

# NEWSLETTER

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December 2006

## NEWS BRIEF

by **Juan Carlos Mercado, Chairperson**

As I have said many times, my sincere congratulations to all of you for your support and involvement in teaching, research, advising, participation in lectures and conferences, and in making our Department a better place. We are beating our own records: we are now serving more than 1,500 students, 250 students more than in the Fall of 2005; we increased the number of classes in languages and literatures as well as in our Masters program. We have been working on a new undergraduate class, "Literature in Spanish for Adolescents and Young Adults Living in the United States," developed by Prof. Estévez, as part of our joint program with the School of Education in Secondary Spanish Education. On this track, we are working on a new Masters Program in Spanish Education. In addition, I have had a meeting with other chairs, and interested parties in the Dean's Office to discuss alternatives for the implementation of a new Masters Program in Interdisciplinary Studies. Another important subject...as you know, we have four searches currently open in Jewish Studies, Spanish Golden Age, Spanish/Italian and Spanish/Portuguese. This shows the recognition by the entire Administration of our work, visibility and projection to a broader audience. I believe we are among the largest departments in the College. This semester, we've been able to continue organizing several events and lectures, all of which have been extremely successful. Recently, we had an Outside Evaluation; it is my impression that the evaluators were quite pleased with the meetings they had with students and colleagues. They clearly expressed this view in their conversations with me and the rest of the Administration. As you know, the Middle States Steering Committee is in place and has started the preliminary work through the different sub-committees. My appreciation to colleagues from our department who were involved in the process. I would like to inform you that we are working on the implementation of an Exchange of Students Program with Université Laval, Quebec, Canada. I hope we'll be able to send some of our French students there to take some classes. And on this same subject, I would like to say that our Study Abroad Program in La Rioja

(Spain) started last summer, has been an incredible success. My appreciation to Prof. Dulce García who organized the entire program, and also taught a class there. In addition, I would like to inform you that this coming summer, Prof. García is going to take another group of minors and majors (undergraduates and graduates), including those who want to improve their language skills. I am a true believer that this is a really great Department, and it is so because of all of you and the unbelievable student body we have. Everyone's participation and dedication in this Department is really amazing. Thank you again for making this place better and better every semester. My special thanks to all adjuncts; you are a very important part of this Department, and your contribution is recognized. And I don't ever want to forget about the tutors and helpers in the Media Center as well as Phyllis and Rosa, who have worked very hard, so thanks are in order.

## Jewish Studies Students Visit Dominican Republic

Ten CCNY Jewish Studies students traveled to the Dominican Republic last month to visit the Jewish communities in Sosua and Santo Domingo as part of a course on "The Jews of Sosua." During World War II, Sosua, a village on the country's north coast, became home to approximately 800 European Jews who fled the Nazis and settled there at the invitation of Dominican President Rafael Trujillo. They were deeded land for farming and established an agricultural products company there that is still in operation. Many of their descendants still live in the area. During the four-day trip, which began November 15, the students met with Rabbi Chicole Ghitas, the chief rabbi of the Dominican Republic, as well as the widow of Professor Alfonso Lockward, who wrote *La Presencia Judía en República Dominicana*, the definitive book about the Dominican Jewish community. They also visited the colonial cemetery in Santo Domingo, which has Jewish graves dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Adjunct Lecturer Manny Viñas, who is also Rabbi of Lincoln Park Jewish Center in Yonkers, led the trip, with the coordination and guidance of the Dominican Studies Institute.

# FACULTY NEWS

**Professor Lyda Aponte de Zacklin's** book *Silencios, textos y glosas* is in press, to be published by Monte Avila Editores, Caracas, Venezuela.

**Silvia Burunat**, Professor of Spanish, has published a book of memoirs, *Jornada de amor y lágrimas* (Madrid: Betania, 2006), an autobiography covering her 36 years of marriage to **Julio Burunat**, who died on April 21, 2005. The book is going to be presented on January 8, 2007 at the Fundación Hispano-Cubana in Madrid, Spain.

**Professor Richard Calichman** was invited by Leiden University (Holland) to deliver a presentation titled "Overcoming Modernity': The Contradictions of Representing Japan" in November. He was subsequently asked to become a research affiliate of the University's East Asia Research Center.

**Professor Laura Callahan** has an article entitled "Student perceptions of native and non-native speaker language instructors: A comparison of ESL and Spanish" forthcoming in *Sintagma: Revista de Lingüística*. She will present her research on the use of written Spanish in the United States at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Spanish in the U.S. in Arlington, Virginia (March 15-18, 2007) and at the American Association for Applied Linguistics 2007 Conference in Costa Mesa, California (April 21-24, 2007).

**Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez** has edited, with an introduction, a chronology and 55 images, *Beyond Books and Borders: Garcilaso de la Vega and La Florida del Inca* (Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 2006), and *Franqueando Fronteras: Garcilaso de la Vega y La Florida del Inca* (Lima: Catholic University of Peru, 2006). The books, appearing simultaneously in English and Spanish, collect the essays from the 2003 symposium held at the City College of New York and the Graduate Center, CUNY, to mark

the 4<sup>th</sup> centennial of the publication in Lisbon (1605) of *La Florida del Inca*. Chang-Rodríguez has contributed the following book chapter: "El asombro americano y los cronistas indígenas del Perú. Guaman Poma antes los virreyes españoles," to *Literatura hispanoamericana. Historia y maravilla*, ed. Guadalupe Fernández Ariza (Málaga: Universidad de Málaga, 2005), pp.19-47. At the congress of the International Institute of Ibero-American Literature (Genova, Italy, 26 June-1 July 2006), she presented a lead lecture on: "*La Florida del Inca*: proyección americana y transatlántica." At the 3rd International Congress, Universidad de Puerto Rico in Arecibo (16-18 November 2006), honoring the acclaimed writer Luis Rafael Sánchez, she was invited to present *Devórame otra vez*, the recently published collection of essays by Sánchez.

**Professor Dulce García** has just published the second edition of her book *La tarea de estar* and the first of *Adrede*. She recently finished a paper about the function of the promise in *El Abencerraje*, a 16<sup>th</sup> century Moorish novel, and submitted it for publication. In October 2006, she was mentioned by Education columnist Joseph Berger (The New York Times) in an article about inspiring mentors. As the Director of the CCNY-Univ. of La Rioja Summer Program, she is beginning to form the new group of students who wish to study in Spain during the month of July, 2007.

**ESL Adjunct Lecturer Rubén Rangel** has published a short story in the first issue of [Sic], an independent literary journal which includes several other CCNY writers. The story, "*Funeral Studies Limousine*," is a tribute to his farm-worker grandfather who raised him in the Yakama Valley of the Pacific Northwest. Copies of the book are available for purchase on the Sic website at [sicjournal.com](http://sicjournal.com).

## Faculty News

**Professor Elizabeth Starčević** participated in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Alumni Conference, May 2006. She gave a presentation on the Spanish feminist writer Carmen de Burgos (1868-1936) to Professor Strzeszewski's class on the Generation of 1898, on November 21. She has exhibited her rugs in three shows and will be exhibiting during the month of December 2006 in a gallery in San Miguel de Allende. She made a presentation at the CUNY Graduate Center conference commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spanish Civil War.

**Professor Mary Ruth Strzeszewski** presented her paper "Galdós's Orphan Plots: Politics and Parody in *La desheredada*, *Fortunata y Jacinta*, *Miau* and *Electra*" at the 2006 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, November 10-12, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and her paper "Mourning and Melancholia in Early Spanish Intellectual Identity: *Paz en la guerra* and *La voluntad*" at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literatures at the University of Missouri (Columbia), November 16-18. She wishes to express her thanks to **Professor Elizabeth Starčević** for her wonderful presentation on Carmen de Burgos to her class on The Generation of 1898 on November 21.

**Professor Araceli Tinajero** published "Asian Representations in Spanish American Modernism" in *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* (Issue 72, Vol. 39). Her translations of José Juan Tablada's haiku appear in the same issue. Araceli delivered the talk "Lectura y tabaco: Historia de un amor transatlántico" at the Transatlantic International Conference held at Brown University on April 13, 2006. She was invited to deliver a talk at The Americas Society on May 11, 2006. There she presented "Nostalgia for the Manila Galleon." On October 19, 2006, Araceli lectured on "Lectura en voz alta y literatura" at SUNY Stony Brook. Araceli's article "Pasión por la hoja: Tabaco, lectura y literatura en Cuba y España" has been accepted for publication by *Cultura escrita y sociedad*, a journal published by Editorial Trea. Professor Tinajero and her Spanish American Short Story class would like to thank **Dr. Lyda Aponte de Zacklin** for conducting an enriching lecture on the writings of José Balza. The same appreciation goes for **Professor Carmen Boulosa**, who read her short story "Así pensó el niño." Thank you both for your generous time and wisdom.

**For more information about the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, please call 212-650-6731, or stop by the Department, NA 5/223.**

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