

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2004

## NEWS BRIEF

by **Juan Carlos Mercado**, Chairperson

### Welcome back!

First of all, my appreciation to **Prof. Mary Ruth Strzeszewski**, editor of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Newsletter for taking on this responsibility.

The last two years have been wonderful for our Department. Let's look at some of the high points.

### New Faculty

We have started the process of rebuilding the Department by hiring seven new professors: **Maxime Blanchard**, Ph.D. Harvard University, Assistant Professor of French Language and Literature; **Richard Calichman**, Ph.D. Cornell University, Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Asian Studies; **Laura Callahan**, Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Linguistics; **Angel Estévez**, Ph.D. City University of New York, Assistant Professor of Spanish-American Literature; **Suzanne Jill Levine**, Ph.D. New York University, Distinguished Professor of Spanish Literature; **Mary Ruth Strzeszewski**, Ph.D. Columbia University, Assistant Professor of Spanish Literature; and **Araceli Tinajero**, Ph.D. Rutgers University, Assistant Professor of Spanish-American Literature.

In addition, we welcomed **Prof. Carol R. Berger** and **Prof. Annie K. Koshi**, from ESL, to Foreign Languages and Literatures; and the latest addition, **Prof. Roy Mittelman**, Director of the Jewish Studies Program as a full-time instructor housed in our Department.

We are now 20 full-time instructors, and more than 25 adjuncts; these are impressive numbers compared to other Departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the country.

### Changes in our Main Office

As mentioned, we will have new furniture and cosmetic changes in our main office; it looks like Physical Plant will start work very soon. We will have a better use of our space, as well as a more comfortable area. In addition, we are going to have a room in 5/223 for our Master's Program; for practical reasons the program has to be close to the Chair's office.

### Special Events and Lectures

In the Fall 2003 we were able to organize several events and lectures: "A Delicate Balance: Cuban Writing & Arts Today," with the Americas Society; **Prof. Martin Lienhard**, University of Zurich, on "Testimonios autobiográficos de esclavos y ex-esclavos cubanos"; **Distinguished Professor Lía Schwartz**, Executive Officer of the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian literatures of the Graduate Center, on "Sobre el poder del lenguaje poético: Borges, lector de Quevedo"; **Dr. Rafael Tapia**, Director of the Editorial del Congreso del Perú, on "Lo cholo en el Perú: de la Colonia a la República"; and "Beyond Books and Borders: Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and the Florida Frontier, an Interdisciplinary Symposium", organized by **Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez**. All these events were extremely successful and we are planning a new series of events and lectures for the Spring 2004 semester, including lectures by two eminent scholars, **Profs. Enrico Mario Santí** and **Seymour Menton**.

### Highlights of Courses and Programs

Our new concentration in Hispanic Linguistics was approved by the Chancellor's office. It is attracting many students. The M.A. Program in Spanish continues to grow. The traditional and the less taught languages are growing very fast; last semester we were able to teach for the first time Intensive Intermediate Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and German. We served more than 1,100 students last semester in all languages and we have approximately 250 majors and minors in French, Italian and Spanish. We plan to

offer more classes in order to better serve our student population. In addition, we started revisiting another potential area: such as the Translation Program, as well as the entire Curriculum.

I strongly believe that our College and Department continue to improve each year. All of our instructors and students have an extraordinary opportunity to be part of the effort to make this place a better one. I am going to continue working very hard to enhance daily life in our Department.

This is a great time at City College; we are going to continue growing and producing scholarly works, teaching and projecting our Department beyond our borders.

Let me say that all our achievements have been a collective work, including all of you, and I would like to thank the Dean, the Provost, and the President, for their confidence and support. I would like to extend my thanks to all adjuncts; you are a very important part of this Department, and your contribution is recognized. And I do not forget about the tutors and helpers in the Media Center.

As always, **Phyllis** and **Rosa** make life less difficult. Thanks are in order.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Professor Lida Aponte-de Zacklin** coordinated a bilingual program at Donnell's Library co-sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures on December 11 entitled: "Two languages, two worlds: The bicultural mode in Literatures."

**Professor Richard Calichman's** book What is Modernity? Takeuchi Yoshimi: Writings was recently accepted for publication by Columbia University Press. An article by Professor Laura Callahan, "Native Speakers' Attitudes Toward the Public Use of Spanish by Non-Native Speakers: From George W. to J. Lo," was accepted for publication in the June 2004 issue of the Southwest Journal of Linguistics.

**Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez** opened the Fall 2003 Hispanic Cultures Seminar at Harvard University with a lecture on La Florida del Inca (1605), the chronicle written by the Peruvian author Garcilaso de la Vega about Hernando de Soto's 1539 expedition to that territory. She lectured at the symposium on "Colonial Latin American Literature: A State of the Art" held at Yale University (24-25 October 2003), and organized a session on Lírica virreinal y patria americana, in the congress held at Georgetown University

(9-11 October 2003) to launch **Colonial American Studies Organization (CASO)**, a new organization devoted to studying the colonial period in the Americas. She presented the lead lecture on the relationship between images and literature in the Summer Course on Bellas Artes/ Bellas Letras (El paradigma mexicano), Universidad Complutense (Madrid), held at El Escorial, Spain, 25 August-29 August 2003. Her essay "Entre el Caribe y los Andes: Cuba y La Florida del Inca (1605)," appeared in the book Nictimene... sacrílega. Estudios coloniales en homenaje a Georgina Sabat-Rivers, coordinated by **Mabel Moraña** and **Yolanda Martínez San Miguel**, and co-published by the Mexican university Claustro de Sor Juana and the International Institute of Iberoamerican Literature at the University of Pittsburgh (2003, pp. 51-62). The revised and expanded 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of **Chang-Rodríguez's** popular anthology, Voces de Hispanoamérica, co-edited with **Malva E. Filer**, has appeared in Boston published by Thomson and Heinle (2004, pp. 635).

**Professor Roy Mittelman**, Director of Jewish Studies, is now a full-time faculty member of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. We are delighted to welcome **Professor Mittelman**, who has created a thriving, dynamic Jewish Studies Program, offering such popular elective courses as "History of the Afterlife" and the "Psychology of Religion" as well as courses in the Hebrew Language. We encourage students to stop by and meet **Professor Mittelman** and try a course in Jewish Studies!

**Professor Araceli Tinajero's** book, Orientalismo en el modernismo hispanoamericano was published by Purdue University Press (<http://www.sla.purdue.edu/fl/PSRL/Tinajero.html>) in December 2003. **Professor Tinajero** also has two forthcoming articles: "Far Eastern Influences in Latin American Fashions" in Reading Latin American Fashion: New Perspectives for Research (Oxford: Berg, 2004) and "José Martí y los chinos en Nueva York" in La Habana Elegante ~ Segunda Epoca No. 24, Primavera, 2004 ([www.habanaelegante.com/index.html](http://www.habanaelegante.com/index.html))

**Professor Eve Sourian** gave a paper at the Centre de Recherches Révolutionnaires et Romantiques for a Colloque International du Bicentenaire de la Naissance de George Sand. The Colloque took place at the University Blaise-Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand France from February 4 to February 7. The title of her talk was: "Ce que disent las jardins: Isidora et les Nouvelles lettres d'un voyageur."

# STUDENT NEWS

## Congratulations to the following students:

Spanish major **Marcela St. John** was awarded the Golden Key Honor Society prize for academic excellence on December 4, 2003.

M.A. Program students **Carlos Aguasaco** and **Tim Fujioka** presented papers at the Ninth International Graduate Students' Conference of the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages, C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center, entitled "Voces Multiculturales" In memory of Professor Xoán González-Millán, on Friday, on October 31, 2003, at the Graduate Center. **Mr. Aguasaco** presented a paper entitled "El Ángel y el Bufón en la poesía de Jaime García Maffla" and **Mr. Fujioka** presented his paper "Extenuar el espejo: *Libertad bajo palabra* de Octavio Paz."

City College International Studies major **Abdul-Rahman Akande** was a recipient of the University Student Senate Scholarship. He was chosen for the Scholarship for his "outstanding academic ability, determination, and service to community." Three students from each of CUNY's colleges were selected for this scholarship and a dinner in Baruch College was held in their honor. The scholarships were presented at the dinner. CCNY's Vice President for Student Affairs also attended. **Mr. Rahman-Akande** was a student in Spanish 223 in Fall 2003.

Spanish minor **Eileen Chanza** was awarded the prestigious Blanche Mason Starkweather Student Award in December 2003. This award grants \$1000. for **Ms. Chanza's** project to explore the poetry and nonfiction writings of 1930s and 1940s Puerto Rican history. Ms. Starkweather's proposal was sponsored by **Professor Dulce García**.

M.A. Program student **Yrene Santos'** new book of poetry, El incansable juego, was published by Editorial Letra Gráfica, Santo Domingo, in 2002.

The following MA Program students have received awards for the 2004 semester for their outstanding academic performance: **Ainoa Iñigo**: Diana Ramírez de Arellano Memorial Tuition Award; **Tim Fujioka**: Emilia & Simon Lerner Memorial Tuition Award; **Montserrat García** and **José Reyes**: Downer Tuition Grants.

# CLUB NEWS

## The Spanish cultural club [Spanías] is given an award!

By **Angel Estévez**

The Executive Board of Spanías is pleased to announce that it has received a grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. The source of this grant is the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation.

A proposal was prepared and submitted last fall. After several months we finally received a notice indicating the approval of the grant. This fund will be used to purchase films and documentaries pertaining to peninsular and Latin American cultures, and to organize other cultural activities. Spanías will select a group of films and documentaries to be shown in a 'series' throughout the semester. As soon as we receive these films and documentaries we will announce the day and time for the projection, which usually takes place during club hours.

Spanías invites both faculty members and students of CCNY to participate and enjoy our cultural activities and presentations.

On behalf of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department and Spanías in particular, we would like to thank the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation for their financial support and for helping us to keep alive our cultural heritage.

The Executive Board of Spanías is formed by: **Heidy Brea, Kianny Antigua, Namiana Filion** and **Lenny Cedano**. The Faculty Advisor is **Angel L. Estévez**.

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures gives numerous student prizes and awards to the best students that are presented at our Spring Awards Ceremony. One great award is **The Ellen and Joseph Valenti Fellowship for Summer Study Abroad**. Applications for the Summer 2004 award are now available from Ms. Wentworth in 5/223. Students interested in receiving a **Minor in French, Italian, or Spanish** should ask their professors, or stop by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, for information.

- 1) **The Ellen and Joseph Valenti Fellowship for Summer Study Abroad** for an undergraduate major in Spanish. (Ask Ms. Wentworth for the application)
- 2) **The Downer Prize** for one undergraduate major in French, Italian or Spanish.\*
- 3) **The Brauner Scholarship** to students (2) whose native language is not English.\*
- 4) **Downer Prizes** to the best students in Basic and Intermediate Language Courses in all languages. The best student in the second basic courses (122 or 192 – Spanish for native speakers-). The best student in the fourth basic courses (224 and 225).\*
- 5) **The Italian Teachers Association Medal\***
- 6) **Ward Medal in Spanish, French and Italian\***
- 7) **The Goldberg Book Prize for Excellence in Spanish, French or Italian\***
- 8) **The Israel Edward Drabkin Award for Excellence in Latin\***
- 9) **Certificates for Minors in Spanish, French and Italian\***
- 10) **Certificates of Achievement in Spanish, French and Italian\***
- 11) **Charles G. Habermann Memorial Award in Latin or Greek\***

### 12) **The Houghton Mifflin Company Gift Certificates for Academic Excellence\***

French Italian Spanish

### 13) **The Houghton Mifflin Company Book Prize\***

French Italian Spanish

### 14) **Prentice Hall Company Gift Certificates for Academic Excellence\***

French Italian Spanish

**\* Professors will nominate students.**

## EVENTS

**Prof. Araceli Tinajero (CCNY)**  
Reading Practices in Cuba, The United States and Spain during the XX Century  
Thursday, February 26  
Conference Room 5/223 at 12:30PM

**Prof. Enrico Mario Santí (University of Kentucky)**  
Vidas paralelas: Pablo Neruda y Octavio Paz  
Wednesday, March 17  
Rifkind Center 6/316 at 6:00PM

**Prof. Maxime Blanchard (CCNY)**  
Fernand Dumont: a Québécois Intellectual  
Thursday, March 18  
Conference Room 5/223 at 12:30

**Prof. Seymour Menton CCNY (1948);**  
University of California, Irvine  
Tendencias Generales y Variantes Nacionales: La Novela Posrevolucionario Centroamericana y Caribeña: 1989-2004  
Monday, April 19  
Rifkind Center 6/316 at 6:00PM

**Prof. Laura Callahan (CCNY)**  
Language Choice in Interethnic Communication: Spanish and English in Urban Service Encounters  
Thursday, April 29  
Conference Room 5/223 at 12:30PM

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Epitafio en el Río Hudson

Por: Araceli Tinajero

Enterrado en las aguas del Hudson fluye tu epitafio.

Tu nombre se refleja en  
las lágrimas de los peces.

Y arriba:

el vacío  
las ruinas  
los escombros...

Sangre en el vidrio soplado  
ríos de ceniza. Remolinos  
golpean tus huesos.

Lágrimas calcinadas  
a dónde va tu llanto,

tu coraje, tu miedo, tu sudor  
tu angustia, tu risa, tu sangre.

La torrente achicharra  
ascua que incenera tus  
uñas, tus cabellos,  
falla que te corta la piel,  
que escalda, que te devora.

Abajo el Río Hudson:  
sus aguas acarician tus  
cenizas, sus cenizas. Los  
muertos quemados se  
derraman. Abajo reflejo  
del viento fétido. Ríos  
de basura, de basura,  
abajo, abajo, basura  
cenizas de lágrimas  
lágrimas que  
fluyen abajo del río.

Abajo el  
diluvio, la nube,  
la niebla, el granizo,  
arriba

nada

nada nada.

Abajo las lágrimas.  
Llévate las lágrimas al  
mar

llévatelas

debajo de las cenizas.

Arriba las ruinas  
sólo ruinas, vacío

soledad

lágrimas de horror,  
de temor, lágrimas  
amargas, lágrimas de  
pus, de sangre, del calor  
del metal tórrido...

Pero nadie sabe su apellido.  
Abajo remolinos de huesos  
derretidos

cabellos enredados en los  
caballos peces  
enredados de cabellos  
basura, ceniza, nada.

Fluye

tu

epitafio

y tú

te evaporas

Nombre: Humberto \_\_¿?\_\_

Fecha de nacimiento: \_\_¿?\_\_

Extinto: 11 de septiembre, 2001

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Students and Faculty: We are eager to print your accomplishments, activities, good news, announcements, etc. in the next Newsletter. The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2004. Please send submissions to **Professor Mary Ruth Strzeszewski** at [maryruth7@yahoo.com](mailto:maryruth7@yahoo.com) or leave them in her mailbox in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, NAC 5/223.

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