

A Message from the Chair

Please join me in congratulating Prof. Mariana Graciano who received the “New Literary Talent” award of the *Fédération Nationale d’Achats des Cadres* for her book *La visita* (The Visit). She earned a B.A. from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and an M.F.A. from New York University where she also taught Spanish. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages at the Graduate Center. Her research has appeared in several academic journals in Argentina and the U.S. Prof. Graciano is teaching a new course in the department, SPA 335—The Theme of Justice in Latin American Literature and Film.

To better serve John Jay College students, the department developed an entirely new and updated set of language placement exams. During the semester, the department worked with Daniel Auld and Tim Frawley to create our new placement tests. Thanks to the effort of our foreign languages instructors and the leadership of Prof. Aida Martínez-Gómez Gómez, students wishing to demonstrate sufficient proficiency to enroll at or above the 102 level in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish may go to the Foreign Language Lab, 7.64 NB, to take the placement exam. Placement tests in Arabic and Japanese will be available during the coming semester.

At the curricular level, this semester, we started to develop a B.A. in Spanish that would provide students with linguistic and related skills to prepare them for a wide variety of careers in our increasingly transnational economy and society. But more about this in our next issue.

Again, many thanks to everyone who contributed to our successes. Best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season!

Silvia Dapía

Students Meet the Authors They Study

Prof. Mariana Graciano is teaching a new course in the department, SPA 335—The Theme of Justice in Latin American Literature and Film. The course focuses on the way in which the nations of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay) have come to grips with the human rights violations of recent dictatorships as reflected in the literature and films produced by those nations.

On October 18 she invited her students to attend an event at the McNally Jackson bookstore in Soho where she was interviewing Luisa Valenzuela, an author discussed in her class. Three days later she invited the Argentinian writer Ernesto Semán to her class so that he could answer students’ questions regarding his work, which was read in her class, and questions they might have on issues of transitional justice in Argentina.



From left, Prof. Mariana Graciano, Argentine writer Luisa Valenzuela, Basque Poet Isabel Cadenas Cañón.

Students Attend JENESYS Event

On September 25 Laguardia Community College hosted a reunion of participants in the JENESYS/Kakehashi program. A highlight of the evening was the presence of Mrs. Akie Abe, the wife of the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who first proposed the program. Mrs. Abe came from Japan to hear first-hand about the students' experiences in Japan and their impressions of the program. As a tribute to the Japanese First Lady, some of the female students in attendance donned kimonos which can be seen in the photograph below or the one to the right.

John Jay College students who took part in the recent "Cool Japan" program included José Andres Arcos, an Economics major, Anjelica Camacho, a History major, Maxi Cruz, a Computer Information Systems major, and Malgorzata Sekowska, who is pursuing a MA in International Criminal Justice. Prof. Keiko Miyajima encouraged them to apply for the fully funded scholarships they received to participate in the study tour in Japan.

Anjelica Camacho, one of the participants from John Jay College, currently taking Japanese 201, was selected



John Jay College student Anjelica Camacho (center) was one of the participants.

to delivered a speech in Japanese in front of Japan's First Lady and the audience. In her speech, Anjelica described the unforgettable experiences she had with Japanese students she met during this cultural exchange program. She now calls these new-found friends her special "family."



Mrs. Akie Abe, the wife of the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is seen here seated in the middle, surrounded by the students, teachers, and staff in the Japanese cultural program.



Iñaki Salvador plays the piano during “Mikel Laboa, in Memoriam,” the concert portion of the Basque conference held in the Black Box Theater at John Jay College on October 9.

Basque Conference

In cooperation with the Etxepare Basque Institute and the CUNY Graduate Center, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures co-sponsored “Languages in Contact, Communities in Coexistence,” a conference on Basque culture, language and politics held at the CUNY Graduate Center on October 7 and at John Jay College on October 9.

The program included presentations by an international array of scholars and political leaders culminating in a concert by the pianist Iñaki Salvador. Among the presenters were José del Valle (CUNY Graduate Center), Jasone Cenoz (University of the Basque Country), Jacqueline Uría (University of Massachusetts), Itziar Idiazabal (University of the Basque Country), Mari José Olaziregi (Etxepare Basque Institute), Patxi Baztarrika (Deputy Minister for Linguistic Policy of the Basque Government in Spain), Anxo Lorenzo (Secretary General of Culture, Government of Galicia, Spain), Eva J. Daussà (State University of New York at Buffalo), and Aizpea Goenaga (Etxepare Basque Institute).

The John Jay College portion of the event featured a presentation by Mark Kurlansky on Basque history and culture and Iñaki Salvador’s piano concert in memory of Mikel Laboa.



Students View Exhibition

Students in Prof. Carmen Valenzuela-Cervantes’s Spanish 101 and 102 classes visited the Hispanic Society of America where they viewed exhibitions of early and medieval Spanish art, much of it dating back to the times of ancient Rome. Among the many exhibitions are the works of Joaquín Sorolla who was famous for his portraits and landscapes. He was commissioned by Archer Milton Huntington, who founded the Hispanic Society in 1904, to paint a series of works depicting the various regions of Spain which are now on display at the Society as “The Provinces of Spain.”

Kudos

Silvia G. Dapía published an article on “Argentinian Americans” in *Multicultural America: A Multimedia Encyclopedia* edited by Carlos E. Cortés (Sage Publications), an article on “Borges, Social Order, and Human Action” in *Variaciones Borges* (Vol. 36), and her review of David E. Johnson’s *Kant’s Dog: On Borges,*



Philosophy, and the Time of Translation published in *Sympløke: A Journal for the Intermingling of Literary Scholarship*. She gave a paper on “Subjetividad, cuerpo y tiempo histórico: Una revisión alternativa de la modernidad y la racionalidad en la obra de León Rozitchner” at the International Colloquium on “Paradoxien der Moderne. Säkularisierung und Mythenbildung seit der Französischen Revolution in Spanien und Hispanoamerika” at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, Germany, and attended the “Between Past and Future” conference on transnationalism at the University of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Aída Martínez-Gómez Gómez

presented a paper on “How Much Mediation is There in Interpreting in Prison Settings? An Analysis of the Role of ad hoc Prison Interpreters” at the 7th Conference of the European Society of Translation Studies at Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Germany, and a paper on



“Assessing Natural Interpreters’ Strengths and Weaknesses: A Proposal for a Training Course in Prison Settings” at the 7th International Critical Link Conference at Glendon College, Toronto, Canada.



Mariana Graciano has been honored by Fnac, the *Fédération Nationale d’Achats des Cadres* (*National Shopping Federation for Managers*) with its “New Literary Talent” award for her book *La visita* (*The Visit*).



Rafael Lemus published a chapter on “La emergencia de un escritor: Martín Luis Guzmán a orillas del Hudson” in Araceli Tinajero, ed., *Exilio y cosmopolitismo en el arte y la literatura hispánica* (Madrid: Verbum, 2013), and an article on “‘Relación fúnebre...’ de Luis de Sandoval Zapata: el

discreto encanto de la subalternidad,” in *LLJournal* (Vol. 8, No. 1—2013). He also delivered a paper on “Ampliación del campo de batalla: crítica literaria y medios digitales” at the VI Congreso Internacional de la Lengua Española in Panama in October, and attended the “Second Voices for the New Century Conference” conference at Cornell University in September.

Arístides Falcón Paridí

completed work on the documentary film that he was directing titled “Rumba Clave Blen Blen Blen”—about Cuban rumba music in New York City. Musical performances in the film include some of the best musicians in New York.



Raúl Rubio published “Subjetividad, Alteridad y Colectividad en ‘Morir de glamour: crónica de la sociedad de fin de siglo,’ de Boris Izaguirre” which appeared in *Narratología y discursos múltiples* (Buenos Aires: Editorial Dunken, 2013) and a book, *La Habana: cartografías culturales* (Aduana Vieja Press, Spain).



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Kudos

John Sorrentino presented “Night at the Museum and Media Arts Workshops: Multimedia Conversations” with Associate Dean Joseph Ugoretz of the Macaulay Honors College at the 2013 CUNY IT Conference at John Jay. He also took his Macaulay class to the Brooklyn Museum where they viewed artworks and created digital multimedia projects based on their experiences.



de Mayra Santos Febres” at the Congreso de Círculo de Cultura Panamericano in Totowa, New Jersey.



Alberto Valdivia Baselli published two books: *Neomenia* (a volume of poetry published by Trashumantes) and *Los tejidos detrás* (a narrative work by the same publisher). The former was the subject of a discussion at the Festival Internacional de Poesía in Lima, Perú, and the latter was likewise the subject of a discussion at the Feria Internacional del Libro, also in Lima. He also received an award for his literary works from the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia.

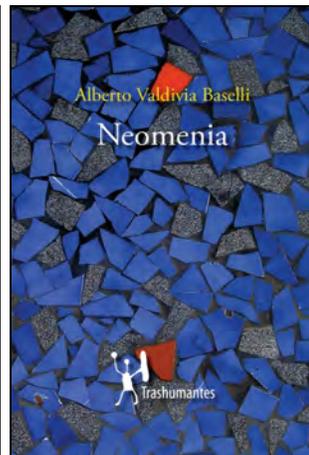
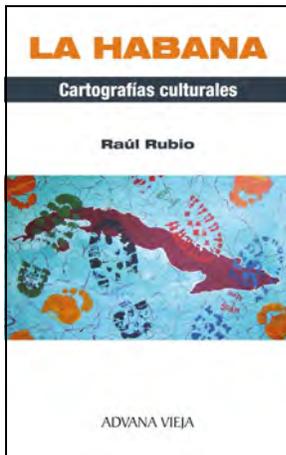


Liliana Soto-Fernández Gave presentations on “The Process of Teacher Certification for Online Teaching” at the 95th Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in San Antonio, Texas; “Cierra la window que está reinando: ¿Espanglish o estadounidense?” at the same conference; “Juan de los muertos: Un pueblo convertido en zombi después de 50 años de revolución” at the PEN Club Internacional de Escritores Cubanos en el Exilio in New York; “Desvistiendo a la sirena en *Sirena Selena vestida de pena*,

Marlenys de la C. Villamar presented a paper on “Las destrezas en el aula de ELE. Una propuesta didáctica” at the Cervantes Institute and she completed a course offered by the Cervantes Institute and the Universidad Camilo José Cela on how to encourage the creative use of language based on literary texts.



Recent Books by Department Faculty



Kudos



The faculty gathered above were present for the presentation of the “Adjunct of the Year Award” to Keiko Miyajima. They are, from left, Carmen Valenzuela-Cervantes, Sue Rothberger, Irma Romero, Liliana Soto-Fernández, Silvia Dapía, Keiko Miyajima (seated), Aída Martínez-Gómez Gómez, Santiago Pargas-Linares, Raúl Romero, Alberto Valdivia-Baselli, Zaida Lineweaver.

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 Gómez at amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-621-3755.



Mariana Graciano in Spain accepting the “New Literary Talent” award of the Fédération Nationale d’Achats des Cadres. From the left, the author Laia Jufresa, Prof. Graciano, the editor David Villanueva, and the poet Elena Medel.

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