Welcome to the new academic year! This is going to be an exciting year for our department as we begin to roll out our new Spanish major which includes concentrations for specializations in Translation & Interpretation and in Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures. You can read all about this on pages 3-5 of this newsletter.

We also have a new honor society for students in our Spanish language programs — Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica) — which you can read about on page 2. Both of these new developments have the potential to provide our students with excellent opportunities to develop their future careers.

Naturally, one of our primary goals for this year will be to further develop and implement our marketing and recruitment plans to attract students to the new major. We already have enrolled the first student in the major, as you can see from the column to the right.

We also plan to explore the possibility of developing fully online versions of our certificate programs in Spanish/English translation/interpretation, to do a feasibility study about the possibility of adding a second language to our translation and interpretation certificates, and investigate the possibility of hosting a colloquium next year. Our last colloquium offered in fall 2011 resulted in the publication of selected papers in the Argentine academic journal Katatay: Revista crítica de literatura latinoamericana.

Of course, we also want to emphasize providing opportunities to our students through field trips and other extra curricular activities which we stress each year.

Silvia Dapía

Aracelis Cáceres became the first student to enroll in our new Spanish major when she submitted her paperwork at the Jay Express Service. Prof. Maria Julia Rossi, one of the advisors for the major, met with her and posed some questions about her decision and her future plans.

Q — “Why major in Spanish?”

A — “There are so many reasons. First, I find the major to be an excellent opportunity to turn my native language into a professional outcome. Also, I feel it will open many professional doors for me. I want to be a professor and a solid Spanish background as this major offers will help me become a good scholar in the future. Finally, it will give me the chance to help others to learn Spanish.”

(Continued on page 8.)
We are delighted to announce that the College has been approved as a member — Alpha Alpha Kappa Chapter — of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica). The only national honor society for students of Spanish at the university level in the United States, Sigma Delta Pi provides a nationally-recognized way for the College to acknowledge student achievement. It also offers an annual scholarship program for study abroad that will now be open to John Jay College students, grant programs to assist member chapters in financing local events and collaborative initiatives, as well as special recognition honors to people who are particularly supportive of Hispanic cultures in all their various forms.

Students who are inducted into this prestigious honor society have tangible evidence of their academic excellence to present to graduate school admissions officers and future employers, as well as the opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience through election as chapter officers. They are also eligible to apply for undergraduate study abroad awards for Spanish-speaking countries and to participate in the society's annual conference sessions held in conjunction with the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Sigma Delta Pi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and numbers among its partner organizations partners the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Estudio Internacional Sampere, the Instituto Universitario de Investigación en Estudios Norteamericanos Benjamin Franklin, the Universidad Veritas, the International Association of Hispanics and the North American Academy of the Spanish Language.

Dr. Liliana Soto-Fernández, a long-time member of Sigma Delta Pi, has been confirmed by its national office as the John Jay chapter adviser. The inaugural initiation is scheduled for October 19.

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 concentration 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 Spanish Major is designed to be flexible, creative, and meet a host of different goals, allowing students to develop the advanced linguistic skills and forms of cultural competence so frequently sought in today’s globally competitive and interconnected world. Students will choose between two concentrations. Concentration A equips students with the necessary knowledge, tools and abilities to become competent interpreters and translators. Concentration B is designed for students who wish to pursue a more general course of study of the varied cultural and literary histories of the Spanish speaking world. Graduates will be prepared for a number of jobs in government, nonprofit agencies, and the private sector, as well as entry into graduate and professional schools.

Learning Outcomes. Students will be able to:

▪ Demonstrate advanced level competency in all language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in accordance with criteria developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) while developing skills in critical and analytical thinking as well as sharpening research skills through discussion and analysis of different kind of texts, films, documents, and linguistic data.

▪ Develop professional standards to give presentations in Spanish on a variety of cultural topics including literature, popular culture and films, or interpret speech and translate documents from one language to another, according to their interests.

▪ Demonstrate intercultural competency through their contact and engagement with the cultures, literatures, history and politics of the diverse places where Spanish is spoken: the Americas — North, Central, and South — the Caribbean, and Europe.

▪ Gain knowledge of the legal systems of the Spanish–speaking world.

▪ Graduate with extraordinary international opportunities, whether they elect to undertake further specialized study in Hispanic literatures and cultures, or decide instead to translate and interpret from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. Their knowledge of Hispanic cultures will enhance their career opportunities in publishing and journalism, public service, international law and business, social services, diplomacy.

▪ Expand their career possibilities in many professional fields.

Coordinators and Advisors

Concentration A (Translation & Interpretation)
Professor Aida Martinez-Gomez, Department of Modern Languages (212.621.3755, amartinez@jjay.cuny.edu)

Concentration B (Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Culture)
Professor Maria Julia Rossi, Department of Modern Languages (212.237.8716, mrossi@jjay.cuny.edu)

(Continued on next page.)
Prerequisites

The Spanish major requires successful completion of the beginning sequence (SPA 101-102 OR SPA 111-112); or placement test results indicating an equivalent level of Spanish language comprehension. The placement exam is available in the Modern Language Lab in room 7.65.00NB. These courses satisfy the requirements of the General Education program in the Flexible Core (World Cultures and Global Issues area) and in the College Concentration (Communications area).

PART ONE — Required Core Courses (12 Credits)

Language Practice —
1. SPA 201 Intermediate Spanish I OR SPA 211 Intermediate Spanish I for Heritage Students;
2. SPA 202 Intermediate Spanish II OR SPA 212 Intermediate Spanish II for Heritage Students, and
3. SPA 215 Conversation and Composition in Spanish

Career Emphasis (select one)
SPA 255 Spanish for the Professional OR SPA 250 Spanish for Criminal Justice

PART TWO — Concentrations (24 Credits)

Concentration A — Translation and Interpretation

Concentration A prepares students for positions as translators and interpreters generally, and specifically for positions requiring a background in legal concepts and terminology.

Required (18 Credits)

SPA 230 Translating I; SPA 231 Interpreting I; SPA 330 Translating II; SPA 333 Interpreting II;
SPA 340 Legal Interpreting I; SPA 435 Legal Translating I

Electives (6 Credits)

Select two courses from 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; SPA 339 Translating III: Specialized Translation; 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 Interpretation and Translation

(Continued on next page.)
Concentration B — Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures

Concentration B is designed for students who wish to pursue a more general course of study in Spanish and Latin American literatures and cultures. Students who elect Concentration B can achieve levels of cultural knowledge and sophistication that should make them particularly attractive to employers in such areas as government, international relations, business, marketing (both domestically and in Spain or Latin America), journalism, the foreign service, and certain NGOs in the non-profit sector.

**Required (12 Credits)**

One 300-level Spanish Literature course: SPA 321 Spanish Literature I OR SPA 322 Spanish Literature II

One 300-level Latin American Literature course: SPA 331 Latin—American Literature I OR SPA 332 Latin—American Literature II

One 300-level Theme of Justice through Literature and/or Film course: SPA 309 The Theme of Justice in 20th-century Spanish Literature OR SPA 336 Themes of Justice in Latin American Literature and Film

One 400-level course: SPA 401 Contemporary Issues in Hispanic Literature

**Electives (12 Credits)**


**Notes**

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

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

**Total Credits in the Major — 36**
Welcome New Faculty

Hassan Hussain is originally from Iraq but grew up in Chicago. He completed his graduate studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the University of California, Los Angeles. He has taught courses on Arabic and Persian languages and Middle Eastern history at various institutions and is currently pursuing research on multilingualism in the Middle East. His interests include historical linguistics, cephalopods and any and all kinds of calligraphy.

Yumei Sun Leventhal holds BA from Peking University, and an MA and PhD from the University of Maryland. She has previously been a member of the faculty at CUNY Baruch College, SUNY Maritime College, University of Cincinnati, University of Maryland, and the United States Naval Academy. She teaches Chinese language, Chinese history, and English composition and literature and is interested in foreign language acquisition, pedagogy, and collaborative learning. Her most recent publications have appeared in The EUROCALL Review and Foreign Language Annals.

Sybille R Rinkert-Garcia was born in Schwetzingen, near Heidelberg, in Germany. She attended the university in Stuttgart where she obtained a Masters in German Language and Literature. A resident of New York City since 1990, she teaches German at various colleges in the city, at the Goethe-Institute, as well as at the Deutsches Haus at New York University. She goes to Germany at least once a year to visit friends and family, which also allows her to keep current on German culture and colloquial language.

Congratulations Prof. Romero!

The department is pleased to offer its congratulations to Prof. Raúl Romero (pictured on the left) on his marriage to psychologist Jaime Perez. The ceremony was conducted on Friday, September 4, at the Office of the City Clerk Marriage Bureau in New York.

Prof. Dapía Publishes Book

Jorge Luis Borges, Post-Analytic Philosophy, and Representation, a new book by Prof. Silvia Dapía, has been published as part of the Routledge Studies in Twentieth Century Literature series. “The book uses Borges’s short stories to demonstrate how philosophical questions related to representation develop out of literature and actually serve as precursors to the various strains of post-analytic philosophy that later developed in the United States. According to Dr. Daniel Balderston, Mellon Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Director of the Borges Center, and editor of the academic journal Variaciones Borges at the University of Pittsburgh, the book “is a top-notch work on an important topic. It makes a well-defined intervention in debates that have raged for fifty years.”
Silvia G. Dapía had her book Jorge Luis Borges, Post-Analytic Philosophy, and Representation published in the Routledge Studies in Twentieth Century Literature series. She delivered a paper on “Dimensions of Justice in the Southern Cone” at an international conference sponsored by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Toronto, Canada, where she chaired sessions on “Between Tragedy and Idyll: Two Chronotopes in Polish, German, and Russian Literature in the Early 19th Century” and “Topics in Polish Literature, Theatre and Film.” She also participated in the Institute for Curriculum and Campus Internationalization at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Aída Martínez-Gómez presented the paper “Towards a Broader View of Dialogue Interpreting: Foregrounding Primary Participants” at the 5th International Conference of the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS) hosted by the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil and the paper “Compliance With the Law: Challenges in Providing Language Access at the Last Stages of the Criminal Justice Process” at the Law and Society Association 2015 Annual Meeting in Seattle. She was recently appointed Vice-President of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpreting (part of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, NAJIT), and elected as a member of the Executive Board of the American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association (ATISA).

María Julia Rossi had her article “Una poética de la incertidumbre: procedimientos erosivos en tres obras de Elena Garro” [A Poetics of Uncertainty. Erosive Procedures in Three Works by Elena Garro] published by Nueva Revista de Filología Hispánica. In May she presented her paper “Las hermanas sean unidas.’ Las dedicatorias de Silvina Ocampo a su hermana Victoria” [“Sisters Must Be Together.’ Dedications by Silvina Ocampo to her Sister Victoria”] at the XXXIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico. At the same conference, she organized and chaired the panel “Lejos de dónde. Distancias, atajos y desvíos en las traducciones latinoamericanas” [“Far Away from Where. Distances, Shortcuts and Detours in Latin-American Translations”]. In August, she presented her paper “José Bianco y la otra educación sentimental: traducción, género y sexualidades marginadas” [J. Bianco and the Other Sentimental Education: Translation, Gender and Marginalized Sexualities] at I Simposio de la Sección de Estudios del Cono Sur (LASA) in Santiago, Chile. This paper is part of her ongoing research on “minor” intellectual endeavors by “major” Argentine writers which received a PSC-CUNY Award this year. Later in August she also delivered a lecture titled “Silencios, ataques, insinuaciones. Voz narrativa y elipsis en ‘Carta perdida en un cajón.’” [“Silences, Attacks, Insinuations. Narrative Voice and Ellipsis in ‘Letter Lost in a Drawer’”] at Cátedra de Escritura, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Buenos Aires. Finally, Prof. Rossi also presented three new books of Colección Tramoya, a book collection which she cofounded and directs, in Rosario, Argentina.

(Continued on next page.)
**Kudos Continued**

**Liliana Soto-Fernández** presented a paper titled “Zoé Valdés: De la nada al todo” (Zoé Valdés: From Nothing to Everything), at the 97th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She was named to AATSP Honorary Fellows Committee and to John Jay’s Faculty Senate’s Technology Committee and Student/Faculty Disciplinary Committees.

**Alberto Valdiva-Baselli** was received his DEA (Diplome of Advanced Studies) from the European Higher Education Area System, becoming a Ph.D. candidate in Latin American Philosophy at UNED University (Spain), and at the Complutense University of Madrid. He was invited to be a part of several panel and book presentations at the Lima International Book Fair (Peru), being chair and presenter in panels such as “Political Violence and the Peruvian Literature of Post-Memory” and “Peruvian Literature in dialogue with Latin American Philosophy.” At the beginning of the summer he presented a paper on “Problematization of the Barbaric Device in Peruvian Literature” at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Puerto Rico.

**Our First Student—Continued**

Q — “What classes are you particularly interested in the major?”

A — “My favorite courses are the ones in which we read literature in Spanish. I love reading and I always dream about becoming a writer. I enjoy all kinds of fiction, particularly romantic novels and poetry. If I had to name only one author I prefer, that would be Gabriel García Márquez. His novel *Cien años de soledad* [One Hundred Years of Solitude] is one of my favorites. Translating is also something I truly enjoy. I am discovering new things and remembering some I already knew but had forgotten for some reason.”

Q — “What plans do you have for the future?”

A — “My plans are to obtain a Master’s degree in the field and I aim to work at the Board of Education while attending to graduate school. Afterwards, my plan is to teach Spanish and Hispanic culture full time at the college level. That is my ultimate dream! I really appreciate the opportunity to enroll in this major because it will help me develop some ideas that have never occurred to me about my future chances.

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