

## *Welcome Erica !*

The department is pleased to welcome Erica Wise as its new office assistant. Ms. Wise, formerly in the English Department, has been working part-time for the department for the past two years. Her appointment also carries a well-deserved promotion to CUNY Administrative Assistant (CAA).

Please join us in welcoming Erica to the department and congratulating her on her new position.



## *New Students Activities In 2011-12*

- Prof. Jill Claretta worked with students to establish an Italian Club.
- Prof. Raúl Romero hosted “Cinema of the World,” a series of twelve movies from Argentina, Catalonia, Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, and Spain.
- Prof. Yen-ling Yeh took students in Chinese 101, 102 and 290 to a calligraphy exhibition and workshop at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on 42nd Street in Manhattan.
- John Jay students were among the presenters at the “Empowering the Tribe” symposium hosted by the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department.

## *A Message from the Chair*

On behalf of the department, and personally, I would like to thank everyone who helped make 2011-12 a successful year. The provost, the dean, and the staffs in their offices have been very supportive of the department and its efforts to provide quality opportunities for its students. A great many people assisted in the successful symposium last fall including President Travis, who took time out from his busy schedule to open the proceedings, and the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and Office for the Advancement of Research who provided substantial support without which the event would not have been possible.

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Students at the calligraphy workshop.

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## Kudos

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### Silvia G. Dapía

Served as guest editor of the Spring 2012 issue of the journal *Polish American Studies* which focused on the Poles in Latin America.

Published a review of the movie *Argentyńska lekcja* in Vol. LXIX, No. 1 of *Polish American Studies*.

Presented a paper on “Recepción de la cultura española en Nueva York: 1860-1960” (The Reception of Spanish Culture in New York: 1860-1960) at the “Segundo congreso internacional de literatura española contemporánea” (Second International Conference on Contemporary Spanish Literature) which was held at the University of La Plata, Argentina.

Presented a paper on “¿Un realismo sin ontología? El dilema de Albucásim en ‘La busca de Averroes’ de J. L. Borges” at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Presented a paper on “Witold Gombrowicz’s Argentine Interlude” at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago.

Presented a paper on “Borges, Social Order, and Human Action” at the Borges Institute at the University of Pittsburgh.

Co-organized the symposium “Empowering the Tribe” at John Jay College.

Translated “Polish Postwar Migration to Brazil, 1945-55” from Portuguese into English for publication in the Spring 2012 issue of the journal *Polish American Studies*.

Translated “Polish Immigrants in Argentina” from Spanish into English for publication in the Spring 2012 issue of the journal *Polish American Studies*

Attended the workshop “Evolving Pedagogies in the Modern Language Classroom” at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.

### Arístides Falcón-Paradí

Co-produced and wrote *El Play*, a documentary film produced and directed by Pablo A. Medina, that was shown at the Dominican Republic Global Film Festival.

### Kat Méndez

Attended “Jornada de formación centrada en la dimensión afectiva en el aprendizaje de idiomas,” a workshop on pedagogical practices for heritage learners sponsored by the Cervantes Institute.

Completed a training program on the academic support software “Tutor Trac/Tutor Advisor” sponsored by Red Rock Software Corporation.

Translated a manual into Spanish for the non-profit Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

### Suad Mohamed

Attended the annual Middle East Association Conference in Washington, DC, and a panel discussion on bridging the gap between standard and colloquial in teaching Arabic language.

Traveled to Egypt where she attended a conference in Cairo University on Najib Mahfouz, the Nobel laureate for literature.

Attended and participated in meetings in Cairo University with the English and Arabic departments to establish a new association called The English/Arabic Linguistic Association of Cairo University, of which she became a member.

### Uhnsook Park

Hosted the 7th annual JET Information Session at John Jay College. The session informs students about opportunities to spend a year in Japan.

### Raúl Romero

Co-organized the symposium “Empowering the Tribe” at John Jay College.

Organized the “Cinema of the World” international film series at John Jay College.

Chaired a session on “Law, Violence and the LGBTI Community” at the “Empowering the Tribe” symposium.

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## Raúl Rubio

Published his article “Argentine Anthropophagy: Carnal and Cultural Encounters in Carlos Balmaceda’s Manual del cannibal” in the November 2011 issue of the journal *Chasqui: Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana*.

Published a review of *The Diaspora Strikes Back: Caribeno Tales of Learning and Turning* by Juan Flores appeared in the *Latino Studies* (Volume 9, Issue 4).

Presented a paper on “Queer Stand-up Comedy: Art Form, Theory, and Community Empowerment” at the symposium “Empowering the Tribe” at John Jay College.

Presented a paper titled “Queer Stand-up Comedy: Art Form, Theory, and Community Empowerment” at the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) Conference in New Orleans.

Presented a paper on “Illusions of Glamour: Subjectivity and Alterity in Boris Izaguirre’s *Morir de glamour: crónica de la sociedad de fin de siglo*” at the Sixth International Narratology Symposium held at the National Library in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Presented a paper on “Glamour as Alterity: Queer Sensibilities in the Chronicles of Boris Izaguirre” at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in San Francisco.

Presented a paper on “Nostalgic Imaginaries: Staging Latina/o Identity, Sexuality, and Materiality” at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference in Chicago.

Presented an invited lecture on “Corporal Cuba: Embodying the Nation and the Revolution in Carmen Peleaz’s *Rum and Coke*” in the symposium “Woman. Embodied” at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Served on the jury selection committee for the 2012 Lora Romero First Book Prize of the American Studies Association.

Served on the National Association for Ethnic Studies Board.

Served as a Cuba Project Fellow at the Bildner Center of The Graduate Center (CUNY).

Served as a journal manuscript evaluator for *Chasqui: revista de literatura latinoamericana*.

## John Sorrentino

Presented a paper on “Imagining Madeleine” on the panel entitled “The Feminine in the Works and Life of André Gide” sponsored by the Association des Amis d'André Gide at the 2012 Conference of the Modern Language Association.

## Liliana Soto-Fernández

Published “Los personajes de dos cenas eucarísticas en la obra de Josefina Leyva,” in Bertha Bilbao Richter’s *El mundo ficcional de Josefina Leyva: Metáfora de la libertad*.

Presented the paper “La religión en la obra de Josefina Leyva” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference.

Presented the paper “Heritage Speakers at the Senior College” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference.

Presented the presidential address “Prostitución y revolución: la dualidad femenina en la novela del período especial” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference.

Presented a paper on “El tema de la libertad en la narrativa de Josefina Leyva” [Freedom in Josefina Leyva’s Narrative] at XLIX Annual Congress of Círculo de Cultura Panamericano held at William Paterson University in Totowa, New Jersey.

Served as keynote speaker at the National Spanish Examination Awards Ceremony.

Hosted a reception for over 500 educators from around the world at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, where she introduced Diego Fernández Alberdi, Consul for Education in the United States and Canada.

Chaired a session on “Eroticism, the Lesbian Body, and Poetry” at the “Empowering the Tribe” symposium at John Jay College in November.

Chaired a session on Cuban writers in New York at the International PEN Club in New York in October.

# **Congratulations !**

# Department Information

## Major Achievements for 2011-12

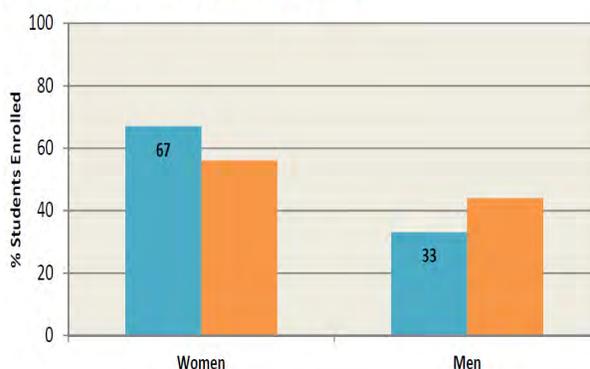
- A successful search for a new assistant professor in Spanish for translation and interpretation concluded with the hiring of Dr. Aída Martínez Gómez-Gómez to begin in August.
- A new assessment plan was completed and implemented for the first time in fall 2011. The data derived from this should assist the department in its efforts to continually improve the learning experience for its students.
- Certificate programs in Translation and Interpretation, and a combined Translation-Interpretation Certificate, received approval of the Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards Committee.
- Course revisions were completed and approved to add the necessary prerequisites to the following courses: SPA 201, Intermediate Spanish I; SPA 202, Intermediate Spanish II; SPA 211, Intermediate Spanish I for Heritage Students; SPA 212, Intermediate Spanish II for Heritage Students; SPA 321, Introduction to Spanish Literature I; SPA 322, Introduction to Spanish Literature II; SPA 331, Introduction to Latin American Literature I; SPA 332 Introduction to Latin American Literature II; FRE 201, Intermediate French I; FRE 202, Intermediate French II; ITA 201, Intermediate Italian I; ITA 202, Intermediate Italian II. This will reduce the number of students who are able to enroll in courses beyond their level, thus reducing the number of unsuccessful course completions.
- Curriculum documents were approved for the following courses as permanent additions to the catalog: Arabic 101, Arabic 102, Arabic 201, Chinese 201, German 101, German 102, Portuguese 101, Portuguese 102, Japanese 101, and Japanese 102.
- Curriculum documents for SPA 230 (revision) and SPA 231 (new) were approved to support the Translation and Interpretation Certificates.

## Who Are Our Students

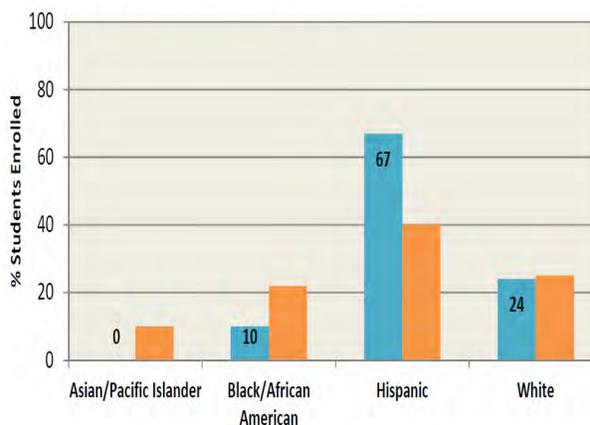
Have you ever wondered who our students are? The College keeps track of enrollments each year and provided us with the following information based on enrollments in departmental courses for 2011-12.

### Gender

The **blue** represents students in the department and the **orange** represents the average for the entire College.



### Race / Ethnicity



As can be clearly seen, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has a higher percentage of female students and a higher percentage of Hispanic students than the rest of the College, while the percentage of African American and Asian/Pacific Islander lags somewhat behind.

## Goals for Next Year

<b>Student Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a departmental student organization.</li> <li>▪ Increase participation by faculty in the departmental assessment program.</li> <li>▪ Meet with the Assessment Office to discuss interpretation of the assessment data gathered in 2011-12.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sponsor a departmental workshop on best practices in teaching languages.</li> <li>▪ Meet with every new full-time and part-time faculty member who is hired to explain the departmental teaching philosophy, expectations, and assessment program.</li> </ul>
<b>Research and Scholarship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet with the sponsored research office to identify potential opportunities for faculty research/travel grants.</li> </ul>
<b>Institutional Effectiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a plan for promoting the new certificate programs and recruiting students as soon as final approval of the proposals is received from the State Education Department.</li> <li>▪ Begin working on the development of a major.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact at least four organizations regarding possible cooperation in programming (conferences, speakers, etc.).</li> <li>▪ Meet with the Development Office to identify potential donors or fund raising opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Meet with other departments to discuss the possibility of joint programming.</li> </ul>

### *A Message from the Chair*

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As we look forward to 2012-13, the course revisions and addition of prerequisites that we accomplished this year will help to better place students in courses at their appropriate levels, thus promoting better chances for their success. The department also completed work on certificate programs in Translation and Interpretation that were approved by the Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards Committee. When fully approved by the State, this will provide bilingual students with an opportunity to use their language skills to gain an employable credential in demand in the legal, medical, governmental, and other fields that deal extensively with the public. It will also give the department an opportunity to recruit students who would otherwise not be at the College. To everyone who assisted in this process, a warm "Thank you!"

*Silvia Dapía*

**Best wishes for an enjoyable  
summer from the Department  
of Foreign Languages  
and Literatures!**

### Department Contact Information

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