J.V. Ricapito Honored

Thanks to a generous donation from a friend of the Department who wishes to remain anonymous, this year we began what we hope will become an annual tradition. Known variously as the “Homecoming Lecture” or the “Distinguished Alumni Lecture,” it involves inviting a UCLA PhD who has risen to eminence in the profession to return to campus for a couple of days, renew ties with the Department, and present a formal lecture.

The program, which showcases the Department’s history and contribution to Hispanic studies in the United States, was inaugurated by Professor Joseph V. Ricapito of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Professor Ricapito was born in Giovinazzo (Bari), Italy, in 1933. He grew up in New York and graduated from Brooklyn College in 1955. After earning the MA at Iowa State University he began doctoral work at UCLA in 1956. His career was interrupted by a two-year stint in the Army, after which he returned to UCLA and completed the PhD in 1966. His field of specialization was Golden Age Spanish literature, under Professors Ernest Hall Templin and Joseph H. Silverman, with a minor in Renaissance Italian literature under Charles V. Speroni. His dissertation, directed by Professor Silverman, was published as Bibliografía razonada y anotada de las obras maestras de la novela picaresca española (1980).

While technically still a UCLA graduate student he was appointed Assistant Professor at Pomona College. In 1970 he moved to Indiana University (Bloomington), where he advanced through the professional ranks. In 1980 he accepted a position at LSU, where he has been ever since. He has served as department Chair (1980-85), and since 1994 he has been Director of the program in Comparative Literature. He was named Joseph Yenni Memorial Distinguished Professor of Italian Studies in 1999. He is Honorary Associate Member, Hispanic Society of America (1996), Caballero de la Orden de la Cruz de Isabel la Católica (1989), and Cavaliere dell’Ordine al merito della Repubblica Italiana (1988).

A tireless scholar, Professor Ricapito is the author or editor of eleven books and fifty scholarly articles, plus some thirty reviews and a book of original poetry. He has concentrated on the picaresque and the presence of Erasmus in Spanish Golden Age literature, with critical editions of Lazarillo de Tormes (1976) and Alfonso de Váldes’ Diálogo de Mercurio y Carón (1993). Recently he has come forward as a cervantista, with two books on the Novelas ejemplares (1996 and 1997). In between he has written on the Italian novellieri and the picaresque, on Mateo Aleman’s Guzmán de Alfarache, on La Celestina and on Unamuno. He is an active participant in professional conferences and is frequently an invited lecturer at universities here and in Europe and Latin America.

His lecture at UCLA, notable for the erudition he brought to bear, explored the possible ramifications of Cervantes’ battle wounds on a series of episodes in Don Quijote. Also important was his presence among us at dinner the night before, where he entertained and instructed us with anecdotes of the Department as he knew it in the late 1950’s and early 60’s, his professors, his fellow graduate students and where they are now. His remarks revealed a departmental history, a tradition of excellence, and a cumulative contribution to Hispanic Studies around the country that constituted a revelation for younger faculty and relatively recent appointments.

Professor Ricapito has always identified with UCLA. The Distinguished Alumni event provided a splendid opportunity for him to reconnect with the Department as it is now, and for the members to gain a sense of its continuity and its eminence through the years. Professor Ricapito made us all proud to be at UCLA.

USPA Reestablished

On Friday May 18, 2001 the Undergraduate Spanish and Portuguese Association (USPA) presented a job fair for students majoring or minoring in our department. Approximately 50 students were in attendance for the fair, which was held in the Department’s Lydeen Reading Room. There were four employers present at the job fair: US Social Security, The Salvadoran-American Leadership and Educational Fund, Askjeeves.com, and UCLA On-Campus Housing. The job fair began with each employer making a brief presentation regarding his or her particular agency, what they do, and what kinds of positions are available for students graduating with a major or minor from our department. This was followed by an open session in which the students were able to talk to all of the employers individually. The representation of such varied fields as non-profit work, government, and private industry demonstrated to the students just how diverse the job market can be for them.

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Recent Events

On November 3, Dr. Joseph V. Ricapito, from the University of Louisiana, presented the Distinguished Alumnus Lecture titled, “Cervantes, Lepanto and the Concept of Pain and Wounding.” Please see the article on Page 1.

December 1: The Department celebrated the publication of Carroll Johnson’s book, *Cervantes and the Material World* (University of Illinois, 2000). Speakers included Professor Bruce Burningham from USC, and Professor Anne Cruz from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

February 9: José Pascual Buxó, visiting professor during Winter 2001 from UNAM, spoke on “Ut pictura poesis: los sonetos al Calvario de Juan de Palafoux y Mendoza.”


February 14: The Maurice Amado Committee on Sephardic Studies hosted a lecture in the Spanish and Portuguese Department by Professor Angel Sáenz-Badillos of the Department of Hebrew and Aramaic Studies, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, titled “Continuity and Innovation in Sephardic Traditions.”

February 27: Spanish writer Francisco Chica spoke on “Vanguardia, compromiso y exito mexicano en Emilio Prados.”

March 7: Visiting Professor Roy C. Boland from La Trobe University, Australia, delivered a lecture titled “Mitos, leyendas, y cultura popular de El Salvador.”

March 9: The Department’s Latin American Studies Committee hosted a round table on research projects, academic interests and the philosophy of teaching. Professors Adriana Bergero, Héctor Calderón, Verónica Cortínez, Guillermo Hernández, Randal Johnson, Efraín Kristal, Gerardo Luzuriaga, Elizabeth Marchant, Claudia Parodi, and John Skirius participated alongside graduate students from the Department.

On Friday, April 6, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Melnitz Movies screened Guél Arraes’ very popular film, *Anto da Compadezida*, based on the play by Ariano Suassuna.

On Friday, April 20, the Department again joined with Melnitz Movies to screen *The Art of Amália*, a documentary about the career of Portuguese fado singer, Amália Rodrigues. The film’s director, Bruno de Almeida, was present to introduce and discuss the film. On the afternoon of that same day, Professor Ana Paula Ferreira, from the University of California, Irvine, spoke on “Feminine Reels of Empire: Maria Archer’s *Angola Filmes*.”

May 10 and 12: Carmen Boulosa, celebrated Mexican writer and winner of the Xavier Villarrutia literary prize visited the UCLA campus for two days to give a lecture titled “Traición y lealtad: la novela y la historia” and to read from her recent novel *Leaving Tabasco*.

May 23: José Miguel Oviedo from the University of Pennsylvania presented “Historia literaria, crítica y ensayo.”

May 25: Helena Buescu, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Lisbon visited the campus to give a lecture titled “Forms of Landscape in Romantic Fiction.”

June 1: The Department celebrated the publication of Verónica Cortínez’s *Cine a la chilena: Las peripeyas de Sergio Castillo* (Santiago: RIL Editores, 2001). Guest speakers included Jorge Ruffinelli of Stanford and Roberto Díaz of USC. Professor Díaz served as a visiting professor in the Department during the Spring quarter.

June 8 and 9: The Department was a major co-sponsor of the two-day conference *Folklore on the Borders: The Legacy of Américo Paredes*. Participants from the Department included Guillermo Hernández, Héctor Calderón and Shirley Arora.

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**2001 Lois B. Mathews Lecture**

Roberto González Echevárria of Yale University, was the guest speaker for the 2001 Lois B. Mathews Lecture, which was held on June 8. He spoke on “The Two Endings of *La vida es sueño*.”

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**José Roberto Torero at UCLA**

In the Winter quarter, 2001, the Department hosted writer José Roberto Torero under the auspices of the Brazilian Ministry of Culture’s Writer-in-Residence Program. A well-known novelist and screenwriter, Torero is the author of *O Chaloça* (1994), *Terra Papagalli* (1996; with M.A. Pimenta), *Xadrez, truque e outras guerras* (1998), and *Os Vermes* (2000; with M.A. Pimenta). He has written or co-authored numerous screenplays, including those of Sandra Wernneck’s *Pequeno Dicionário Amoroso* and the Oscar-nominated short, *Uma História de Futebol* by Paulo Machline. He has also directed numerous short films, including “Nunc et semper,” “A Felicidade É,” and “A Alma do Negócio.” During his stay at UCLA, he screened his films and discussed his own work as well as questions related to cinematic adaptations of literary works and writing for television. An interview with Torero will appear in this year’s issue of the Department’s graduate student journal, *Mester*.

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**USPA (continued from page 1)**

The job fair is just one of many events that have been organized by the newly reestablished USPA this year. Earlier in the year they organized workshops on graduate school and the application process in which they enlisted the help of graduate students in our department. For the end of the year they have been organizing two events. The first is a “Presentación Artística” in which all students from our department are invited to present any original work such as poetry, short stories, essays, or songs. In addition, students are invited to read from selections that they have studied in their classes. The centerpiece of the presentation will be the performance of a one act play by Osvaldo Dragón, “Historia del hombre que se convirtió en perro.” Under the supervision of Professor Gerardo Luzuriaga, this play will be performed at the “Presentación Artística” and at the Undergraduate Pre-Commencement Celebration which will be held on June 16th in Schoenberg Quad.
Shirley Arora recently published "Hear and Tell: Children and the Llorona" in Contemporary Legend 3 (2000), and "Paremología hispanoamericana: un campo en peligro de extinción?" Paremia (Madrid), No. 9 (2000). She also worked with a team of 14 paremologists, of which she was the only non-European, on the collaborative work 1001 refranes españoles con su correspondencia en ocho lenguas (alemán, árabe, francés, inglés, italiano, polaco, provenzal y ruso), ed. Julia Sevilla Muñoz and Jesús Cantera Ortiz de Urbina (Madrid: Eunsa, 2000). She was solely responsible for providing Spanish American variants for the Panamanian Spanish entries, and assisting the Spanish scholar who was in charge of the English entries. In addition, an interview with Professor Arora, "Shirley L. Arora y la paremología hispanoamericana," was published by Julia Sevilla Muñoz in Paremia 9 (2000).

Verónica Cortez recently published two books, Cine a la chilena: las peripeyas de Sergio Castillo (Santiago: RIL Editores, 2001) and Memoria original de Bernal Díaz del Castillo (Mexico: Oak Editorial, Colección Iberoamericana Colonial, 2000). In addition, she served as editor for the book Albricia: La novela chilena del fin de siglo (Santiago: Editorial Cuarto Propio, 2000). In October, she gave the paper "Chile y Cuba: el caso del cineasta Sergio Castillo" at the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University. The following month, she spoke on "The Originality of Bernal Díaz del Castillo" at the Symposium on Colonial Literature at Boston College. In January, she presented the paper "Poemas inéditas de Jorge Teillier" at the Congreso Internacional de Poesía Hispánica at the Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Chile. She also received a research grant from DAAD (Federal Republic of Germany) to work in Goettingen on her project on Chilean cinema.

Carroll B. Johnson delivered the Bernardin/Haskell Lecture at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, on October 19. He spoke on "Cervantes and the Material World." The following day he spoke to students and faculty on "Aristócratas y gitanos, hombres y mujeres en La Gitanilla." During his visit to Kansas City he had an opportunity to renew ties with Prof. Rafael Espejo-Saavedra, who received his PhD from this department in 1976 and is now Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures at UMKC. Professor Johnson also spoke on Cervantes and the material world at a UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Faculty Round Table on October 18. He gave an invited paper on the same topic at a session organized by the division on 16th- and 17th-century Spanish Poetry and Prose at the MLA in Washington D.C., where he also presided for the last time at the meeting of the Cervantes Society of America. On April 5 he spoke to the interdisciplinary group in Early Modern Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on "Cervantes and Hybridity in the Mediterranean." The following day he gave a lecture at the Centro Cervantes in Chicago on "Fathers, Sons and Patriarchs in Cervantes" La llutre frigona."

Randal Johnson was the invited lecturer for the Third Graduate Student Conference on Lusophone History, Literature and Culture at the University of California, Santa Barbara, held on April 18, 2001. The title of his lecture was "Destination Portugal: On the Road with Wenders, Salles and Oliveira." On May 19, he spoke on "Television and the Transformation of the Star System in Brazil" as part of a conference on "Stars beyond the Hollywood Firmament," sponsored by the Humanities Research Centre at the University of Warwick (United Kingdom). He published numerous entries on Brazilian culture in the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Latin American Cultural Studies (Routledge, 2000). This summer he will be directing the Department's Travel Study Program in Salvador, Bahia.

During the Fall quarter 2000, when he was on sabbatical leave, C. Brian Morris spent the month of October in Spain. After undertaking fieldwork in Catalonia, he attended an international congress on Surrealisme i Literatura, held at the Universitat de Lleida, where he gave a paper entitled "La losa surrealistas de Rafael Alberti." He then went to Santander, where he gave two illustrated lectures, one on "Orca entre la muchedumbre de Nueva York" at the Biblioteca Menéndez Pelayo, and the other on "El cine cómico y las catástrofes internas" of Rafael Alberti" at the Universidad de Cantabria. He returned to Spain in November to take part in the Seminario Internacional entitled "Teatro y Cine: La búsqueda de nuevos lenguajes expresivos", which, held in Jaén from November 27 to December 1, was organized by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the Fundación Federico García Lorca, and the Universidad de Jaén. He gave a lecture entitled "Los Quintero ante los cambios y mudanzas de su época." He has recently published: "Bécquer y Alberti, dos ángeles de carne y hueso," El Gnomo, no. 8 (1999); "Su relación con el cine cómico," in Rafael Alberti, a monographic issue of Cuadernos del Sur/Diario Córdoba, October 26, 2000; "La pantalla cinematográfica como espejo en Cerviada, Lorca y Alberti," Boletín de la Fundación Federico García Lorca, no. 26 (2000); "Antonio Machado’s Geography of Inspiration," in Jesús Torrecilla (ed.), La Generación del 98 frente al nuevo fin de siglo (Amsterdam-Atlanta: Rodopi, 2000); "El clarosuro narrativo del Romancero gitano," in Andrés Soría Olmedo, Maria José Sánchez Montes, Juan Varo Zafra (eds.), Federico García Lorca, clásico moderno (1898-1998). Congreso Internacional (Granada: Diputación de Granada, 2000); Lorca entre la muchedumbre de Nueva York (Santander: Biblioteca Menéndez Pelayo, Conferencias y Discursos, 2000). Under the title El surrealismo en España, 1920-1936 (2000), Espasa-Calpe (Madrid) published a translation of his Surrealism and Spain, 1920-1936 (1972); the translation was preceded by a "Nota del autor a la versión española."

Susan Plann published the article "Patricia García" in Sign Language Studies 1:2 (Winter 2001). During the Winter and Spring quarters, her students tutored in adult literacy programs run by the Centro Latino de Educación Popular and Villa Esperanza, both located in the Pico Union area of Los Angeles. She was also awarded a $10,000 Course Development grant from the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture to create a class (to be offered through Chicano/a Studies) that will pair UCLA students of Spanish with high school ESL students.

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Susan Schaffer and Randal Johnson headed an intercampus group that has received just under $58,000 from the University of California's Center for Teaching Learning and Technology (TLIC) to develop an Electronic Language Materials Archive that will house on-line language resources being developed in Spanish and French at UCLA, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz. This project grew largely out of Dr. Schaffer's experience developing web-based materials for Spanish 4.

Sylvia Sherno gave a lecture in March at Washington and Lee University entitled “Gloria Fuertes: Poetry/(Anti-)poetry.” In April, she gave a paper at the BRICHA conference entitled “Rereading Stories, Rewriting Saints: Ana Rossetti's Una mano de santos.”

Graduate Student News

For the second year in a row, a TA from the Department received a Distinguished Teaching Award. This year Caryl Lee Benner was singled out for her commitment and contributions to our Lower Division program.

The Graduate Division has awarded Dissertation Year Fellowships to Caryl Lee Benner and Kent L. Dickson. Catherine Fountain and Benito Gomez have received Research Mentorship Fellowships for 2001-02. Damian Bacich, Brent James, and Alessandra Santos have been awarded Summer Research Mentorship Fellowships for the Summer of 2001. The fellowship will allow them to work in close collaboration with a faculty member on a research article or conference presentation.

Damian Bacich was awarded a departmental Del Amo Fellowship for 2001-02. He has also been offered a fellowship from the Luso-American Development Foundation in Lisbon. Carlos Fernandez has received a Friends of Spanish and Portuguese Research Fellowship, and Josefina Cignale, Lizy Moromisato, Fernando Oleas, and Olivia Treviño have been awarded Ben and Rue Pine Travel Fellowships. This summer Cignale, Moromisato and Oleas will participate in the Mexican Colonial Archive Project that the Department has recently developed in collaboration with Professor José Pascual Buxó of UNAM.

Alumni News

Tim Hagerty and Mary Parham, both PhD. 1979, have published If Di Pin Neva Ben: Folklores and Legends of Belize (Belize: Cubola Press, 2000). Drs. Hagerty and Parham are professors of Spanish at the University of St. Thomas and the University of Houston, respectively.