

# NEWSLETTER

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May 2008

## NEWS BRIEF

By **Richard F. Calichman**, Chairperson

As the spring semester winds down, I am prompted to recall the various achievements in the department. Without question, the most significant of these is the tenuring and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of the following faculty: **Maxime Blanchard**, **Laura Callahan**, **Mary Ruth Strzeszewski**, and **Araceli Tinajero**. These honors are entirely deserved: once again, congratulations! The department also continued our faculty lecture series. On February 28, **Carlos Riobó** delivered a presentation entitled, “Captive Bodies and Co-opted Voices: The Evolution of an Argentine Literary Tradition”; on March 6, **Vanessa Valdés** spoke on “Lessons of the Body: Corporeal Knowledge and Salvation in *A Mulher no Espelho*”; and on April 10, **Devid Paolini** lectured on “The place of *Celestina* in the History of Spanish Literature: some considerations.” We were also fortunate enough to have **Dr. Humberto López Morales** on campus, where on March 13 he presented on the topic “Sociolingüística del tabú.” On April 16, the department hosted our annual Prizes and Awards Ceremony. This event was a tremendous success and was attended by some of our best students along with their family members. Thanks go to **Araceli Tinajero** and **Ya-chen Chen** for organizing the ceremony, to **Dulce García** for help with the certificates, and to **Vanessa Valdés** for her duties of Master of Ceremonies. Congratulations also to all of the award and prize recipients! Finally, I am glad to report that our study abroad program in La Rioja now has no less than 75 students participating, thereby making it the most popular study abroad program at the college. A special thanks goes out to **Dulce García** for all of her excellent work on behalf of this program. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your fine work this semester. Because of you, the department continues to be one of the most vibrant in the college.

## Student Notes

M.A. Program student **Kianny Antigua-Padilla’s** poem “Anxiety Disorder” was accepted for publication in *El Cid*, the national journal of the Tau Iota Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. This is the second consecutive year that one of Kianny’s works received this honor. Last year her short story “Evocaciones” was published in their summer issue.

One of our Spanish major undergraduate students, **Edison M. García**, is doing his internship at the newspaper, *El Diario/La Prensa*. Edison is working directly with Julio Paredes, editor of the Lifestyle section of the newspaper. He explains his current experience: “Every time that I go to the newspaper, I am assigned different tasks such as write short suggestions for events for the week, I also write short notes for the entertainment section, headlines for articles, captions for some pictures, and contents of different books to read.” On April 29, 2008, Edison published his first article, “*Orquídeas para embellecer el hogar*”/ *Embellish your Home with Orchids*, and he says, “my editor assigned me to cover the Orchids exhibition at the New York Botanical Garden, I was very happy and nervous at the same since this was my first real story to cover, and I wanted to do it right. I first read about orchids, then went to the exhibition, interviewed a couple of people, jotted down my observations, and when it came the time to write my article I decided that I did not only want it to sound informative, but also a little bit inspirational and perhaps poetic since the article gives room for that.” He also added, “I like what I am doing at *El Diario*; it is a dream come true. I have always loved creative writing and reporting and in this internship, I am doing a little of both.”

## Student Notes, cont.

*Viajeros del rocío. 25 narradores dominicanos de la diáspora*, an anthology compiled and edited by **M.A. student Rubén Sánchez**, was published in Spring 2008 [Comisionado Dominicano de Cultura en los Estados Unidos Secretaría de Estado de Cultura].

French major **Asta Tidjani** was accepted with a scholarship for her M.A. and Ph.D. studies by the French Department at Rutgers University. She will begin the program in September 2008; her concentration will be Medieval studies.

## Latin class at City College featured in documentary about NYPD football team

Last spring, a documentary film crew visited a session of Latin 31003, the Department's advanced Latin course on Vergil's *Aeneid*. They were interested in documenting the life of one of the students in the class, **Nick Dmytrow**, a NYC police officer and a phenomenal Latin student. Here's how Nick described the project:

"The producers of this documentary wish to follow the New York City Police Department's Football Club during their 2007 season, in an effort to show their dedication to both the sport of football and their careers. They hope to accomplish this by following certain members of the team both on and off the field, gaining an in-depth perspective into the lives of such men. About a half-dozen members of the team have been chosen, including one Roosevelt Island resident who, in his spare time, studies Classical Latin at City College. On one Monday afternoon, they hope to accompany this student on the subway, as he makes his way to Harlem. They hope to film him entering the academic building, as he prepares his identification for inspection. And finally, they would greatly enjoy capturing the spirit of Ms. Johnson's Latin Poetry class — an event which could, perhaps, lend valuable perspective towards the peculiar cop from Central Park."

A trailer from the documentary can be viewed at [www.blackandblueproductions.org/video.html](http://www.blackandblueproductions.org/video.html). It contains a very brief clip from the class at City College about midway through. (Viewers are advised that the trailer naturally contains the language of the locker-room.)

--Submitted by **Susan Johnson, Adjunct Lecturer in Latin**, [sjohnson@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:sjohnson@ccny.cuny.edu).

## Faculty Notes

**Professor Maxime Blanchard** wrote "Grand soir," a text about nostalgia and political violence, terrorism and childhood memories that will be published in 2009 in *La Première et la dernière images*. In April 2008, he was an invited guest speaker at "Du kitsch au trash," a conference organized at the Université de Montréal where he talked about intellectuals and bad taste. In March 2009, he presided a panel of Québécois writers at the Society of Americas.

**Distinguished Lecturer Carmen Boulosa** published a new novel this spring, *La virgen y el violín* (Editorial Siruela, Madrid), based on the life and works of Sofonisba Anguissola. Her collection of short stories, *El fantasma y el poeta*, which was published last semester in Mexico, was brought out this semester in Spain, by Editorial Sexto Piso, with a preface by Antonio Masoliver Ródenas, the literary critic of *La Vanguardia*. *El fantasma y el poeta* was named by Sergio González Rodríguez, in *El Reforma* newspaper, as one of the best three short story books published in México during 2007. *El velázquez de París*, published last year, was named by Roberto Pliego as the best book of the year in *Laberinto*, the literary supplement of the Mexican newspaper *Milenio*.

Professor Boulosa also published: a review of Roberto Bolaño's *Nazi Literature in the Americas* in *The Nation*; a version of the lecture she had given at Princeton University Library on the Taller de la Gráfica Popular in *World Without Borders*; the magazine *Este País*, in México, had her piece on authors writing today in Spanish in New York (*Los neoyores*); the magazine *Día Siete*, in México, had her Simone the Beauvoir portrait; *Babelia*, cultural supplement of the newspaper *El País*,

## Faculty Notes/Boullosa, cont.

Madrid, brought out *El diálogo oculto de África y América*; *Quimera, Revista de Literatura*, Madrid printed her *Nueva York: el ancla del tiempo que avanza*. Other writings were included in the anthology *Antología de poesía mexicana de hoy* (Editorial Bruguera, Madrid), and in the Romanian literary supplement *Cultura*, along with that of Gioconda Belli, Blanca Varela and a select handful of women poets.

She lectured at Georgetown University on her pirate novel *They're Cows, We're Pigs* (Grove Press); at the Casa de América, in Madrid, on the *Cronistas de Indias*; at PEN World Voices, New York, where she had a dialogue with Horacio Castellanos Moya; and at the Museo del Barrio, where she had a dialogue with Mario Vargas Llosa and Lucho Llosa. She gave a reading at the Encuentro Internacional de Escritores in Oaxaca, and another at the Guanajuato Book Fair. She was interviewed by Eleanor Wachtel for her show "Writers And Company" on the Canadian Broadcasting Company, as well as on the Modern Language Association's radio show "What's the Word?"

**Professor Silvia Burunat** has published her third book of memoirs/testimonial literature, *Monólogos dialogados*, with Editorial Betania, of Madrid, Spain. The book will be in the market in the third week of April, 2008. It deals with her life after the death of her husband of 36 years, Dr. Julio Burunat, and at the same time narrates the true story of an extraordinary Mexican immigrant in New York City who went from a fourth-grade education in a rural Mexican school to obtaining a Ph. D. in Latin American History, and becoming a professor in only ten years.

**Professor Laura Callahan** presented a paper entitled "Accommodation to outgroup members' use of an ingroup language: A comparison of service encounters in person and over the telephone" at the 4th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics, held at SUNY-Albany, April 17-18, 2008. She will present "Telephone service encounters: When language choice doesn't match the customer's voice" at the RISLUS Research Forum, to be held at the Graduate Center-CUNY, May 25, 2008. She has had an article accepted for publication in *Itinerarios: Revista de*

*estudios lingüísticos, literarios, históricos y antropológicos*, entitled "El uso del acento ortográfico en el español de los Estados Unidos, América Latina, y España: Normas periodísticas."

**Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez** has published the following book chapters: "Poetry and Prose Literature." *Guide to Documentary Sources for Andean Studies*. Ed. Joanne Pillsbury. Published in Collaboration with the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art. 3 Vols. Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 2008. 1: 388-406; "La princesa indígena y la gobernadora española en *La Florida del Inca* (1605)," in *Fronteras de la literatura y de la crítica. Actas del XXXV Congreso Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana*. Ed. Fernando Moreno et al. CD-ROM. Poitiers: Centre de Recherches Latino-Américaines-Colección Archivos, 2006. Her book-chapter, "El periplo peruano de don Quijote," was selected to appear in: *Utopías americanas del "Quijote."* Ed. José Carlos González Boixo. Salamanca: Instituto Castellano y Leonés de la Lengua, 2007, 83-100. At the forthcoming 37<sup>th</sup> congress of the International Institute of Ibero-American Literature sponsored by Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, she will present a paper on: "Realidad y arte en la *Historia de la Nueva México* (1610) de Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà." Chang-Rodríguez was recently elected to the Executive Board of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, the leading professional organization promoting Latin American literature and culture. She presided a session at the II International Colloquium on Manuel González Prada: Challenging the Liberal Tradition (February 27-29) hosted by The Johns Hopkins University and Loyola College, and was in the organizing committee of the Changing Cuba Conference (March 13-15) sponsored by the Bildner Center and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

**Professor Ya-chen Chen** published a journal article: "The Promise: Re-Writing Romantic Archetypes." *Mediascape: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 1:3 (2007): [http://www.tft.ucla.edu/mediascape/archive/volum\\_e01/number03/reviews/chen.htm](http://www.tft.ucla.edu/mediascape/archive/volum_e01/number03/reviews/chen.htm).

Professor Chen's book review on Ling Zhisi's *Taiwanese Folk Arts (Book Four): Beliefs and*

## Faculty Notes/Chen, cont.

*Temples* will appear in the forthcoming issue of the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*. Professor Chen has signed two publication contracts: one with a Dutch academic press for her co-edited book entitled *Ethnographies of the Professoriate in East Asia: The Cultural Translation of Faculty Tradition in the Face of Globalizing Reforms* (co-editor: Professor Gregory S. Poole at Tama University in Japan), and another with an American academic press for her monograph entitled *This Chinese Feminism Which Is Not "One": Feminist Scholars and Academic Feminism across the Taiwan Strait in the 1990s*.

In December 2007, Professor Chen was invited to give a speech, "The Hakka Orphan, Lamp, and Mother Earth in the Wintry Night," at the SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) in the University of London. She also had a research travel grant and British scholars' hospitality in London. In the 2007-2008 academic year, Professor Chen had six academic presentations under the sponsorship of the American Association for Chinese Studies, University of London, North American Taiwan Studies Association, The City College of New York's Presidential Junior Faculty Travel Grant and Research Foundation Grant, etc. In February 2008, Professor Chen accepted Columbia University's invitation to serve as a faculty discussant in Graduate Students' Annual Conference in East Asian Studies. In March 2008, Professor Chen was nominated and selected as an associated member of Modern China Forum by Columbia University. She also agreed to serve as a reviewer for the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*.

Professor Chen assisted students David Liu, Vivian Eri Shibata, Hunter McKnight, Liza Case, Erika Remache, Minhe Lee, and Isaiah Richardson to either take the Mandarin Chinese language proficiency examination or apply for their summer scholarship. She also helped them plan to study Mandarin Chinese in Shanghai University, National Taiwan Normal University, and in National Cheng Chih University, and to experience Chinese culture in Shanghai and Taipei from June to August 2008. The Taipei monthly scholarship

for each student will be \$ 2,5000.00 NT dollars (around \$785.00 US dollars). The Shanghai monthly scholarship for each student will be \$1000.00 RMB (around \$125.00 US dollars).

In January, **Professor Carlos Riobó** gave the talk, "Manipulations of Cultural Hybrids" at the International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu. He gave a departmental lecture entitled "Captive Bodies and Co-opted Voices: The Evolution of an Argentine Literary Tradition" in February at CCNY. As a member of the CUNY Organizing Committee of the Bildner Center's International Symposium, "A Changing Cuba in a Changing World," at the Graduate Center in March, he moderated a panel called "History, Institutions, and Legacy" and gave a talk entitled "The History of the Cuban National Library: Mediations of High and Low Cultures." At the same conference, he presented the new book by Rafael Ocasio, *A Gay Cuban Activist in Exile: Reinaldo Arenas*. Carlos's article, "La Biblioteca Nacional José Martí: Historia y nuevas corrientes sociopolíticas de una institución cultural" will be published as part of the proceedings of the conference. In April, he will give the talk, "Rethinking the National in Argentine Literature" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington. May will take him to San Diego, where he will give the talk "Representations of Race and Ethnicity in the River Plate Region" in the first Conference on Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP) in Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by the University of California. In June, Carlos will travel to the XXXVII Congreso Internacional del Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México to give his talk, "Alianzas fronterizas de cuerpos y voces."

**Professor Jennifer Roberts** has just completed her second three-year term as president of the Association of Ancient Historians.

## Faculty Notes, cont.

**Professor Eve Sourian** is Chair of The Marandon Committee of the SPFFA (Société des professeurs français et francophones d'Amérique), which gave 62,000 dollars of scholarship for the academic year 2008-2009. She wrote two articles for *The Dictionnaire George Sand* to be published by Champion (Paris). It will be published in 2009 or 2010. One is about Lina Sand, George Sand's daughter-in-law, and the other is about Alexandre Dumas-fils and George Sand. She has been granted a PSC-CUNY Research Award of \$3000.00 to begin July 1, 2008. I am preparing two critical editions (*Flavie and Histoire du véritable Gribouille* by George Sand) for the Edition Champion. It will be part of the first edition of the complete works of George Sand. At the Graduate Center she is a reader of a Ph.D. dissertation in French. The defense is on April 30, 2008. She is also a member of a committee for a Ph.D. oral examination on April 28, 2008 in Comparative Literature.

**Professor Elizabeth Starčević** had a weaving, "African Serendipity," in the 2008 "City Women Make Art" exhibit for Women's History Month.

**Professor Araceli Tinajero** published "El esclavo y sus amanuenses" in *Ciberletras. Revista de crítica literaria y cultura* Vol. 18, December, 2007. She has been an editorial reviewer for the English journal *Fashion Theory*. On December 10, 2007, Tinajero was invited to Barnard College-Columbia University to lecture on nineteenth century Latin American Literature in installments. Araceli played a key role in organizing the international symposium "A Changing Cuba in a Changing World" at the Bildner Center (CUNY-Graduate Center), March 13-15, 2008. There she coordinated the event *New Books on Cuba*, which gathered writers from around the world. Reviews of her book *El lector de tabaquería* have been published in the *Anuario del Colegio de Estudios Latinoamericanos – Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*, Vol. 2, 2007 (Mexico: UNAM) and *Primera Revista Latinoamericana de Libros*, No. 3, 2008 (New York).

**Professor Vanessa K. Valdés** presented her paper "Sacrifice and Salvation in *A Mulher no Espelho* (1983)" at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the College Language Association in Charleston, South Carolina on April 11. In addition, several of her reviews appeared in *Hispania* and *Wadagabei*. She, along with her colleagues Bettina Lerner and Carlos Riobó, inaugurated the Foreign Languages Faculty Writing Group.

**Adjunct Lecturer in Spanish Marcos Wasem** has presented his book *Aterrizaje de primeros semovientes* at the Cultural Center of the Uruguayan consulate in New York, and at the Torres García Museum in Montevideo, Uruguay. A video of the presentation in Montevideo can be seen in YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/morvanenjakarta>).

As a staff member of the Pen Press publishing house, Marcos Wasem has set up the *Museo virtual de poesía*, a space for the exhibition of multimedia poetry works. He also contributed his advise on the poetry of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz to composer Allison Sniffin, for the premiere of *Óyeme con los ojos* (*Hear Me with Your Eyes*), performed at the Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, New York. Marcos Wasem's article "Rostros de Herrera y Reissig" will be published in the coming issue of *Galerna: revista internacional de literatura*, sponsored by Montclair State University and the University of Central Florida, as part of the dossier on Uruguayan poetry.

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