

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

Faculty Notes

One of our recent graduates, and now Adjunct Professor, Kianny Antigua-Padilla has been awarded one of the prestigious CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Doctoral 2010 Fellowships. The City University of New York Dominican Studies Institute at the City College is the only university-based research unit in the United States devoted exclusively to the gathering, dissemination, and production of knowledge on Dominicans and their culture and society. For a whole year, Kianny will be conducting extensive paleographical reading of sixteenth-century archival documents in Spanish relating to the colonial history of La Española (Santo Domingo). She will be working under the guidance of Historian Anthony Stevens-Acevedo, identifying the overall contents, chronology, and types of data contained in the documents assigned, and writing a descriptive report or inventory of such documents. ¡Enhorabuena!

Professor Maxime Blanchard won the Tony and Amy James Fellowship which allowed

him to spend the month of August 2009 writing at the Vermont Studio Center, the largest artists' residence in the United States. Blanchard's article titled "Le Québec Libre," will soon appear in *French Forum*.

Professor Silvia Burunat has been invited to present three model classes at Belén Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, Florida, on Friday, November 13 of the present year. The subject was "Literature of Memoirs," at the Advanced Placement and Honors level Spanish program at that institution. The topic dealt with magic realism in cultural aspects applied to travel anecdotes. They are part of her unpublished 300 page manuscript, *Fantasías reales (en tiempo presente y en cinco continentes)* which will be released in the Spring of 2010.

Professor Laura Callahan wrote two book reviews for The LINGUIST List: *Actos de habla y cortesía en español*, María E. Placencia and Diana Bravo, eds., 2009, Munich: LINCOM Europa; and *Second*

Language Identities, David Block, 2009, London: Continuum. She used a PSC-CUNY grant to conduct research over the summer on her project entitled “Speaking with (dis)respect: The pejorative use of Spanish by non-Latinos.” Also during the summer, she was interviewed by CNN reporter Inés Ferré on the differences between and consequences of using the terms undocumented worker, illegal immigrant, and illegal alien.

Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez has published a modernized and annotated edition of the poetry by two 17th century women from Perú, Clarinda, *Discurso en loor de la poesía*, and Amarilis, *Epístola a Belardo*, in the collection *El Manantial Oculto*, Lima: PUCP, 2009, 260 pp. Introduction, pp. 13-82. She has contributed the following book chapters: “Cruel Criollos in *First New Chronicle and Good Government*,” in *Creole Subjects in the Colonial Americas Empires, Texts, Identities*, Ed. Ralph Bauer and José Antonio Mazzotti. Chapel Hill: Published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, by the University of North Carolina Press, 2009, pp. 118-34; and “El carácter de las coyas en *Primer nueva crónica y buen gobierno*,” in

Testigo del tiempo, memoria del universo. Cultura escrita y sociedad en el mundo ibérico (siglos XV-XVIII), Ed. M. Fernández, Carlos A. González y N. Maillard. Barcelona: Rubeo, 2009, pp. 468-84, and is the academic editor of *Review 79*, dedicated to the Inca Garcilaso and his literary legacy. Chang-Rodríguez co-organized the symposium on “Inca Garcilaso and his *Royal Commentaries: A Rereading for the 21st Century*,” which took place at the Graduate Center, CUNY, and the Americas Society, October 15-16. At the Universidad Menéndez Pelayo (27-31 July 2009) she participated in a course on Peruvian Literature and lectured on *Royal Commentaries*. On November 19, 2009 Chang-Rodríguez delivered an invited lecture at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C., on “Framing the Writer: Inca Garcilaso’s Career.”

Professor Devid Paolini has been invited by the Department of Italian Philology at Complutense University (Madrid, Spain) to talk about “Un genio del Renacimiento: Niccolò Machiavelli y su contribución a la modernidad.” He published one article: “Los *Milagros de Nuestra Señora* y el arte de la memoria.” *Incipit*, XXVIII (2008): 13-25; and he has two forthcoming articles: “Los

antecedentes bucólicos de las *Coplas de Mingo Revulgo*.” *La corónica* 38.1 (Fall 2009); and “El gesto obsceno ‘dar las higas’ en *Celestina*.” *Celestinesca* 33 (2009).

Professor Carlos Riobó presented “Inventions of Identity, Symbolic Economy, and Cultural Consumption” at the Latin American Studies Association’s (LASA) conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 2009. In November, he helped to coordinate speaking engagements for and the presentations of Dr. Eduardo Torres Cuevas, the director of the national library of Cuba (Biblioteca Nacional José Martí), at various cultural institutions in New York, among them the Graduate Center and CUNY’s Dominican Studies Institute at CCNY.

On September 18, 2009 **Professor Elizabeth Starčević** gave a talk to the San Miguel de Allende (Mexico) Chapter of PEN. The topic was: “Teaching Older Learners.” An exhibit of her weavings, Hecho en Bellas Artes, opened that evening in the Centro Cultural El Nigromante, Bellas Artes in San Miguel.

Professor Mary Ruth Strzeszewski presented a poster on “Teaching Metaphoric Structure Through Ramón Gómez de la

Serna’s *Greguerías*” at the 2009 American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Albuquerque, July 9-12.

Professor Vanessa K. Valdés’s article, “The Voice of Oxum: *Mulher no Espelho* (1983),” was published in the Fall 2009 issue of *PALARA*, the *Publication of the Afro-Latin Research Association*. Her book review of Julio Ortega’s *The Art of Reading: Stories and Poems* appears in the Fall 2009 issue of *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*. She is currently organizing an interdisciplinary conference, *Let Spirit Speak! Cultural Journeys through the African Diaspora*, which will take place April 22-24, 2010, in Shepherd Hall here at City College. The deadline for abstract submission is December 15, 2009; more information may be found at:

www.ccny.cuny.edu/culturaljourneys

The German Club

With great pleasure and excitement the latest language table was introduced to the Foreign Language program in September 2009: until further notice, the German table meets every

The German Club, cont.

other Thursday starting at 4pm in the department's conference room. Enthusiastic students of German as well as German speaking exchange students and faculty have already enjoyed hours of meaningful and not so meaningful conversation about modern life and culture, in particular regarding food, language, and popular culture. Everyone who is interested in German speaking cultures as well as the German language itself is welcome to stop by, have some coffee and snacks, and just enjoy German in all its variety and forms. For further information or questions please feel free to contact Charlotte Fink at charlottefink@hotmail.com.

The Italian Club

The Italian Club at the City College of New York is pleased to announce that it has officially begun its activities this Fall 2009 semester. After numerous false starts over the years, this semester's determined students (with the help of an equally determined faculty coordinator) have succeeded in launching the club. The executive branch of the club is comprised of four members and the faculty coordinator: Jeraldine Pérez, president and founder; Eva M. Koumtog,

vice-president; José Chacón, treasurer; Katherine Verano, secretary; Prof. Devid Paolini, faculty coordinator. This semester, the CCNY Italian Club has held four meetings and participated in one community service program. For its first meeting, held on October 22nd, the club's leaders gave a general presentation of the organization and informed prospective members about registration (through OrgSync) and attendance. To end this first meeting, various Italian delicacies were served by the executive staff. On November 5th, the CCNY Italian Club held its second meeting. The topic of this meeting was the CUNY Exchange Program in Italy. Professor Joe Grosso (from Queens College) and guests from the Calandra Italian-American Institute talked about various opportunities for studying and living in Italy. City College students gave accounts of their experiences abroad. Jeraldine Pérez, José Chacón and Janill Márquez have each gone on a CUNY Study Abroad program in Italy for a month or more. The third meeting took place on November 12th. The club showed the first half of the 2003 Award winning film by Ferzan Ozpetek *La Finestra di Fronte*. The CCNY Italian Club held its fourth and last meeting on November 19th. The second half

The Italian Club, cont.

of *La Finestra di Fronte* was presented. In the evening of that same day, several members of the club got together for a friendly meal at very good pizzeria downtown. The venue is called 28 Carmine Street and it resides at the address of the same name, close to Washington Square. Members of the club also participated in City College's annual event called Harlemween, which took place on October 29th. Harlemween is organized by the school's Student Government and sponsored by the Community Premier Plus. Students disguised as various monsters guide children from the neighborhood through the frighteningly redecorated first floor of the NAC building. For more information and suggestions for the CCNY Italian club, you can contact us at: Email – italianatccny@gmail.com; Facebook.com - Italian at CCNY Group (become a member and receive updates on cultural Italian news and events in New York City); OrgSync.com- Italian Club (register to be a part of the CCNY Italian Club).

The Portuguese Club

Professor Regina Castro-McGowan, Lecturer of Portuguese, is very proud to announce the creation of City College's first

Portuguese club, by the Department's current and former Portuguese language students. The purpose of the club is to promote the cultures of the various Portuguese speaking countries as well as the language. Special thanks go to Gina Tedesco for her initiative, enthusiasm and persistence in seeing the club become official. This is the list of the club's administrators: Gina Tedesco, President; Patrick Borba, Vice President; Hector Plaza, Treasurer; and Nathalia Narciso, Secretary. For further information and the list of events for the fall semester please email portugueseclubccny@gmail.com or check the club's Facebook: "The Portuguese club @ CCNY."

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>