Translators Association (ATA) certification test, and be well-prepared for a career providing high quality interpretation.

Students interested in more information on the programs should contact the coordinator, Prof. Aída Martínez-Gómez at amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-621-3755.

Kudos

Orlanda Azevedo presented a paper on “Teaching History and Culture of the Lusophone Countries through Literature and Film” at the 3rd International Meeting (EMELP) organized by the American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese (AOTP), and which took place at Columbia University in August. She also participated in the STARTALK Portuguese Teacher Training program that took place online and at Boston University from June 23 to August 15. This program focused on moving teacher-centered activities outside the classroom using available technology, effective design of online material, and the opportunity to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of a diverse student body.

Silvia G. Dapía gave four papers at international conferences over the summer: “Exploring Memory in Chilean Television: Andrés Wood’s *Ecos del desierto* and the ‘Caravan of Death’” at the New Poetics of Disappearance: Narrative, Violence and Memory international conference in London, England; “Two Ways



of Thinking About Crime: Gombrowicz’s ‘A Premeditated Crime’ and Borges’s ‘Emma Zunz’” at the Fifth World Congress on Polish Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland; “Exile and Identity in Witold Gombrowicz’s Work” at the international conference “La voz del pueblo en el espacio cultural europeo: El pueblo y su identidad” [People’s Voice in European Cultural Space: The People and its Identity] at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland; and “Verdad, ficción y crimen en Witold Gombrowicz y Jorge Luis Borges” (Truth, Fictional Discourse, and Crime in Witold Gombrowicz y Jorge Luis Borges) at the I Congreso Internacional Witold Gombrowicz (First International Congress on Witold Gombrowicz) at the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She also served on the Comité Académico (Academic Committee) for the Congress in Buenos Aires; chaired a session on “European Endowment for Democracy” in the conference at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, chaired a session on “The Transnationalism of Witold Gombrowicz” at the Fifth World Congress on Polish

Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland; and chaired another session on “El Gombrowicz que no conocemos todavía” (The Still Unknown Gombrowicz) at the Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Aída Martínez-Gómez published “Criminals Interpreting for Criminals: Breaking or Shaping Norms?” in *JosTrans: The Journal of Specialized Translation*. She also presented a paper entitled “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: The Quality of Non-professional Interpreting in Prison Settings” at the 2nd International Conference on Non-Professional Interpreting and Translation at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz in Germany, in May, and another paper entitled “Communication Rights of Foreign Prisoners: an International Overview of Legislation and Actual Practices” at the John Jay College international conference “The Rule of Law in an Era of Change” in Athens, Greece, in June.



Hiroko Miyashita offered a workshop, “Let’s Learn Basic Japanese with Anime,” at the Queens Library Astoria branch and also at Resobox, a Japanese art gallery and culture center. Her unique approach uses dialogues from Japanese anime to explain grammar, vocabularies, expressions, and other things helpful to learning a new language.

Arístides Falcón Paridí’s documentary “Rumba Clave Blen Blen Blen” has been accepted to participate in the Cine+Mas San Francisco Latino Film Festival. It is described by a reviewer as “a song of praise to the musical genre of rumba in New York City. It



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Kudos

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reveals the vibrant Afro-Cuban culture of the city. In addition, the film unravels the African and Andalusian origins of rumba and follows ordinary people and famous musicians through the dances, drums, and clave rhythm of the genre. The film is a poem of color and music, bringing to the surface the symbolic religious cosmogonies of Bantu, Abakua, Yoruba and Arara traditions that have nourished it.”

Raúl Romero participated in the three day seminar “Discontent and the promise (Coloniality, Modernity and De-Colonial Epistemologies)” directed by Dr. Walter D. Mignolo at MACBA (Centre d’estudis del Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona) in Barcelona, June 2-4, and also participated in Alejandro Jodorowsky’s Workshop “Psychomagic, Transformative Power of Spiritual Psychotherapy” at the First International Conference of Conscience and Sustainability in Montcada i Reixac (Barcelona) on June 29.



Liliana Soto-Fernández was elected Vice President of Círculo de Cultura Panamericano for a two year term. She gave a paper on “Estudiantes por herencia: identificación, colocación y estrategias de enseñanza [Heritage Learners: Identification, Placement and Teaching Strategies]” at the Academia

Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (ANLE) Conference at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, in June 2014. Conference Presentation, where she also chaired a panel on “Pedagogía y Enseñanza del Español en los Estados Unidos [Pedagogy and the Teaching of Spanish in the United States II]” and served as moderator for a session on “El español como lengua de herencia [Spanish as a Heritage Language].” She gave a paper on

“How Heritage Speakers are Identified” at the 96th Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Panama City, Panama, in July and also served as chair at the same conference for the “ANLE Session: Heritage Learners: Identification, Placement and Teaching Strategies.”



Alberto Valdivia-Baselli participated in the “Trans-atlantic Peru Congress: Interchanges, Reappropriations, Inclusions: a Balance of Modernity” organized by Brown University and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima, in July. He offered the paper “De la utopía moderna europea a la utopía

heterotópica andina. Otreidad política y cultural en Nueva corónica y buen gobierno” (From Modern Utopia to Andean Heterotopia: Political and Cultural Otherness in the Chronicle *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno*). He also presented his dissertation for his Master in Philosophy degree specialized in History of Philosophy and Contemporary Thought. His dissertation, “Utopia, Building of Nation, Politic and Ideological Resistance in the Andean World (events between the XVII and the XX centuries) was approved by the Spanish University UNED and the European Higher Education Area committee, and by his director, Rafael Herrera (Universidad Complutense de Madrid and UNED), for public defense, making him now a M.Phil. in Philosophy candidate.

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