

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to the new academic year. In this first issue of our newsletter, in addition to our normal news items, we would like to review our department highlights from last year (page 3), as well as recognize the professional accomplishments of our faculty during 2012-13 (pages 4-5). We would also like to introduce our new faculty (pages 5-6) and to identify the department's primary goals for the 2013-14 academic year.

Our primary goal for this year is the development of a proposal for a major in Spanish. Our other major goals include:

- Implementing a new template for reporting assessment information and interpretations.
- Continuing to develop and implement marketing for the certificate programs.
- Co-Sponsoring a conference with the Basque Institute and the CUNY Graduate Center.
- Developing and implementing placement exams for every language the department offers.
- Arranging a workshop for part-time faculty on best practices in teaching languages.
- Meeting with every new full-time and part-time faculty member who is hired to explain the departmental teaching philosophy, expectations, and assessment program.
- Meeting with the Development Office to identify potential donors or fund raising opportunities.

Best wishes for a successful and productive year.

Silvia Dapía

Miyajima Recognized with First Adjunct of the Year Award



The faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is pleased to present its first "Adjunct of the Year Award" to Prof. Keiko Miyajima.

An excellent instructor, Prof. Miyajima also "goes the extra mile" for her students whenever they need assistance or when opportunities arise. Thanks to her efforts, four students in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures were awarded fully funded scholarships to participate in a study tour in Japan last spring. They include undergraduates José Andres Arcos, Anjelica Camacho, and Maxi Cruz, and graduate student Malgorzata Sekowska. The scholarships allowed the students to spend ten days in Japan living with host families while learning about Japanese pop-culture, food, and tourism. Congratulations to Prof. Miyajima from the students and faculty!

Foreign Language Requirement

John Jay College's General Education policy requires proficiency in a foreign language.

Foreign Language 101 *and* 102 are required for both the “old” and the “new” General Education. In the new General Education, students who start John Jay as freshmen are required to take one 101-level foreign language course to fulfill the World Cultures and Global Issues area of the Flexible Core and a 102-level foreign language course to fulfill the Communication area. Students who come to John Jay as transfer students or who have “opted in” to the new General Education program, are strongly encouraged to take foreign language courses to fulfill these areas or elective credit. All students can choose to take 200-level or above foreign language courses to complete these General Education areas as well. *Students can also choose to earn a minor in Spanish or one of our new Legal Interpretation/Legal Translation certificate programs.*

FLEXIBLE CORE: Students are required to take one 101-level foreign language course *and* an additional course from the World Cultures and Global Issues area of the Flexible Core. If exempt from the 101-level requirement, that requirement is freed for another course option from any of the five flexible Common Core areas.

COLLEGE OPTION: Students are required to take one 102-level foreign language course to fulfill the Communication area. However, if the student is exempt from the 102-level foreign language, that requirement is freed for another course option from the Communication area.

PLEASE NOTE: The foreign language requirement is a one-year sequence. It is strongly suggested that students seeking a bachelor's degree complete the sequence within the first two-semester. Students who take SPA 101 cannot fulfill the general education requirements by taking SPA 112. Students who take SPA 111 must also take SPA 112 or a higher level course to satisfy the general education requirements.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES APPROVED FOR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:
The following courses have been approved by CUNY for fulfillment of the new General Education requirements.

Flexible Core—World Cultures and Global Issues: ARA 101 and 201; CHI 101 and 201; FRE 101 and 201; GER 101 and 201; ITA 101 and 201; JPN 101 and 201; POR 101 and 201; SPA 101 and 201; SPA 111 and SPA 211; or SPA 207. Note that 200-level courses require a prerequisite.

College Option—Justice Core: SPA 308 or SPA 335 (there are prerequisites).

College Option-Communications: ARA 102, CHI 102, FRE 102, GER 102, ITA 102, JPN 102, POR 102, SPA 102, SPA 112, SPA 212, or SPA 231. Note that 102/112-level courses require a 101/111 prerequisite.

*If you have any questions about the foreign language requirement, contact the
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at 646-557-4415.*

Department Achievements of 2012-13

- Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández coordinated a workshop on “Taking Learners to Task” focusing on “task-based language learning” which promotes accuracy and fluency in all facets of communication.
- To recognize the achievements and the significant and irreplaceable contributions of our part-time faculty, the department voted to institute an “Adjunct of the Year” award.
- Three certificates in translation and interpretation were approved by the New York State Department of Education.
- To better conform with the current best practices for the teaching of foreign languages, revisions were made to several courses .
- The department explored cooperation with the Basque Institute, the Cervantes Institute, Edu-España, the CUNY Graduate Center, the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, the Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages at the CUNY Graduate Center, and the Historical Memory Project and National Endowment for the Humanities.
- The department completed work on the CUNY Pathways initiative by gaining approval for 31 of its courses.
- To better serve John Jay College students, the department decided to develop an entirely new and updated set of language placement exams.
- The department sponsored three student clubs including the Italian Club, the Japanese Club, and the Foreign Languages and Literatures Club.

Placement Tests and Waivers

PLACEMENT: For Spring 2014 Registration, students who have prerequisite courses in any language can register for the next course in the sequence on their own. If they do not have any prerequisite courses then their next step varies based on the language they select.

- Students wishing to enroll in Spanish 101/111 or French 101 should go to the Foreign Language Lab, 7.64 NB, to take the placement exam to register for one of these courses.
- Students wishing to enroll in any other language (Arabic 101, Chinese 101, German 101, Japanese 101, Italian 101 or Portuguese 101), can register for the 101 section themselves.
- Students wishing to demonstrate sufficient proficiency to enroll at or above the 102 level in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish should go to the Foreign Language Lab, 7.64 NB, to take the placement exam. Exams will be rolled out over the next few months.

LANGUAGE WAIVER: To waive a foreign language requirement a student *must* have one of the following:

- (1) provide documentation of a high school diploma from a foreign country whose primary language is not English. The student will be exempt from the language requirement, but not awarded any credits.
- (2) receive a grade of four or higher on the Advanced Placement Examination in high school. The student is exempt from the foreign language requirement and will be awarded 6 credits, which may be applied toward a minor in a foreign language.
- (3) earn up to a maximum of 6 credits by taking the CLEP examination in FRE, GER, or SPA.
- (4) be a transfer student and provide documentation showing s/he has successfully completed 101 and 102 level-

Faculty Accomplishments 2012-13

Silvia G. Dapía

- Article, "Argentina's Attempt to Foster Immigration from Eastern Europe in the 1990s," in *East Central Europe in Exile: Volume 1, Transatlantic Migrations from East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries* (Newcastle upon Tyne, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012).
- Paper, "The Discursive Construction of the 'People' in Laclau," University of Jena, Germany.
- Paper, "Ernesto Laclau, Slavoj Žižek y Emilio de Ipola: Tres aproximaciones al populismo" [Ernesto Laclau, Laclau, Slavoj Žižek, and Emilio de Ipola: Three Approaches to Populism], University of Cologne, Germany.
- Paper, "Borges y la filosofía," The Center for Latin American Studies, Georgetown University, District of Columbia.
- Paper, "Argentina's Attempt to Foster Immigration from Eastern Europe in the 1990s," Gdańsk, Poland.
- Chair, "East Central European Literary and Artistic Presence Overseas," Gdańsk, Poland.
- Appointed, to the doctoral faculty of The CUNY Graduate School and University Center's Ph.D. Program in Hispanic & Luso-Brazilian Literatures & Languages.
- Attended, conference on "American Ethnicity: Rethinking Old Issues, Asking New Questions" at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.
- Attended, program sponsored by Eduepaña at the Universities in Madrid, Málaga, Salamanca, and Valladolid.
- Attended, annual conference of the American Historical Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Attended, annual conference of the Latin American Studies Association in Washington, DC.

Aída Martínez-Gómez Gómez

- Interpreter for live webcast "Legacies of Mass Atrocities: Sexual Violence Against Women in Guatemala."
- Interpreter for live webcast "Legacies of Mass Atrocities: The Quest for Justice for the Disappeared in Argentina."
- Awarded a PSC CUNY grant for her project "Research on Non-Professional Interpreters: Looking at the Past to Build the Future."
- Awarded a Center for the Advancement of Teaching Travel Fellowship.

Keiko Miyajima

- Worked with four John Jay students who received scholarships for a travel study program in Japan.
- Arranged a student trip to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens to view the Sakura Matsuri Festival.

Arístides Falcón Paridí

- Directed documentary film "Rumba Clave Blen Blen Blen."

Raúl Rubio

- Paper, "Ethnic Exoticism: Queer Stand-up Comedy, Media & Activism," Barcelona, Spain.
- Paper, "Lo efímero en las crónicas de Boris Izaguirre," Cadiz, Spain.
- Paper, "Cuban Material Cultures: Exilic, Diasporic, and Global Contexts," Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, CUNY Graduate Center.
- Paper, "Corporal Cuba: Performing Cuban America," John Jay College.
- Paper, "Ethnicity and Humor: Challenging Heteronormativities Through Stand-up Comedy," Fort Collins, Colorado.

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Faculty Accomplishments 2012-13

Faculty Achievements 2012-13 (continued from previous page)

John Sorrentino

- Received his PhD in French Literature from the CUNY Graduate Center.

Liliana Soto-Fernández

- Article, “One Short Story: Three Approaches” in *Cambios y Conexiones: Latino-America y España* (Regwell Press).

- Honored by Hispanic Heritage Student Achievement Awards Committee at Rockland Community College-SUNY for her “Outstanding Leadership and Community Service” to the Hispanic community.
- Organized a conference on “Panamá: Canal de Culturas” for the New York Metropolitan Chapter of AATSP at John Jay College.

Marlenys de la C. Villamar

- Paper, at the First Course for Teachers of Spanish as a foreign language organized by the Instituto Cervantes in New York.

Welcome to Our New Faculty

Chernor A. Barrie earned an M.A. degree from the CUNY Graduate Center and has taught courses in Arabic for the United Nations Language and Communications Program, New York University, and Adelphi University.

Lorena García Barroso

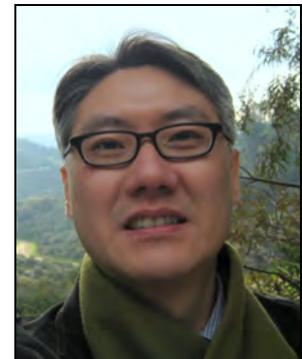
holds baccalaureate degrees from the University of Sevilla in anthropology and journalism, a baccalaureate in linguistics from the Complutense University at Madrid a master’s degree in the teaching of Spanish as a second language Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo and Instituto Cervantes at Santander. She has also completed an Advance Studies Certificate from the Doctoral Program in Western Literature and Foreign Languages at the Universidad de Huelva. She is a Ph.D. candidate in the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages Program at the CUNY Graduate Center.



Timothy J. Frawley is the new director of the Language Lab. He holds an 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 in Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. He has taught at Georgetown, University, Columbia University, and New York University.

Ellen Jaffee holds an M.S. in Language and Linguistics from Georgetown University and teaches French at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City.

Hyon K. Kim was born in South Korea, raised in Paraguay and England, and lives in New York. He earned a Ph.D. from the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages Program at the CUNY Graduate Center where his dissertation was on “Antonio Machado and



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Welcome to Our New Faculty

his Socio-human Epistemology in *Juan de Mairena*.” He has been honored with a PSC/CUNY Tuition Award, a summer grant from the Galician Language and Culture Program, a CUNY Outstanding Leadership and Service Award, and is a Fellow of the Fundación Siglo, Junta de Castilla y León. He is an opera buff, self-trained tenor and a vintage tube amplifier aficionado. In leisure time, he travels, and writes narratives, poems and plays in Spanish and in English.



Rafael Lemus is a graduate of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and a PhD. Candidate in the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. He has experience teaching Spanish at Hunter College and is the author of two books, several articles, and

more than a dozen presentations at professional conferences and symposia.

Judimar Negron is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and earned a Master’s Degree in Translation (French, English, and Spanish) from the Université Jean Monnet in St. Etienne, France.

Tomomi Sato is a graduate of Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. She holds Japanese language certification from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and an M.A degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She has teaching experience at the University of Virginia, the University of Delaware, and Franklin & Marshall College.

Mieko Sperbeck earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her dissertation was on the “Acquisition of Consonant Clusters by Japanese Learners of English: Interactions of Speech Perception and Production.” She is cer-



tified to teach Japanese as a foreign language and has teaching experience at Adelphi University. Her research interests include cross-linguistics speech perception and production and acquisition of second language phonology. In her free time, she enjoys reading Japanese literature with a nice cup of green tea.



Hiroko Miyashita Toya graduated from Tokyo Woman’s Christian University in Japan with a major in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Her research interests are second language acquisition and sociolinguistics. She was also certified as a Japanese language instructor from World Japanese Language Center in Sydney, Australia, in

2012. She maintains an active appreciation for Japanese tradition and culture, including playing “koto” (a Japanese harp) and “shamisen” (a Japanese banjo), and doing “shodo” (Japanese calligraphy).

Alberto Valdivia-Baselli is a graduate of the Universidad Nacional de Educación (Madrid, Spain) and a Ph.D. student in the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. He has teaching experience at the Universidad del Pacífico (Lima, Perú) and is the author of five books and a host of articles and professional presentations.

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