

# NEWSLETTER

May 2007

## NEWS BRIEF

by Juan Carlos Mercado, Chairperson



President Gregory Williams, Ms. Sara Williams, Prince Phillip of Asturias and Professor Juan Carlos Mercado at the Palace of the Zarzuela, Madrid, Spain.

What an incredible semester we've had and it's not even over yet. Many amazing publications from our group (which have been sent to the Dean) along with all the continued great teaching service to the Department, Division and College—hearty congratulations to all. Our Department is much stronger because of all the hard work and dedication.

The following are some of the semester's highlights:

As you know, President Williams was invited to visit the University of La Rioja (Spain), with which we have a student exchange agreement; and I made this trip with him. In addition to the official meetings, we were able to see first hand the wonderful programs and faculty they have. We are extremely glad to have this association with them. On that same trip, we were received by the Prince of Asturias, in Madrid, for a special private audience to discuss the possible implementation of a Chair in his name and also to invite him to visit City College. He expressed full support of this initiative. Now the process must move through the business community interested in these types of endeavors to seek funding.

Another key point related to the above is our Study Abroad Program. Last year, Prof. Dulce García took 13 students to the University of La Rioja to study Spanish language, linguistics and literature. This year Prof. García is taking a record number . . . 50 students. You can imagine what a complex operation this is with so many details to manage; she has been working all year to make this a special experience for our students. In the history of our Department, there has never been such a large undertaking, and this may be the largest in the entire College. My congratulations to Prof. García for all her hard work.

We are working on another Study Abroad Program, this one in French Language, with the University of Laval, in Canada. I hope to see other similar projects for other languages in the near future

On April 12, we launched a three-week “Jesús Semprún” Seminar on Venezuelan literature, with one of the major voices in Venezuelan and Latin American Literature today, José Balza. The opening ceremony was well attended by City College, the Central University of Venezuela and other relevant officials. The guest list included, from the Central University of Venezuela, the Dean of Humanities and Education, Prof. Piero LoMonaco; Prof. Mariantonia Palacios, from the Office of Institutional Relations of the University Central of Venezuela; Dr. Hernán Semprún, the grandson of Jesús Semprún, an exceptional writer who lived in NYC at the beginning of the twentieth century (the seminar carries his name); the Ambassador of Venezuela, Bernardo Alvarez Herrera and the Cultural Attaché, Patricia Abdelnour. We had a full house and everyone enjoyed the brilliant lecture/presentation by Prof. Balza.

All of our achievements have been the result of working together—and this includes every member of our Department along with the Administration who has shown 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 don't want to forget the tutors and helpers in the Media Center. Phyllis and Rosa have worked very hard as well so thanks are in order.

## Student News

**Master's Program student Kianny Antigua's** short story "Evocaciones" 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.

**Spanish major Jorge Sarmiento** became a grandfather on March 21, 2007, to Melanie Vicuña.

## Jewish Studies Program Offers Advanced Seminar on "The Hidden Children"

As part of an advanced seminar on the Holocaust called "The Hidden Children", five Jewish Studies majors will be traveling to Poland this April with a former hidden child to see history come alive.

Paula Moskowitz was ten when she last saw Poland in 1946. Now, sixty years later, she will return with our students to visit the apartment where courageous Poles risked their own lives hiding her during the war. We have contacted the one surviving family member, Genia, daughter of her rescuers who still lives in Warsaw. Paula recalls that Genia was especially kind to her during her years of hiding, making it a point of playing with her when she came home from school each day. We know this will be an unforgettable reunion for Paula and our students.

As part of this 6 day trip, our students will also travel with Paula back to her old village of Piaski, where she was born and where she returned after the war, as well as a special sunrise commemoration at Majdanek created by the students. The itinerary also includes spending the Sabbath with the Jewish community of Warsaw, seeing how Jewish life in Poland is being rebuilt.

This seminar is part of an ongoing series of classes open to advanced majors in Jewish Studies. Future seminars include "The Jews of Morocco" in Spring 2008 and "The Jews of Rome" in Fall 2008.

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

**Please send articles for the Newsletter to Professor Mary Ruth Strzeszewski at mrstrzeszewski@ccny.cuny.edu**

## Faculty News

**Professor Carole Berger** was recently reappointed to the editorial review board for The College Research Association's international referred journal, *Reading Research and Instruction*. The journal "publishes articles dealing with research and instruction in reading education and allied literacy fields."

**Professor Maxime Blanchard's** forthcoming book on French political engagement, titled *S'engager : l'intellectuel dans l'œuvre d'André Malraux*, will be published in France by Les Presses de l'Université d'Artois. In October 2006, Professor Blanchard gave a paper on Québécois cinema at the biannual conference of the American Council for Québec Studies, in Boston. In March 2007, he presented a paper on the Québécois writer Michel Tremblay at the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century French and Francophone Studies Conference at Texas A&M University. Professor Blanchard has also been invited to discuss his research at an international conference on the Québécois intellectual Fernand Dumont in Trois-Rivières, Québec in May 2007, where he will present a paper titled « Se désaliéner : du souvenir collectif au projet politique ». As a continuing board member of the Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique, Professor Blanchard was recently named to the editorial board of the literary journal *Nouvelles Francographies*.

**Distinguished Lecturer Carmen Boulosa** published a new novel at the prestigious Spanish publishing house Siruela, *El Velázquez de París* (April, 2006). Her previous novel, *La novela perfecta* (Alfaguara, México, 2006) was named by Sergio González Rodríguez, at *El Reforma* newspaper in January 2007, at the top of his selection of the 2006's best novels. Her novel *La otra mano de Lepanto* appeared in Brazil, in Portuguese translation (Palindromo, Sao Paulo, 2006). She has published short stories at: *Revista Ñ* in Spain (December, 2006); *Revista Quinta Real* of Mexico (September, 2006); *Confabulario*, the cultural supplement of *El Universal* newspaper in Mexico (which was the cover story, February, 2007). Her work has been included in two very significant anthologies in Spain and in France. The Spanish one is a poetry anthology, *Casa de Luciérnagas*, Latin American Women Poets (Bruguera, Madrid, 2007), which got the cover review in *Babelia*, the cultural supplement of *El País*, in Madrid (January, 2007). The French one is an anthology of Mexican prose, *Cent ans de Littérature Mexicaine*, Éditions de la Différence (Paris, 2007).

## **Faculty News, cont.**

She published a piece on Roberto Bolaño in *The Nation* (April, 2007), a review of Alejandro Rossi's Xavier Villaurrutia Prize, cover story in *El Angel* of *El Reforma* (January, 2007); an interview with Gabriel Orozco in *Bomb* magazine (January, 2007); an interview with Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez in *Revista de la Universidad Nacional de México* (January, 2007); an essay, *Pongo la mano aquí*, in *Revista Crítica*, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (January-February 2007); a review of Ransom's *A Tale of Two Lions*, in *Bomb* magazine (April, 2007), among another dozen pieces. During this academic year, she has lectured and read from her work at *Second International Summit: What comes after, Cities, Arts, Recovery*, organized by the Lower Manhattan Arts Association, Theresa Lang Center, The New School (September, 2006); The John Fowles Center, Champan University, Orange County, California (February, 2007), among others. With fellow writers José Manuel Prieto, Naief Yehya, Eduardo Lago, Eduardo Mitre, and Sylvia Molloy she has founded *Café Nueva York*, an organization whose goal is to make visible the tradition of Spanish-speaking authors that have written in New York City since the XIXth Century. With the *Café Nueva York* she has co-organized a conference at Librería Lectorum, *Los nuestros en Nueva York*, and readings and round tables at King Juan Carlos Center, of NYU, and at the Gotham Center, at the Graduate Center. As part of *Café Nueva York* adventure, with historian and Pulitzer Prize winner Mike Wallace, she proposed an exhibit to the NYHS on the relationships of New York City with the Spanish speaking worlds, since its foundation to our days, as well as the history and concomitant development of the Spanish speaking communities in the City. The exhibit has been approved and will open in 2010.

**Professor Silvia Burunat**, has published a book of memoirs, *Josefa y Josefina*, (Madrid: Betania, 2007), a biographical account about her grandmother and mother, both feminist poets and pioneer educators, covering over 100 years of their lives and labors in Havana, Cuba, from 1873 until 2006. The book is going to be presented on June 27, 2007 at the Fundación Hispano-Cubana in Madrid, Spain

**Professor Richard Calichman** delivered the paper "Preliminary Questions" at the Organization of Asian Research, Boston, 2007, and the invited paper "Cultural Transmissions: Rereading the 'Overcoming Modernity' Symposium" at the International "Rewriting Modern/Contemporary Japanese

Intellectual History" Conference, Leipzig University, Germany, 2007. His double review of Christopher S. Goto-Jones's *Political Philosophy in Japan: Nishida, the Kyoto School, and Co-Prosperity* (Routledge, 2005) and Bernard Stevens's *Le néant évidé: Ontologie et politique chez Keiji Nishitani. Une tentative d'interprétation* (Éditions Peeters, 2003) was published in *Journal of Japanese Studies* (2007), 33:1:186-192. Prof. Calichman signed a book contract with Columbia University Press for a forthcoming volume entitled *Overcoming Modernity*.

**Professor Laura Callahan** has had an article accepted by the *International Multilingual Research Journal*, entitled "Accommodation to outgroup members' use of an ingroup language: A comparison of service encounters in person and over the telephone." She will present a paper entitled "Issues of prescriptivism and school as a site for criticism" at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Meeting, in San Diego, California, August 2-5, 2007. She has been awarded a PSC-CUNY grant for 2007-2008 to expand her research on language choice and codeswitching in telephone service encounters.

**Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez** published the following book chapter "Clarinda, Amarilis y la 'fruta nueva' del Parnaso peruano," in *La mujer en la historia del Perú (siglos XV al XX)*, Carmen Meza y Teodoro Hampe, eds. (Lima: Fondo Editorial del Congreso del Perú, 2007), pp. 17-35. *Franqueando fronteras/Beyond Books and Borders: Garcilaso de la Vega and/y La Florida del Inca*, her book simultaneously published in English (Bucknell University Press) and Spanish (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), was presented at the Americas Society on 15 March. Chang-Rodríguez moderated a panel devoted to "Colonialism and Modernity in Spanish American Literature" held 17 April at the Americas Society with the participation of Paul Firbas, Nidia Pullés-Linares and Alister Ramírez Márquez. The *Revista de la Universidad de México* (Núm. 33, Nov. 2006) published a conversation between Carmen Boullosa and Raquel Chang-Rodríguez about her book, *La palabra y la pluma en Primer nueva corónica y buen gobierno* (2006), on the Peruvian native historian Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala.

## Faculty News, cont.

**Professor Dulce García, Director of the The CCNY-University of La Rioja Summer Study Program**, will take about fifty students to Spain this July. The group includes undergraduate and graduate students from CCNY, other CUNY colleges, NYU, and Columbia University. They will be staying in Logroño, Spain, for four weeks, while taking two courses at Universidad de La Rioja. There will be three tracks of study: undergraduate non-native, undergraduate-native, and graduate. The trip will include excursions, workshops, and other activities.

**Professor Eve Grubin** is the Marvin and Edward Kaplan Lecturer in Jewish Studies this spring at City College where she is teaching Introduction to Biblical Commentaries. Her essay, "After Eden: the Veil as a Conduit to the Internal," will appear in *The Veil: Women Writers on its History, Lore and Politics* (University of California Press, 2007). She is a fellow at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education where she also works coordinating the Drisha Arts Fellowships Program.

**Professor Bettina Lerner** and Professor **Juan Carlos Mercado** edited the book *A Living Legacy* (Undergraduate Alumni Conference), Delaware: Juan de la Cuesta, 2006.

**ESL Adjunct Instructor Ruben Rangel** has published a poem in the first edition of the e-magazine *The One Three Eight: A Journal of Poetry at The City College of New York*. Go to <http://www.138journal.com/> to read the e-zine. The poem, "def bluesólogo," is a tribute to the blues musician Gil Scott Heron.

**Professor Eve Sourian** was decorated by the French Government with the Chevalier de L'Ordre des Palmes Académiques. She published the book chapters «Ce que disent les jardins: *Isidora et Les Nouvelles lettres d'un voyageur*, «*Fleurs et jardins dans l'oeuvre de George Sand* (Clermont Ferrand: Presses universitaires Blaise Pascal, 2006) 191-200 et «Le diable aux champs, un roman dialogué» *George Sand: une écriture dialoguée* (New Orleans: Presses Universitaires Du Nouveau Monde, 2006) 269-280. She presented the following papers: "Le roman comique de George Sand, *Pierre qui roule et le beau Laurence*: un roman d'apprentissage at the Colloque international: La Marginalité dans l'oeuvre de George Sand, Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont II, June 22, 2007, Clermont-Ferrand, France; «George Sand: Châteaux et jardins: espaces sandiens» MLA,

Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 2006; and George Sand; *Les beaux messieurs de Bois Doré*: d'un château a l'autre, George Sand international conférence, June 22, 2006 Dublin City University, Ireland. She served as Chairperson of the Marandon Scholarship, the Société des professeurs français et Francophones D'Amérique, which gave \$61,000 of scholarships for the Academic year 2007-2008.

**Professor Mary Ruth Strzeszewski** has been awarded a PSC-CUNY grant for 2007-2008 to work on her project, "The Pedagogy of Mourning: Readings of Loss in Galdós, Clarín, Unamuno and Azorín."

**Professor Araceli Tinajero** published *El lector de tabaquería: Historia de una tradición cubana* (Madrid: Editorial Verbum). She presented her book at the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies on April 27, 2007. She will be delivering the talk "Working for the love of the leaf" at the 32nd annual Caribbean Studies Association conference in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. Prof. Tinajero received a PSC-CUNY Award for 2007-2008 in order to conduct research on her new book project on Alfonso Reyes.

**Adjunct Lecturer Marcos Wasem** participated at the 1st Metropolitan Biennial of Poetry in Montevideo, Uruguay, dedicated to Peruvian contemporary poetry. There he read his paper "César Vallejo lector de Julio Herrera y Reissig." Marcos Wasem has also published this year his paper "Regímenes ficcionales de *Las cartas que no llegaron* de Mauricio Rosencof" in the graduate students journal *LL Journal* (<http://lljournal.gc.cuny.edu>) for which he also did the graphic design. This year some of his poems will appear in the anthology *Caminos para la paz: escritores árabes y judíos en castellano*, published by Editorial Corregidor (Buenos Aires), and will also publish his volume of poetry *Aterrizaje de primeros semovientes*, (Artefato Editor, Montevideo).

**Professor Hongbing Zhang** made a presentation titled "Nation and Emotion: Female Travelers in Wu Jianren's New Novels" in our department on February 22, 2007. He also presented his paper titled "Post-Natural Ruins: Public Space and Jia Zhangke's Cinematic Discontents in the Age of Globalization" at the Association of Asian Studies annual meeting held in Boston, March 22-25, 2007.

