

# NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2011

## Faculty Notes

**Adjunct Lecturer Kianny Antigua-Padilla** is expecting a beautiful baby. Congratulations Kianny!

**Distinguished Lecturer Carmen Boullosa's** latest novel, *Las paredes hablan*, published in December 2010 by Editorial Siruela, Madrid, was launched in Mexico City on March 8, 2011, with presentations by writers Juan Villoro and Nicolás Alvarado, and actors Héctor Bonilla and María Aura. Her novel *El complot de los románticos* (winner of the Café Gijón Prize) was brought out in a Mexican edition by the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, at Monterrey México, March 2011. Recent essays include: "Nervo, Ruelas y Agustini: Triángulo Funambulesco," *Revista de la Universidad at Mexico* (January 2011), on the poets Amado Nervo and Delmira Agustini and the artist Ruelas; "¿Hombre o mujer?," *Revista Nexos* (Issue 400, April, 2011); and the bimonthly pieces published in the Mexican newspaper *El Universal*. Boullosa's 2011 lectures to date include: "A Woman Photographer: La página negra de Gabriela Bautista," Casa de España, March 5, Mexico City; "On the Importance of Literature," at *La Experiencia Intelectual de Las Mujeres en El Siglo XXI*, Palacio de Bellas Artes, March 7th, Mexico City; "Cuerpos extraordinarios," *18th Deutscher Hispanistentag* (German Hispanists Association), Passau University, April 26, Germany; a Conversation with Leonardo Padura at the Bildner Center's International

Cuba Symposium: "Cuba Futures: Past and Present" (March 31). Lectures and readings forthcoming this spring include: a reading with Paco Ignacio Taibo II and Ignacio Padilla at Sala Nezahualcóyotl, UNAM, Mexico City (April 14); participation on a panel "How to Start a Revolution (in the Library): Authors Defect from Corporate Publishing" at the PEN Festival (World Voices), New York (April 27); a talk on her novel "La virgen y el violín" (new edition from Random House Mexico, 2010) at the opening of the new Los Angeles Bookfair, an extension of FIL of Guadalajara Mexico (April 29); a presentation at the León Guanajuato bookfair, León, Mexico (May 21); a lecture on "The Novel Today," at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, México (May 25). She has been chosen as one of the three jurors to award the Premio Internacional de Novela Rómulo Gallegos, and will attend the presentation in Caracas in May. As co-host of CUNY TV's Nueva York (for which on April 3 she was awarded a New York Emmy), she has aired interviews in recent months with Mario Vargas Llosa, Juan Flores, Natalia Toledo (forthcoming: Patricio Guzmán, Marta Lamas, and Leonardo Padura). Boullosa was a Chief Advisor to the museum exhibition *Nueva York 1613-1945*, a collaboration of the New-York Historical Society and the Museo del Barrio, which ran through January 2011; and contributed an essay, "Notes on Writing in Spanish in New York," to the catalog. Among the 2011 reviews and

essays about Boullosa's work are: María Teresa Priego, "Las Paredes Hablan de Carmen Boullosa," *El Universal* (January 8); "México a través de Carmen Boullosa," *Cervantes Virtual* (January 21); and Javier Alejo, "Recorre Carmen Boullosa dos siglos de historia," *Milenio* (April 2). At the 18th *Deutscher Hispanistentag*, the largest conference of Hispanists in the German-speaking world, Cornelia Ruhe lectured on "La otra mano de Lepanto: Después de la batalla. Cervantes, Carmen Boullosa y el cuerpo nacional" (March 26). Samantha Schnee contributed a profile on Boullosa to the internet magazine *She Writes* (<http://www.shewrites.com/profiles/blogs/crossing-the-border-meet>).

**Professor Silvia Burunat** is teaching "Therapeutic Literature" this spring term, a course she created and designed. It is based on the reading of short stories and novels that have been written by well-known authors with a therapeutic purpose after the death of a loved one or while suffering a debilitating disease. The students are writing their memoirs as well with the same intended purpose. Burunat, with the help of her colleague **Professor Ángel Estévez**, has also designed a special topics course entitled "Literature of Travels and Travelers." This panoramic undergraduate course proposes to deal with this type of literary genre from its beginnings in Antiquity until the 21st Century, including excerpts from the diaries and accounts of Spanish conquistadores in the 15th, 16th, and 17th Centuries.

**Professor Laura Callahan** will present a paper entitled "Workplace communication in Spanish and English: A case study of mitigation in email requests from two supervisors to a subordinate" at the RISLUS Research Forum, CUNY Graduate Center, on May 23, 2011. She is currently completing work on an article entitled

"Requests for money on public transportation: Saving face for speaker and hearers." She has written a review of the book *Negotiating Solidarity: A Social-Linguistic Approach to Job Interviews*, Caroline Lipovsky, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, for the *Linguist List*.

**Professor Devid Paolini** has published an article: "El Libro de buen amor y el amor descortés." *Actas del XVI Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas: Nuevos caminos del hispanismo...* (París, del 9 al 13 de julio de 2007). Coords. Pierre Civil y Françoise Crémoux. 2010. Vol. 2 ([CD-ROM]), sin p.; and a Bibliographical Supplement: "Celestina: Documento bibliográfico (suplemento número 32)," *Celestinesca* 34 (2010): 217-41. He has recently been elected Member of the Editorial Board of *Celestinesca*, a scholarly journal dedicated to the Spanish masterpiece *Celestina*.

On March 24, **Adjunct Lecturer of Spanish Lena Retamoso**, read her poetry work in what was called: "Peruvian Poetry Night-A Bilingual Event in Spanish and English." She read together with another Peruvian poet and professor of Spanish and Hispanic Literature, Carlos Villacorta. Her poems were translated to English by James J. Shay III. This reading took place in the Geneva Room, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. On April 9, she presented a paper entitled: "Repensando la metáfora en el género lírico" at the 16th Annual Graduate Students Conference held by the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages.

**Professor Carlos Riobó's** book, *Subversions of the Archive: Manuel Puig's and Severo Sarduy's Alternative Identities*, was published in January 2011 by Bucknell University Press. It was presented at the

“New Books on Cuba” exhibit at CUNY’s Graduate Center on March 31 and it was reviewed by Professor Raúl Rubio. He also organized, moderated, and served as discussant on three panels in the Bildner Center’s “A Changing Cuba” conference, from March 31-April 2, 2011: “Havana as Nexus: Privileged Literary and Architectural Sites,” “Urban Spaces,” and “Cultural Expressions in the New Cuban Society.” In early April, Professor Riobó gave an invited talk at Columbia University, “The Cuban National Library after 1959: Shaping Literary Culture and the Provincial Imperative,” on a panel moderated by Professor Gustavo Pérez Firmat.

**Professor Araceli Tinajero** published: “El modernismo y la conquista del lenguaje” in *A Contracorriente: A Journal on Social History and Literature in Latin America*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Winter 2011), 364-8. Her article on twentieth-first century Cuban fashion appeared in the *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion* (Oxford: Berg, 2010. Vol. 2, 285-90) and it was chosen as one of the 2011 winners of the Dartmouth Medal for outstanding reference. Tinajero is now the Book Review Editor of *Transmodernity: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World* [http://escholarship.org/uc/ssha\\_transmodernity](http://escholarship.org/uc/ssha_transmodernity). As a Senior Fellow at the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, Tinajero organized several panels of discussion on Cuba and was one of the key organizers of the world conference: “*Cuba Futures: Past and Present*” – The Graduate Center, March 31-April 2, 2011. In addition, Professor Tinajero co-directs the Mexico Study Group, which brings together scholars working on Mexico from across New York City and the surrounding areas. The program provides one of the few spaces in the New York area for Mexicanists to gather and discuss their research and related activities.

**Adjunct Lecturer Marcos Wasem** was invited last summer to give a lecture at the academic workshop “Utopias in Latin American *Fin de Siècle*,” organized by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, with the support of the Swedish Research Council, where he exposed about his current research in Latin American *Modernismo*. He has also read the paper “Erotic Utopia of Roberto de las Carreras” at the panel on 19th Century Latin American Literature in the 2011 MLA Convention in Los Angeles. In 2010, Marcos Wasem contributed a chapter to the last volume of the series *Literatura Argentina Siglo XX*, directed by David Viñas, on Argentinian neobaroque: “*Neobarrosos en contexto: genealogías y debates de una movida poética*.” In May 2011, he will take part in the first conference on Latin American Cybercultural Studies, to be held in Liverpool, with the support of the Adjunct Professional Development Fund.

## Students

**Congratulations MA students!** The following MA students passed the Comprehensive Exams (April 2011): Jennifer Basto, Teresa Díaz, Luis Henao, Zulema Luna, Denise Montero, Lissette Nuñez, Claudia Pimentel, and José Reyes. **Congratulations!**

### En las alas de un poema...

A few weeks ago **our student Miguel Ángel Agostini** traveled to Segovia, Spain, where he read one of his poems. Miguel’s poem entitled “Silencio” was chosen to be read at the event. Miguel was invited by the organizers of this poetry reading and received a small economic incentive for his participation. “Silencio” was included in an anthology where all poems read were

collected under the title *II Día Internacional de la poesía en Segovia 2011*. As Miguel recounts, this was an enriching experience which gave birth to many friendships and where he had the opportunity to talk to fellow poets and taste a great variety of wines, cheese and *jamón serrano*. ¡Bravo, Miguel! (Professor Ángel Estévez)

**MA student, Rubén Sánchez Félix**, received the Literary Prize LETRAS DE ULTRAMAR for his manuscript “Los muertos no sueñan” (a novel). LETRAS DE ULTRAMAR is a prize established in 2005 to promote the literature written by Dominicans who do not reside in their native country. The recipients receive US\$5,000 dollars, their work is published by Editora Nacional, and they are invited as special guests to the XIV Feria Internacional del Libro Santo Domingo (International Book Fair).

## Clubs

To celebrate the month of the Francophony, Lumières the French Cultural Center held a show in the late afternoon of March 29, 2011 entitled “*Aimé Césaire Rencontre Boris Vian*.” It took place at the Graduate Student Lounge that was kindly lent to us by the Graduate Student Council. The show emphasized the diversity of the French and Francophone cultures. The room was unreal; it was completely transformed by colorful curtains and interspersed lighting recreating the ambiance of a St-Germain Paris’ bar in the Fifties. A quartet of jazz musicians led by Laurence Goldman, accompanied the lovely French cabaret singer Floanne, it continuously played pieces from a repertoire that ranged from Boris Vian to Charles Aznavour. A series of francophone poems by Camara Laye, Rene Philombe and Aimé

Césaire & Boris Vian were then respectively recited by CCNY students/members of Lumières: Steffi St-Pierre, Kondé Khadidia, Nancie Adolphe, Liseberth Condé, Camilla Hawkins, Shanna Jean-Baptiste and Melinda Kovács. The poetry performance was followed by two Boris Vian’ sketches: “*Sans Titre*” and *Un Parisien à Nouillorque*.” They were performed by the acting troupe of the Lumières Caravan. It was a full house and the audience just loved it! After the show the members of the audience joined the cast and socialized around an authentic French buffet tasting cheeses and marvelous dessert for the remainder of the evening. What Lumières created was a unique and genuine show that revealed different facets of the French and Francophone cultures. Indeed the audience was able to experience the music, the literature, the comedy, the food and *cocasserie* that give the French culture its beauty.

Remarks by Shanna Jean-Baptiste & Melinda Kovács, Lumières members.

Lumières, an on and off-campus center focusing on Arts and Literature was created in the Spring of 2002 by its director Nelly St-Maurice, with a generous grant from The Florence Gould Foundation. It is opened to anyone interested in French and Francophone cultures. Its aim is to foster a sense of community among people whose native language is French and to create opportunities for college students, staff, alumni and community to practice their French! Lumières offers weekly workshops, creates new works and produces French and Francophone cultural events open to the entire community. It features guest artists, poetry readings, concerts, and theatrical performances.

We would like to encourage other students to join us for weekly movie projections & workshops/ateliers that focus

on language acquisition through interdisciplinary creation. The workshops are held on Tuesdays from 12-2 pm and 5-7 pm in the NAC building, room 6/201. The Theatre troupe meets in the same room on Fridays from 6 -9PM. Auditions for the

theatre are held regularly. For more info stop by our office in NAC 6/359 or write to

[lumieres@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:lumieres@ccny.cuny.edu)..

[www.ccny.cuny.edu/lumieres](http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/lumieres).



*Photo by James Naval*

“The show was truly spectacular and I was inspired by the various performances that ranged from song, dance, slap-stick comedy, to poetry” (Steven Kleekpo).

“My experience at the show performed by Lumières was breathtaking. The actors as well as the poets were amazing. The performances were flowing very nicely. The plays were very funny because of the themes and the performance of the actors. The poems were very touching by the way they were delivered to the audience. The singer was great. Her voice was unique and the songs were well chosen. I had an awesome time and I hope that Lumières will have more shows because I will not hesitate to attend them” (Maguy Diallo)

**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/>**

