

NEWSLETTER

May 2005

NEWS BRIEF

by **Juan Carlos Mercado, Chairperson**

We are in the last stage of this Academic Year, and let me say what a wonderful year we've had!

First of all, let me congratulate all of you for your support and involvement in teaching, research, advising, participation in lectures and conferences, and overall in making this Department better. My special recognition goes out to part-time instructors for their dedication to our students.

Special Events and Lectures

This semester we were able to continue organizing several events and lectures (with very little funding I might add): Bettina Lerner on "Politics of the Visual: Louis Philippe's Musée Espagnol and the Making of Modern France"; Rebecca Pawel on "Softening the Curse: Intellectual and Armed Resistance to Franco's Dictatorship"; Christopher Domínguez Michael on "Octavio Paz y el destino del intelectual público"; Francine Massiello on "James Joyce and Latin America"; Laura Restrepo on "El resplandor de todas las cosas"; and Edith Grossman on "Translating Cervantes". In addition we sponsored "Perles de Culture Francophone" organized by Lumières, The French Cultural Center.

All these events were extremely successful and we are planning a new series of events and lectures for the next semester.

Highlights of Courses and Programs

The number of courses is increasing across the board; we introduced new courses into our curriculum as well as new special topics that have been very successful.

We continue growing: we have more than 250 majors and minors, and are now serving more than 1,500 students. Again, even though the College has lost

some students compared to Spring 2004, we have been gaining. This is a clear response to the Department's strong engagement with our students.

The Department is in very good shape as demonstrated in our recent outcomes assessment for the Middle States reporting requirement. By the way, my thanks are in order for those who helped me put this together, along with Ellen Smiley, Deputy Provost.

Summary

I continue to believe that this is a great time at City College; we are going to continue growing and producing scholarly works (several books and articles came out from our Department), congratulations to all of you, teaching and projecting our Department beyond our borders. By the way, recognition goes out to Prof. Angel Estévez for being nominated for Mentor of the Year.

Also, on behalf of the entire Department, my appreciation and congratulations to all our students receiving awards and prizes, as well as those who are graduating this semester. My appreciation to the anonymous donor of one of our Awards.

All our achievements have been the result of hard work and teamwork, which includes all of you, and the Administration for their confidence and support. 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 along with Phyllis and Rosa.

Finally, let me inform you that Distinguished Professor Suzanne Jill Levine resigned from City College. I am trying very hard to get this line back.

As you know our Dean, Jim Watts, is stepping down after many years of service. He has been a great supporter of our Department and we are certainly going to miss him.

News Brief, cont.

Special congratulations to our student Erja Vettenranta, who is going to be this year's Co-Salutatorian. Erja was a dual major in English and Spanish, and she is currently pursuing a Master degree in Spanish. We are extremely proud of her!

We extend our special congratulations to our Administrative Assistant Rosa Martínez, who is graduating this semester. As you know Rosa is a hard working person and always willing to help everybody. Good job, Rosa!

A sad note, our dear friend and colleague, Prof. Julio Burunat, Prof. Silvia Burunat's husband, passed away. Our condolences to Prof. Silvia Burunat.

Stay tuned, our Department will be profiled in Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education in May.

Have a wonderful, relaxing and productive break, all of you!

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Laura Callahan has received a **PSC-CUNY 36 Research Grant** for 2005/2006.

Professor Richard Calichman's book *What is Modernity? Writings of Takeuchi Yoshimi* was recently published by Columbia University Press.

Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez's book, *La palabra y la pluma en Primer nueva corónica y buen gobierno* (205 pp.), has been published in Lima by the **Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)**. The book discusses how the native historian Felipe Guaman de Ayala uses his Andean heritage and appropriates European culture to represent, in words and images, his unique perception of Spanish conquest and colonization. She has contributed the following book chapters and articles: "Las veleidades de la representación: Guaman Poma, Murúa y la coya Chimpurma," in *La formación de la cultura virreinal. II. El siglo XVII*, eds. Karl Kohut and Sonia V. Rose (Frankfurt am Mein: Vervuert; Madrid: Iberoamericana, 2004), 243-63; "Castellanos y peruleros en *Primer nueva corónica y buen gobierno* (1615) de Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala," in *Actas del XIV Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas*, ed. Isaías Lerner et al., Vol. 4 (Newark, Delaware: Juan de la Cuesta, 2004), 101-09; "¿Virreyes virtuosos? El juicio de Guaman Poma de Ayala", *Iberoromania* 58 (2003):

25-48, and "La mirada femenina y el orgullo novohispano," *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos* 655 (January 2005): 25-30. On 20 October 2004, she delivered a keynote address during the **Hispanic Celebration Lecture Series** at **Hofstra University**.

Regina Chaudhry, who teaches Portuguese at CCNY, has just returned from an academic meeting at the **University of San Francisco**, where she read a paper concerning Brazilian literature ("Ufanismo Literario no Brasil: Do Romantismo à Primeira Semana do Século XX"). She is also expecting her publication on Fernando Pessoa's *Livro do Desassossego* in the forthcoming edition of *Ave Azul* (Viseu, Portugal).

Professor Maxime Blanchard recently joined the team of academics who are contributing articles to the *Dictionnaire des oeuvres littéraires du Québec*, an important research project on Québécois Literature. Three articles he wrote – two on Michel Tremblay and one on Fernand Dumont – will appear in forthcoming issues of *Spirale, Québec français*, and *Francographies*. In February 2005, Maxime was nominated to the **Administrative Board of the Société des professeurs de français d'Amérique**. In October 2004, he gave a paper on intellectuals in Québec at the bi-annual **Conference of the Société des professeurs de français d'Amérique**.

Professor René P. Garay was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the literary magazine *Forma Breve* that focuses on short forms of fiction. It is published at the Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal. Volume 2 of *Forma Breve*, dedicated to the genre of the Prose Poem, is now available in print and includes Garay's co-authored article with Raul E. Romero (John Jay College): *Epifanía y Poema en prosa. El Livro do Desassossego de Fernando Pessoa/Bernardo Soares*. His recent book, *Judith Teixeira: O Modernismo Sáfico Português* has been reviewed in several literary journals this year (e.g., www.storm-magazine.com). In the coming year, he is organizing a panel for RSA (Renaissance Society of America) in San Francisco: *Camões and the Portuguese Renaissance*, as well as preparing an essay for the next issue of *Forma Breve* that is dedicated to the Fable (*Gendered Fables: (Im)moral Tales from the Bestiary*).

Professor Eve Sourian wrote the preface (9 pp.) and 10 *avant-propos* (48 pp.) for *Impressions et souvenirs*, an edition with the collaboration of Brigitte Lane (Paris: edition des Femmes, 2005, 339 pages) and the preface (pp7-32) to *Nouvelles lettres d'un voyageur* (Paris:

Faculty News, cont.

Edition des Femmes, 2005, 248 pages). She read the paper "George Sand: Les jardins de la vieillesse de George Sand" at the **MLA**, Philadelphia, 29 December 2004 and "George Sand: Le diable aux champs" at the **XVIth International George Sand Conference, Wellesley College**, 1 October 2004. Professor Sourian also gave the following lectures: "Madame de Staël et Napoléon," **Association Culturelle Francophone des Nations Unies et La Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique, Baruch College**, 10 March 2005, and "Les jardins de George Sand," **Association Culturelle Francophone des Nations Unies et La Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique, Church Center, United Nations**, 14 December 2004.

Professor Araceli Tinajero published a chapter in *The Latin American Fashion Reader* (Oxford: Berg, 2005) entitled "Far Eastern Influences in Latin American Fashions." Her book, *Orientalismo en el modernismo hispanoamericano* was exhibited at the **Congreso Nacional de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios de Asia y África – Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Argentina** (November, 2004). On 18 March 2005 she attended **The ACTFL Writing Proficiency Guidelines Familiarization Workshop** held at **Hunter College**. During the 2005 spring recess Professor Tinajero conducted research in eastern Mexico as part of her book in progress on reading practices.

Professor Starčević recently had her rug in the **CCNY Women Make Art** show in March 2005 and on 5 April 2005 she moderated the panel **New Directions of Latin American Theatre** as part of the **Latin American Theatre -A Colloquium** at the **CUNY Graduate Center**. Also, together with Professor Araceli Tinajero she participated in an all day conference on the **American Council of Teaching of Foreign Languages ACTFL** on the new proficiency guidelines for writing held at **Hunter College** on 18 March 2005. This was sponsored by **The Cuny Council on Foreign Language Study** of which she is president.

Prizes and Awards 2005

❖ **The Ward Medal:**

French: Joshua Williams
Italian: Eva Koumtog
Spanish: Esmeralda Chávez
Fernando Cortés

❖ **The Valenti Summer Study Abroad Scholarship:** Efraín Cárdenas

❖ **The Northfork Foundation in Languages Award:**

French: Kate Hehir
Italian: Luz López
Spanish: Jeanette Salguero

❖ **The María Palau Memorial Award in Spanish:**

Judith Castillo

❖ **The Fred Smith Prize in French:**

Jessica Infante

❖ **The Italian Teachers' Association Award:**

Verónica Ortiz

❖ **The Sigma Delta Pi Award Scholarship for Summer Study:**

Kianny Antigua

❖ **Minor in Classical Studies:**

Nicholas Bonamico
Lovina Ikenga
Shannon O'Neil

Guesnerth Perea
Mark Rodríguez

❖ **Minor in Italian:** Fredery De León Kethonia Dessources

❖ **Minor in Spanish:** Jacob Babu Alexis Dallara Alexandra Castillo Aida Diawara

❖ **Charles J. Haberman Memorial Award in Latin:**

Virgen Serrano Daniel Meyer

❖ **Certificates of Academic Achievement:**

Classics: Jason Collins
French: Joel Hicks Daisy Ruiz
Abel Ndri Leonard Walrond
Tina Nighman
Italian: Anisa Dhimarko Vera Oulianova
Juan Núñez
Spanish: Heidy Brea
Ivelisse Escoto
Ernesto Llorente
Marisol Mendoza
Amnetty Molina
Bernice Ramospérez
Ilesa Rozanski
Ashley Slater
Nurrisha Ward
Lily Woll

❖ **The Downer Language Awards:**

Arabic: Robert Field
ESL: Cristalia García
French: Moises Arvelo (122) Louis Kinyin So (225)
German: Vera Oulianova
Hindi: Anthony Paolillo
Italian: Juan Núñez (122) Ana Aguirre (225)
Japanese: Stella Lee
Portuguese: Ronen Gamil
Spanish: Jia Huang (122)
Yamel Muñoz (192)

❖ **The Houghton Mifflin Company Gift Certificates for Academic Excellence:**

French: Joshua Williams
Italian: Michael Piscitello
Spanish: Javier Muñoz

Prizes and Awards 2005, cont.

❖ **The Houghton Mifflin Company Book Prize:**

French: Péguy Pierre

Italian: Fredery De León

Spanish: Rochelle Ledgister

❖ **The Prentice Hall Publishers Gift Certificate for Academic Excellence:**

French: Dany Almonte

Spanish: Edgard Mercado

❖ **Graduate Studies in Spanish Awards:**

Emilia & Simon Lerner Memorial Tuition

Award (Fall 2004): Noemí Pacheco

Diana Ramírez de Arellano Memorial Tuition

Award: (Fall 2004): Jabnia Batista

The Dean of Humanities Tuition Award (Spring 2005):

Erja Vettenranta

The NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship: Erja Vettenranta

❖ **Pi Delta Phi– National French Honor Society:**

Dany Almonte

Kate Hehir

Péguy Pierre

❖ **Sigma DeltaPi – National Spanish Honor Society:**

Efraín Cárdenas

Rochelle Ledgister

Judith Castillo

Marisol Mendoza

Carlos Chasi

Ashley Slater

Ivelisse Escoto

Ana Tejada

Yelín Fernández

Jewish Studies Program

❖ **Awarding of Certificates for the Minor:**

Lilibeth Aguirre

Jamilette Bruce

Jessica Dominguez

Erika Estevez

Yosilde Geraldino

Hermington Gomez

Jennifer Guinyard

Naomi Martinez

Mabel Mata

Melissa Mathey

Gerardo Muro

Ainadel Ojeda

Veronica Ortiz

Catalina Peters

Aurora Piacentino

Josephina Pineyro

Nick Tejada

Antonio Tseng

Marianella Valdez

Joshua Weiner

❖ **Awarding of Certificates for the Major:**

Elizabeth Bisono

Terese Davis

Sharon Fader

Esther Hughes

Memuna Kamara

Jichan Kim

Jameelah Lewis

Corrinthia McCullough

Iris Ortiz

Kate Rowland

Katarina Sefrankova

Shivani Subryan

Tomer Yzraeli

❖ **Awarding of Scholarships, 2004-2005:**

SANDRA BRAND SCHOLAR

Carmel MacMahon

ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN SCHOLARS

Katarina Sefrankova

Gal Levanon

MAURICE BARBASH SCHOLARS

Tanya Diaz

Kebba Jallow

Corrinthia McCullough

Ofra Markowitz

Natacha Moya

BERNARD & BARBARA ROTHMAN SCHOLAR

Kerry Farias

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