

Faculty Notes

Professor Carole Berger has received a PSC-CUNY Research Grant for 2005–2006 to examine some of the socio-cultural factors that influence the learning/ language acquisition process of ESL students at the College. She also received a scholarship grant from the Women's Leadership Exchange to fund five female students to attend a Women's Leadership Conference held in New York earlier in November.

Professor Carmen Boulosa contributed to the book "Madres hijas"—fictions—(Editorial Nexos, México, 2005) and published the article "Raza mexicana" (*Este País*, November, 2005). She has published a regular column since September in the journal *Siete días* and since October in *Revista*. She recently gave the following lectures: "El Quijote en mi infancia," September 29, King Juan Carlos Center, NYU, in the series "Found in La Mancha: Other Readings of Don Quixote"; "My private Quixotes," November 5, ALSC conference; and "Las mujeres de 'El Quijote,'" December 2, FIL (Book Fair) Guadalajara. She also conducted a dialogue with the Chilean writer Jorge Edwards, July 21, Casa del Risco, San Angel, Mexico. She was co-host of the program "Nueva York," produced by Jerry Carlson, and conducted television interviews of Elena Poniatowska, Néstor García Canclini, Jorge

News Brief

by **Juan Carlos Mercado, Chairperson**

Here we are again! Another year coming to an end...but this has been a special year because of the record number of students in every single language. My sincere congratulations to all of you for your support and involvement in teaching, research, advising, participation in lectures and conferences, and in making our Department a better place.

Special Events and Lectures

This semester we have been able to continue organizing several events and lectures, with very little funding I might add. All these events have been extremely successful, and we are planning a new series of events and lectures for next semester. The most important upcoming event we are organizing is the Undergraduate Alumni Conference in Foreign Languages and Literatures on May 4 and 5, 2006. We plan to bring back to City College approximately 25 alumni; I have already received confirmation from many distinguished alumni including Donald Bleznick, Seymour Menton, and Francine Massiello. Stay tuned! I would like to thank Prof. Lerner for helping me bring this conference together.

Highlights of Courses and Programs

The number of courses is increasing across the board; we introduced new elective courses as well as Special Topics in Languages and Literatures in the Less Taught Languages through the Humanities P&B Curriculum Committee.

The Department now serves around 1,500 students, more students than last semester. Even though the College has lost some students compared to Fall 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 and ready for the outside evaluation for Fall 2006. I would also like to inform you that in the next two years the College has to begin work on the document for the Middle States evaluation. Prof. Lynn Appelbaum is chairing the Middle State Committee; she is going to work with all chairs in order to fulfill the requirements for this evaluation. Soon I will be asking for your help on this subject matter.

Summary

Do not forget December 15, our Annual Luncheon; we will hopefully have live entertainment in addition to our usual festivities. My appreciation to Prof. Sourian and to Mrs. Wentworth for putting together this event.

This is a great time at City College; we are going to continue growing and producing scholarly works, teaching and projecting our Department beyond our borders. It is a pleasure to work with all of you and be a part of this great team.

All our achievements have been the result of working together; this includes each 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. Phyllis and Rosa have worked very hard so thanks are in order.

Professor Gladys Feijoo and Professor Annie Koshi are retiring this year. We wish them all the best!

Finally, as you all already know, our dear Rosa is having health problems; all our best for a speedy recovery. ■

Faculty Notes, continued

Volpi, Eugenia León, Laura Restrepo, among others, for television. In the summer and fall, Professor Boullosa also gave numerous readings related to her new novel, *La otra mano de Lepanto*, including at F.C.E.'s bookstore in Querétaro and Guadalajara; Bellas Artes, Sala Manuel M. Ponce, Mexico City, with Juan Villoro, Jorge Volpi, and Denise Dresser; Feria del Libro de Pachuca, México; Casa de la Cultura, San Luis Potosí, UNAM, Pueg, México City; Feria del Libro de Monterrey; Lectorum bookstore, New York, and MALBA, Buenos Aires.

Professor Laura Callahan presented a paper titled "Written Codeswitching in Formal Registers" at the Coloquio SIS 2005: Lengua, pedagogía y poder: la enseñanza del español y el español en la enseñanza, 7 October 2005 at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She presented a paper 23 October 2005 titled "English or Spanish?! Language Accommodation in Urban Service Encounters" at the NWA V (New Ways of Analyzing Variation) 34: Lects and the City conference, held at NYU. She will present a paper titled "Written

Spanish/English Codeswitching: Artificial or Authentic?" on 28 December 2005 at the MLA convention in Washington, D.C.

In the spring and summer of 2005 articles by **Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez** appeared in the following publications: on "Santa Rosa de Lima (y de Puerto Rico)," in *Foro*, the literary magazine of *El Nuevo Día* (San Juan de Puerto Rico) in 5 May 2005, and on "Género y jerarquía en *La Florida del Inca*," in *Identidades. Reflexión, Arte y Cultura Peruana*, the cultural supplement of *El Peruano*, 4, 90 (8 August 2005):3–5. She presented several invited lectures: "El cronista peruano Guaman Poma de Ayala," University of Eötvös Loránd, Budapest, Hungary, 12 May 2005; and "Cruzando culturas y traspasando territorios en *La Florida del Inca*," Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, Spain, 23 May 2005. In addition, Chang-Rodríguez participated through a video lecture, "Casos cubanos en *La Florida del Inca*," in the symposium honoring Inca Garcilaso de la Vega sponsored by the University of San Marcos and the Diplomatic Academy, both of Lima, Peru, in 28 and 29 April 2005.

René P. Garay, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the City College and Graduate Center, co-authored three articles resulting from research done with the generous support of the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Lisbon, Portugal): "An Iberian Bestiary: The Medieval Imaginary in New World Literature" in *Monographic Review* (with Professor Irma Velez, Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres and Institut d'Etudes Politiques—Paris); "O Corpo como Metáfora no *Auto da Visitação* de Gil Vicente" in *Ave Azul* (with Professor Maria José Palla, Universidade Nova de Lisboa); "Epifanía y Poema en Prosa"

in *Forma Breve* (with Raúl Romero, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY). He also published, in *Ave Azul*, a translation into Portuguese of a Spanish sonnet written by Luis de Camões—"el vaso reluciente y cristalino"—suggesting its influence on one of the earliest poets of the Dominican Republic: Eugenio Salazar de Alarcón. Garay is especially pleased that Regina Chaudhry, who teaches Portuguese at CCNY, has published work done in a Portuguese seminar previously taught at the Graduate Center: *Fernando Pessoa and Contemporary Portuguese Poetry*.

Professor Jianguo Ji is expecting the publication of his recent research paper in the *Journal of Chinese Language Teaching and Research*, 2005, Vol. 4. The paper is titled, "Grammar Misuse and Transcultural Consciousness—A Fundamental Issue in Teaching Chinese to American Learners." He had a research article published earlier this year in the *American Review of Chinese Studies*, 2005, Vol.6, No.1. The article was titled, "The Myth around the 'China Threat' Hypothesis." During the summer of 2005, he went to Beijing, China to attend the "First World Conference on the Teaching of Chinese," presenting his invited research paper, "Linguistic Structures & Transcultural Sensitivity—Curriculum Development for Instructed Language Acquisition for American Learners of the Chinese Language." He attended another international conference on the teaching of Chinese earlier this year, held at Brooklyn College in New York City, at which he presented his paper, "Incorporating Chinese Culture into Chinese Language Instruction: Academic Necessity and Pedagogical Feasibility." He was granted a CUNY New Faculty Development Award for conducting a research

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

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

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series. The seminar series, titled China's Multiethnic Cultural Customs, is to be offered at City College of New York in the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006. He just returned from California State University at Fullerton, where he presented his research findings at an international conference, held in late October, on Sustainable Development in China: Social Science Perspectives. His presentation was an analysis titled, "Contrasting Attitudes toward Japan's Past Behavior: A Challenge to Smooth Development of Japan-China and Japan-Asia Cooperation."

Professor Jennifer Roberts served as visiting faculty in a week-long

institute sponsored by the Wyoming Council for the Humanities, "Democracy in Greece and After: From Athens to America," June 19–24, giving a public lecture titled "Gender and Citizenship: The Greeks and Us" and offering a series of seminars to secondary school teachers, junior college faculty, and other interested parties. On October 28, Professor Roberts gave a talk at Yale University titled "Growing Pains: Generational Conflict and Democratic Citizenship in Plato's 'Gorgias.'"

Professor Araceli Tinajero published a chapter in *The Latin American Fashion Reader* (Oxford: Berg, 2005) titled "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). In March 18, 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. ■

Student Notes

Judith Castillo and **Efraín Cárdenas** have been awarded Mellon Scholarships, effective Summer 2005.

In October, M.A. Program student **Ximena Mieles** performed in a Spanish-language production of Jean Paul Sartre's *No Exit* in the role of Estela. Mrs. Mieles explains, "This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the birth of Jean Paul Sartre. Theatre companies around world have been

staging his most well known plays in celebration of this occasion. Actors of the World, a New York-based theatre company, recently performed his most famous play: *No Exit*. This play explores human relationships by examining three characters, one man and two women, that meet in Hell. Trapped by themselves, little by little they discover that Hell only exists when in the company of others." The Spanish language performance,

which was held in the 78th Street Theater Lab, also included current CUNY student Marco Aponte in the role of García. Mr. Aponte and Mrs. Mieles have acted in several plays together, some of which have been performed at the Martin E. Segal theatre located at the CUNY Graduate Center. "It is true joy to know that there are such talented people within the CUNY community," Mrs. Mieles says. ■