A Message from the Chair

With this issue of the newsletter we are delighted to announce the approval of a new major in Spanish!

In its mission statement, John Jay College envisions a “liberal arts curriculum” that “equips students to pursue advanced study and meaningful, rewarding careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors” and “professional programs” that “introduce students to foundational and newly emerging fields and prepare them for advancement within their chosen professions.” To support this mission, the Modern Languages and Literatures Department proposes a new, innovative major in Spanish.

The starting salaries for bilingual employees are generally higher than for those in the same positions but without bilingual skills. In addition, 79 percent of North American recruiters cited Spanish as the additional language most in demand. Tom Birmingham, Korn/Ferry’s managing director of global accounts, asserted: “Global companies look at people who have global skills. And the ability to speak other languages, especially Spanish, is a global skill.” This “translates into job opportunities” for bilingual employees in everything from private sector to government offices.

The new major in Spanish will enrich the College, the educational opportunities it affords its students, and the community it serves by providing valuable language acquisition that opens the doors to employment and promotion, by furthering cross-cultural understanding, and by enhancing cultural experiences available to its students and the general community.

General curricular information on the new major can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

A BIG “thank you” to everyone who made this additional opportunity for our students possible!

Silvia Dapía

Danny Torres Receives Scholarship

Congratulations to Danny Torres, a Spanish minor, who was honored as one of the inaugural Paula Howell Anderson Pre Law Institute Scholars. The award, named in honor of a John Jay College alumnus and donor who is a partner in the law firm of Shearman & Sterling LLP, was presented at a reception on January 15. It is designed to assist students seeking to enter law school by providing funding for admission to a full length LSAT preparation course, the registration fee for the LSAT, the fee for the LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS), and 10 LSAC law school reports. It also includes guaranteed admission to Pre Law Boot Camps, preferred admission status for all Pre Law Institute educational programs, invitations to networking and informational programs, individualized pre-law advisement with a special emphasis on law school selection, and personal mentoring by the Scholars program founder, attorney Paula Howell Anderson.
Spanish Class Activities

During the spring semester Prof. Irma Romero’s Spanish 211 heritage class has been exceptionally active in using what they have learned in class and supplementing it with extra-curricular activities.

On April 25 the class met at the Repertorio Español, where they saw the play La Zapatera Prodigiosa by Federico García Lorca, and directed by Andres Zambrano. The play was about an old shoemaker and his flirtatious young wife who lives in small village surrounded by nosy neighbors. Overall, the students concluded that true love is able to overcome any obstacle. In the photo to the left are, from the left, Alexis Rice, Denise Rosado, Jacqueline Rivera, Bernarda Reyes, Mrs. Reyes, Jasmine Flores, Shanice Falconer, Madeline Brewi, Prof. Irma Romero, and Alina Carrera.

On February 27th, students had the opportunity to celebrate Dominican culture in El Museo del Barrio. They enjoyed watching the carnival, traditional dances, and had fun creating their own “máscaras coloridas.” Overall, the students were delighted to be a part of this event. Pictured here from left are Bernarda Reyes, Denise Rosado, Prof. Irma Romero, Alina Carrera, Alexis Rice, and Jacqueline Rivera.

On April 25th, students were honored to meet writer Sandra Cisneros at the Latina Literacy Conference at John Jay College. The students gained more knowledge about her work and professional life and also had the opportunity to have her autograph their books. Those participating were, from left, Alexis Rice, Sandra Cisneros, Prof. Irma Romero, Samantha Peña, Jacqueline Rivera, Denise Rosado, and Bernarda Reyes.
Lisbeth Marmolejos Publishes Article in John Jay’s Finest

Congratulations to Lisbeth Marmolejos, a student in Prof. Mariana Graciano’s SPA 335 course on “Themes of Justice in Latin-American Literature and Film,” who had her essay on “The Dictatorship and Fascism in By Night in Chile by Roberto Bolaño and Death and the Maiden by Ariel Dorfman” published in the 2015 issue of John Jay’s Finest. Published by the English Department, the journal is dedicated to presenting the outstanding writing of John Jay College students. Ms. Marmolejos is a criminology major with a minor in psychology. In her article she used a Chilean novel and play that focus on how society dealt with the legacy of atrocities from the past dictatorship to argue that individual passivity in the face of violence is actually a form of complicity in the events.

Ms. Marmolejos was an invited guest at a reception in the office of President Jeremy Travis on April 30 where the authors featured in the issue and their families were present to honor the students’ achievements.

Prof. Silvia Dapía Receives Scholarly Excellence Award

On April 23 Prof. Silvia Dapía was recognized with a 2015 Faculty Scholarly Excellence award. In announcing the honor, Anthony Carpi, Associate Provost and Dean of Research, commented that the award was one of less than 20 percent of the nominees who were selected after a rigorous review process by the Research Advisory Committee. “This award,” he wrote, “represents your colleagues’ highest approval for your ongoing research, scholarship, and fundraising efforts, and a mark of their appreciation for your many contributions as a scholar and member of the John Jay community.”
Jay Walking in Italian

Prof. Maria Giuffre took her Italian class to participate in a “Walking Italian Conversation” at the Jay Walking. The students became Italians for one day and they showed what they know about the Italian culture and they have compared the American culture with the Italian one.

Students participating included, from the left, Diamond Sanders, Gustavo Sanchez, Lianny Toval, Maag Wyatt, Dora Thompson, Adam Dean, Tatiana Malovala, John Maldonado, Nicolle Rosario Nolasco, Stephanie Balcacer and Kiara Maldonado.

“Hi, I’m Tatiana and I speak Italian. New York has the Empire State Building, Rome has the Coliseum” — Tatiana Malovana

“Hi! My name is Gustavo, I study at John Jay and I’ll be a criminologist. New York has the CUNY University, Italy has the ancient university of Bologna” — Gustavo Sanchez

“I am Diamond and my hobby is fashion. Italy is the capital of fashion. In Italy there are: Armani, Valentino, Gucci and Prada.” — Diamond Sanders
News

**Japan Society Visit**

Prof. Keiko Miyajima’s Japanese 102 class went on a field trip to the Japan Society on Friday, May 22. The photo to the right shows the class at an exhibition called “Life of Cats: Selections from the Hiraki Ukiyo-e Collection.” Ukiyo-e (pictures of the floating world) is a unique Japanese art form in woodblock prints and paintings that was popular from the 17th to 19th century. The students enjoyed viewing the works of art and seeing people’s lives captured in them. Pictured, from the left, are Alex Chen, Mamataz Rupa, Abraham Rivers, Ester Ladunni, Veshimabeth Samuels, Jia Min Zheng and Ting Zhao.

**Pizza and the Met**

Prof. Marina Colajanni Guthenburg took her Italian class to visit the Metropolitan Museum in late April and on May 15 to Pizzeria Gnocco. The students were able to view and learn more about Italian art and culture at the Museum and to indulge in tasty popular food at the pizzeria. Since the staff was all Italian, they also had the opportunity to practice their language skills when ordering their food.

On the top left, Bernardo Ortega poses in front of a Botticelli’s painting “I tre miracoli di San Zeno.” On the bottom left is Julissa Jimenez in front of Guido Reni’s painting “Immacolata Concezione.” On the bottom right is Joel Maxman next to a beautiful painting by Artemisia Gentileschi, “Ester e Assuero.”
Interpreting Workshop

On February 25th, Prof. Aída Martínez-Gómez Gómez hosted a court interpreting workshop focusing on questions such as: What does a court interpreter do? How do I become one? Two senior interpreters from the New York State Unified court system spoke about the work of interpreters at the Unified Court System and the requirements to start a career in this field. Ann Ryan is principal court interpreter for the NYC family courts and Galo Fernández is senior court interpreter for Kings County Civil Court. About 25 students attended together with three faculty members — Karam Tannous, Waltraud Raninger and Martínez-Gómez Gómez.

Visit to the United Nations

On May 8th, Prof. Aida Martínez-Gómez Gómez’s students in the Certificate Programs in Legal Translation and Interpretation visited the United Nations headquarters for a group tour. The tour included a visit to the General Assembly Hall and the Security Council Chamber, and the tour guide also provided detailed information about the work of the United Nations in different areas, including disarmament, peace and security, human rights, and the Millennium Development Goals.

Together with the tour, the students attended a briefing with the Chief of Interpreting for the Spanish Booth, Ms. Salome Abud-Krafft. She explained the main features of the work of interpreters in the United Nations, as well as internship and job opportunities and requirements to access them.

There were 17 students who attended the event funded by John Jay’s Faculty Student Engagement Fund.
Congratulations to Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández on being named Teacher of the Year from The New York Metropolitan Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. AATSP promotes the study and teaching of the Spanish and Portuguese languages and their corresponding Hispanic, Luso-Brazilian, and related literatures and cultures. Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández has been very active in the organization, including serving a term as its president. A prominent advocate of the communicative approach to learning languages, she also serves as vice president of the CUNY Council on World Language Study.

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 Gómez at amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-621-3755.
The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is pleased to announce its new major in Spanish.

Admission Requirements
Entry into the Spanish major requires successful completion of the beginning sequence (SPA 101 or SPA 111 and SPA 102 or SPA 112); or placement test results indicating an equivalent level of Spanish language comprehension.

Prospective Spanish majors who wish to simultaneously make progress toward completing their General Education requirements while building Spanish language proficiency so as to qualify for Intermediate-level Spanish can do so by:

- taking SPA 101 or SPA 111 to satisfy the “World Cultures” area of the Flexible Core and
- taking SPA 102 or SPA 112 to satisfy the “Communications” area of the John Jay College Option.

Curriculum
The major consists of a minimum of 36 credit hours of work. In addition to the specific course requirements indicated below for Option A (Translation and Interpretation) and Option B (Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures), the following requirements apply to both options.

All courses used for the major must be taught primarily in the Spanish language except for the POR 201 and FRE 201 electives.

No credit hours taken at the 100-level may be counted toward the major.

Required Core Courses (12 credit hours)
(1) Language Practice (9 credit hours): SPA 201—Intermediate Spanish I (3 credits) or SPA 211—Intermediate Spanish I for Heritage Students (3 credits); SPA 202—Intermediate Spanish II (3 credits) or SPA 212—Intermediate Spanish II for Heritage Students (3 credits); and SPA 215—Conversation and Composition in Spanish (3 credits); and (2) Career Emphasis (3 credits): SPA 255—Spanish for the Professional; or SPA 250—Spanish for Criminal Justice (3 credits).

Option A—Translation and Interpretation
Required Courses (18 credit hours)
SPA 230—Translating I (3 credits)
SPA 231—Interpreting I (3 credits)
SPA 330—Translating II (3 credits)
SPA 333—Interpreting II (3 credits)
SPA 340—Legal Interpreting I (3 credits)
SPA 435—Legal Translating I (3 credits)

Electives (6 credit hours)
SPA 309—The Theme of Justice in 20th-century Spanish Literature
SPA 321—Spanish Literature I
SPA 322—Spanish Literature II
SPA 331—Latin-American Literature I
SPA 332—Latin-American Literature II
SPA 336—Themes of Justice in Latin American Literature and Film
SPA 337—Text Analysis and Editing for Translators (3 credits)
SPA 339—Translating III: Specialized Translation (3 credits)
SPA 357—Violence Against Women in the Spanish-Speaking World
SPA 380—Advanced Selected Topics in Spanish
SPA 440—Legal Interpreting II
SPA 478—Internship in Spanish Interpretation and Translation (3 credits)

Option B—Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures
Required Courses (12 credit hours)
One 300-level Spanish Literature course: SPA 321—Spanish Literature I (3 credits); or SPA 322—Spanish Literature II (3 credits)

(continued on page 10)
Silvia G. Dapía was honored with a 2015 Faculty Scholarly Excellence Award from the John Jay College Research Advisory Committee for her ongoing research and scholarship. She served as guest editor for a special issue of *The Polish Review* dedicated to the Polish-Argentine author Witold Gombrowicz. She also published “Two Ways of Thinking About Crime: Gombrowicz’s ‘Premeditated Crime’ (1933) and Borges’s ‘Emma Zunz’ (1948),” *The Polish Review*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (Spring 2015), and was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages at the CUNY Graduate Center for the 2015-18 term.

Jill Claretta Robbins completed her twentieth year teaching Italian for John Jay College. Congratulations on reaching this milestone!

Aída Martínez-Gómez published a chapter on “Non-professional Interpreters” in *The Routledge Handbook of Interpreting* (edited by Renee Jourdenais and Holly Mikkelsen), and an article entitled “Bibliometrics as a Tool to Map Uncharted Territory: A Study on Non-Professional Interpreting” in *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology* 23(2), specifically in the special issue Bibliometric and Bibliographical Research in Translation Studies. She received a grant from the Faculty Student Engagement Fund for a visit to the United Nations Headquarters and another grant from the Pedagogy and Technology Training (PATT) Program to buy 25 interpreting headsets to use in the Certificate Programs.


Liliana Soto-Fernández was named Teacher of the Year by The New York Metropolitan Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She was also nominated for their National Award and was re-elected Vice-President of CUNY Council on World Language Study.

Mieko Nakamura Sperbeck was an invited speaker at the John Jay Graphic Novel Club Meeting in April. The title of her presentation was “Phonological Characteristics of Japanese Loanwords,” in which she discussed how foreign words were modified systematically by comparing English vs. Japanese sound inventories and syllable structures.

*(continued on next page)*
**Kudos**

**Marlenys Villamar** led a Workshop for Teachers of Spanish at the Cervantes Institute in New York entitled “Integrating Literature Into the ELE Classroom.” The workshop encouraged teachers to use literature to enhance cross-cultural communication in the classroom.

**Alberto Valdivia-Baselli** was invited to Washington, DC, by the International Peruvianists Association (Tufts University) to read and discuss his most recent poetry. He also read his paper “Political Projections and Latent State of Quechua Language in the International Intellectual Context. Analysis of the Reception of Quechua in “The Milk of Sorrow” at the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages Program 20th Graduate Students Conference at The Graduate Center, CUNY. He was the recipient of the Latin American Studies Association Conference award which allowed him to present at the LASA Congress (Puerto Rico, 2015) his lecture “Problematisation of the Barbaric Device in the Speech of the Literature of the Violence in Peru 1980-2002” and being the chair of the panel “Topics on Violence and Literature.”

**Yenling Yeh** was awarded a 2015 Professional Development Fund Grant to attend the training program in Taiwan for Chinese language teachers to teach Chinese as a foreign language overseas. The program provides rigorous training in modern Chinese linguistics, pedagogy, and instructional materials.

**Spanish Major (continued from page 8)**

One 300-level Latin American Literature course: SPA 331—Latin–American Literature I (3 credits); or SPA 332—Latin–American Literature II (3 credits)

One 300-level Theme of Justice through Literature and/or Film course: SPA 309—The Theme of Justice in 20th-century Spanish Literature (3 credits); or SPA 336—Themes of Justice in Latin American Literature and Film (3 credits)

One 400-level course: SPA 401—Contemporary Issues in Hispanic Literature (3 credits)

**Electives (12 credit hours)**

SPA 230 – Translating I
SPA 231 – Interpreting I
SPA 320 — Latin-American Theatre Taller de Teatro/Theatre Workshop
SPA 351 — Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Issues in Spanish Literature and Film
SPA 354 — Hispanic Film
SPA 357 — Violence Against Women in the Spanish-Speaking World
SPA 359 — African Legacy in Latin America Literature and Film
SPA 380 — Advanced Selected Topics in Spanish
POR 201 — Intermediate Portuguese I
FRE 201 — Intermediate French I

*NOTE — A semester of study abroad in a Spanish-speaking university, approved by the student’s advisor and department chair, may substitute for up to fifteen (15) credit hours toward the major.*

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