

NEWSLETTER

December 2008

Faculty Notes

Professor Carole Berger received a grant of over \$ 3,000 from the Women's Leadership Exchange for ten CCNY students to attend the WLE Conference on November 13, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City. The East Coast Summit offered featured speakers such as Ellyn McColigan, President of Global Wealth Management and Valerie Plame Wilson, former CIA Covert Operations Officer. Students selected have an interest in pursuing Women's Studies issues, specifically in the area of Leadership. The conference addressed issues affecting women in business during the current economic state of affairs.

In the journal *Liberté* **Professor Maxime Blanchard** recently published "Fatalités," an essay on Québec's independence. His article titled "L'aliénation tranquille: C.R.A.Z.Y. de Jean-Marc Vallée" will soon appear in *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies: Sites*. Blanchard recently joined the Graduate Center where in the Fall of 2009 he will teach a Ph.D. seminar on the modern novel.

Professor Silvia Burunat read excerpts from her unpublished manuscript, *Autobiografía póstuma (Posthumous Autobiography)*, at the Third Annual Julio Burunat Ph.D. Memorial Lecture at Fordham University, Lincoln Center, which took place on Sunday, October 12, 2008. The main speaker was the renowned poet and political activist Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J. who talked about "Prose and Poetry of Life Today." The event was attended by over 60 guests, including several professors from CCNY and Fordham University.

Professor Laura Callahan published two book reviews: *Developing Contrastive*

Pragmatics: Interlanguage and Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Martin Pütz and JoAnne Neff-van Aertselaer, eds., 2008, Mouton de Gruyter) *Linguist List*, Vol. 19-2773, September 11, 2008, and *Heritage Language Education: A New Field Emerging* (Donna M. Brinton, et al., eds., 2007, Lawrence Erlbaum) *Linguist List*, Vol. 19-3345, November 3, 2008. She delivered a presentation entitled "Outgroup use of an ingroup language: Spanish and English in U.S. service encounters" in the lecture series *RISLUS Reports* on November 14, 2008 at the Graduate Center, CUNY. Her book *Spanish and English in U.S. Service Encounters* (http://www.palgraveusa.com/catalog/product.aspx?isbn=023_0610714) is in production at Palgrave Macmillan and is scheduled to appear in March 2009.

Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez has published the following book chapters: "La Florida del Inca: vínculos novohispanos y proyección americana." *Nuevas lecturas de "La Florida del Inca."* Ed. Carmen de Mora y Antonio Garrido Aranda. Madrid/Frankfurt: Iberoamericana/Vervuert: 2008, pp. 67-82; and "Diálogos poéticos transatlánticos." Ed. Pedro Ruiz Pérez. *Cánones críticos en la poesía de los Siglos de Oro*. Madrid: Academia del Hispanismo, 2008, pp. 291-309. She was invited to participate in an international congress sponsored by the University of Würzburg (24-27 September, Würzburg, Germany) on Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, and presented a paper on "Vida y azar en la *Relación de la descendencia de Garci Pérez de Vargas* (1596)." Professor Chang-Rodríguez delivered the keynote speech on "Seeing and Believing in Colonial Spanish America" at the 4th Annual Graduate Student

Faculty Notes/Dist. Prof. Chang-Rodríguez, cont.

Symposium on Hispanic Literature, Penn State University, 24 October 2008; she offered invited lectures at The University of Athens, Greece, on Inca Garcilaso de la Vega's *Royal Commentaries* (1609; 1617), and at the CCNY Center for Worker Education Distinguished Professor, Distinguished Lecturer, and Named Chair Lecture Series, on Guaman Poma de Ayala's *First New Chronicle and Good Government* (1615). The Mexican American Cultural Foundation Inc. awarded Professor Chang-Rodríguez a grant to promote Mexican literature and culture. She was recently elected to the presidency of the Centro de Estudios Literarios Latinoamericanos Antonio Cornejo Polar, in Lima, Peru.

Professor Ya-chen Chen's eco-feminist literary analysis on Wang Quanan's award-winning film will be a forthcoming journal article entitled "Mother Earth Tuya's Marriage" in *Journal of Asian Cinema Studies*.

Our graduate student and adjunct instructor of Spanish Javier Muñoz, has just published his first poetry book, *Color nocturno*, in his native Ecuador. **Professor Dulce García** wrote the prologue. He has received an invitation from Dr. Jorge Dávila, President of Casa de la Cultura Núcleo del Azuay, Cuenca, Ecuador, to give a series of lectures on the internationalization of Korean film

Adjunct instructor and student of our Master's Program, Aleksín Ortega, is leading the publication of the Master Students' online review, *CyC (Creación y Crítica)*. The first issue of the magazine is scheduled to be accessible at the end of this semester and has been designed to publish creative and critical texts from students and alumni of our M.A. Program in Spanish. Fellow students who are interested in submitting their work to *CyC* are encouraged to send Aleksín an e-mail at cyc.cny@yahoo.com. *CyC* also welcomes those who are interested in working at the

magazine as editors or being otherwise involved in the publication of future issues.

Professor Devid Paolini presented a paper entitled "Acerca del género de *Celestina*: algunas observaciones" at *Medievalia, Congreso Internacional, XII Jornadas Medievales*, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México. He published "Los Reyes Católicos e Italia: los humanistas italianos y su relación con España." In *La literatura en la época de los Reyes Católicos*, eds. Nicasio Salvador Miguel and Cristina Moya García, Madrid-Frankfurt, Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2008, 189-205. He also has three forthcoming articles entitled: "Fernando de Pulgar, Glosa a las *Coplas de Mingo Revulgo (Addenda et corrigenda)*," "Acerca de unos manuscritos 'desconocidos' de la Biblioteca Nacional de España," and "Un manuscrito desconocido del *Tratado de cómo al hombre es necesario amar* (Ms. 18.665³⁰ de la BNE)." The first two will be published in *Revista de literatura medieval*, and the last one in *eHumanista*, 11 (2008).

In April, **Professor Carlos Riobó** gave the talk "Rethinking the National in Argentine Literature" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington. In May, he was on a panel on Representations of Race and Ethnicity in the Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean (ERIP) conference at the University of California, San Diego, where he gave the talk "Representations of Culture: The Ethnic Profile of a Nation (River Plate)." His translations of several chapters of *Alfredo Boulton and his Contemporaries: Critical Dialogues in Venezuelan Art, 1912-1974*, edited by Ariel Jiménez, for the Museum of Modern Art's *Venezuelan Art Criticism Anthology*, was published in the summer of 2008. His review of *Puerto Rican Poetry: An Anthology from Aboriginal to Contemporary Times*, edited by Roberto Márquez, was published in November 2008 in *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* 77 and his chapter, "Manuel Puig's Alternative Archive" in the anthology *Narrative*

Faculty Notes/Prof. Riobó, cont.

Beginnings: Theories and Practices, edited by Brian Richardson for the Frontiers of Narrative Series, University of Nebraska Press, was published in November 2008. Professor Riobó was tapped to be a speaker in the Columbia University Seminar on Latin America in December and wishes to thank Dr. Eugenio Chang-Rodríguez, the seminar's co-chairman, for the invitation.

Professor Jennifer Roberts delivered a paper entitled "Pericles in the Founding Era and Beyond" at a conference at the American Academy in Rome on "Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World and Early America" in October.

Professor Eve Sourian presented a paper at the XVIIIth International George Sand Conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara, on September 26, 2008. The title of her paper was "G. Sand and Alexandre Dumas fils: A collaboration."

Professor Elizabeth Starčević, president of the PEN San Miguel de Allende Chapter represented the chapter at the International PEN conference that was held in Bogotá, Colombia, in September 2008. She met with members of the Turkey PEN chapter in Istanbul in October 2008. An exhibit of more than 40 of her weavings was held at the Poet's Den Gallery in NYC in November 2008.

Professor Araceli Tinajero published "Los antípodas de ida y vuelta" in the Italian journal *Studi Ispanici*, 2008. Her *El lector: A History of the Cigar Factory Reader* is under contract with the University of Texas Press. Reviews of *El lector*, Spanish version, have been published in the *Anales de Estudios Americanos* (Spain) and *Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional José Martí* (Cuba). Last April, Tinajero organized a discussion panel at the IV Congreso Internacional de Estudios Transatlánticos held at Brown University. There, she delivered the paper "From Europe with Love." In June, she was invited by the Cátedra Alfonso Reyes del Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico), the Proyecto

Transatlántico de la Universidad de Brown, (USA), and the Casa de América de Madrid to participate in a colloquium on Reyes, Borges and Gómez de la Serna; there she talked about "Reyes y el cine y la radio." Tinajero was one of the key organizers of the CUNY Mexican Studies Colloquium (Graduate Center, November 7, 2008), which gathered dozens of scholars from several disciplines and universities to discuss current Mexican issues and projects in academia. She is one of the primary advisors of a newly established reading program for children at the Dominican Republic Sports & Education Academy. The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses invited *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas'* editor, Daniel Shapiro, to present a non-fiction writer at the *Periodically Speaking* series held at the New York Public Library; there, Shapiro introduced Araceli on October, 14, 2008. For Spring 2009, she will be team-teaching the interdisciplinary course "Latin American Society and Literature," with historian Alfonso W. Quiroz at the Graduate Center CUNY and will be the curator of the exhibition *Mexico through Oriental Eyes*, which will display the paintings of Japanese artist Hiro Kagami at the Center for Worker Education.

Student Notes

Kianny Antigua, one of our graduate students, published a short story in *El Cid*, the literary magazine of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Hispanic Honor Society.

Spanish major Juana Bierman is teaching at the Astoria Blue Feather Head Start.

Lourdes Bonilla, also a Spanish Major from the class of 2008, is teaching Spanish at The Leadership Academy.

Our graduate student, Judith Castillo and her husband Mannie, are having their first baby. They plan to name her Maya Sophia.

Student Notes, cont.

Judith Castillo, also a Spanish Major, class of 2007, is teaching Spanish to native non-native students at a Catholic high school in Queens.

Daisy Flores (Spanish major, class of 2007) is teaching at The Charter School of Educational Excellence in Yonkers.

Our students Yasmin Garves, Cindy Vera, Paola Evangelista, Rafael Ovalles, and Kristy Núñez, a Spanish Major who graduated last June, appear on the video to accompany the textbook *Conexiones* 4th edition, co-authored by Prof. Dulce García and published by Prentice Hall.

Our Spanish major Lucía Pichardo, who graduated last June, is teaching Spanish in the Community School for Social Justice.

Spanish major Francesca Rosa has been a student of salsa and an active parent volunteer at the Abrons Arts Center (Lower East Side) since 2005. This holiday season two of her daughters performed there in the Urban Ballet Theater's production of *Nutcracker in the Lower*.

Professor Tinajero would like to congratulate her students **David Hall, Jacqueline Herranz-Brooks, and Erja Vettenranta** for having finished their M.A. theses.

Two ESL Freshmen Speak to High School Students

As a freshman at CCNY, I was invited by the principal of my former high school to share a few words with the perspective college students, precisely juniors and seniors. My high school is called the Urban Assembly Academic of History and Citizenship for Young Men. It was terrific presentations for me. I was able to share some essential information about my college experience so far. I spoke about the diversity of CCNY, the challenges I am facing as a freshman, and the

excellent academic reputation of this institution. I received many questions from these students. Some of the questions were as follow: What are some of the important requirements to get to college? How organized is CCNY? How active are CCNY students in athletic, clubs and other extra activities? After my presentation, most of the students considered CCNY as one their choices. The administrators, staffs and faculty were all pleased.

Submitted by Lassana Sheriff

I was invited by one of my teachers from my high school volunteer to speak to students for their "Human Relations Day" at Lynbrook High School in Long Island on the 20th of November 2008. My presentation was about my immigration to the United States and my life in Guinea. The students were really sweet and they loved it. The students were so shocked to hear about what is happening around the world. And they learned a lot of things about Africa. I told them that Africa is a poor continent; however, we don't sleep in trees. I brought that up because I once had someone come up to me asking if we have beds in Africa. I was really nervous talking to hundreds of students but after the first period class, I was not anymore because it was my first time volunteering to talk to students. The presentation was fabulous and amazing. Everyone there was pleased and they even asked me to volunteer next time. I could say that we all had a great time.

Submitted by Fatoumata Bah

Asian Cultural Club

The Asian Cultural Club will be holding weekly screenings of popular Asian films every Thursday from 12:00-2:00 in NAC 4/222 starting Thursday, November 20th. Other cultural activities such as Chinese New Year and the yearly Japanese cherry blossom festival in the spring have also been planned. Those interested can contact either Professor

Asian Cultural Club, cont.

Ya-chen Chen (the faculty advisor), Nari Bowie (president) or Stephen Lanuto (vice-president) through the Asian Studies program.

The Asian Language Club is staffed with Shari Mohammed (president), Michael Oshinaya (vice president), Justin Reid (treasurer), David Liu (secretary), and numerous club members. Its faculty advisor is Professor Ya-chen Chen. The club holds meetings at NAC 5/126 from 12 noon to 2 pm every Thursday. Its activities include: (1) teaching and tutoring of Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese, Korean, and other Asian languages (2) watching language learning videos (3) coordination and plans for various outings (eg. Sakura Matsuri, Korean Film Society) (4) invitations for guest speakers to share their successful learning experience (5) sharing information about scholarships and study-abroad programs from other universities and programs.

Asian Studies Program News

Asian Studies Program is pleased to declare that we successfully doubled the total number of majors, double majors, and minors in the past two months. From the semester of Fall 2009 on, Korean studies will be added to the course lists and the program's inclusion of the major East Asian countries will be complete. Experts with successful experience in producing TV episodes and movies from the CUNY TV Channel will come to teach classes or give speeches about Asian films, TV programs, animé, *manga*/cartoon, video/computer games, and popular culture.

SPANÍAS

The Spanish club SPANÍAS, under the leadership of **Adela González**, is focusing this semester on cultural activities. So far, the club has sponsored the showing of the film *Plaza de diamantes* and a documentary on

Arturo Pérez Reverte. The club also participated in the opening of a painting exhibition the theme of which was Latin America at La Pregunta café. SPANÍAS has also helped publicize departmental conferences and activities.

La Rioja Study Abroad Program

Our study abroad program, CCNY-U of La Rioja, now will qualify for financial aid and federal loans. Last summer, Prof. Dulce García, the program's director, took 58 CUNY students to la Rioja where they stayed for a month. Two of those students, **Meenakumarie Gupta**, and **RJ Santander-Malabanan**, were awarded a full-year scholarship to study in the University of La Rioja. They are both studying in Spain now and will return in June, 2009. The week of the presidential elections, they appeared in La Rioja paper on a full-page article on them and their views on current American politics.

For more information about the:

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

<http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/prospective/humanities/foreignlang/>