Message from the Chair  Randal Johnson

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese is well known for its excellence in teaching and research. In 1999-2000 that excellence was once again recognized in three prestigious university awards garnered by faculty and students.

In Spring 2000 two members of the Department received UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award. Professor Efraín Kristal, who holds joint appointments in Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of Comparative Literature, teaches a wide variety of courses, ranging from general education courses on Dante and Shakespeare to advanced graduate seminars. He has developed a strong and faithful following among both graduate and undergraduate students in both departments. Besides his outstanding teaching in the university classroom, what made Professor Kristal an exemplary candidate for the Distinguished Teaching Award is his deep concern with transmitting his impressive knowledge to the broader community as well as to UCLA students and colleagues. Professor Kristal has taught courses on Latin American literature for high school teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District, given literature classes at a mid-town adult school, and delivered pre-performance lectures for the Los Angeles Opera. The objective of the LAUSD course was to help high school teachers who may be interested in including Latin American literary themes in their courses.

Our other teaching award winner was Ms. Sandra Pérez-Linggi, who received a Teaching Assistant award. During her graduate career Ms. Pérez-Linggi taught all levels of our lower division program in Spanish language courses. In the Fall quarter, 1999, she taught a special section of Spanish 1 that was designed as a model class for new TAs to learn how to use the direct method as well as other strategies to become effective teachers. She also served as a TA for Spanish 120D, Hispanic Literatures in the United States. In addition, she served the Department as Teaching Assistant Coordinator and as Technology Teaching Assistant Consultant (TechTAC). In the latter capacity, she received special training in the use of technology in the classroom and developed and taught a course for graduate students (Spanish 490) on "Using Technology in the Foreign Language Classroom." Ms. Pérez-Linggi, who currently holds a position at Cal State Fullerton, is a model teacher and university citizen.

Finally, Dante Camargo, who graduated in June 2000 with majors in Spanish and Linguistics, History, and European Studies, and minors in Hebrew/Jewish Studies and Latin American Studies, received a College of Letters and Science Undergraduate Award for 1999-2000. Our congratulations to all three of our awardees!

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Mexican Literature and Culture for the Millennium

On May 11 and 12, 2000, the Department sponsored a conference on “Mexican Literature and Culture for the Millennium” to celebrate different facets of contemporary Mexican culture.

The first panel, which dealt with music, photography, and dance, featured Daniel Catán, John Mraz, José Moreno de Alba, and Gloria Contreras. In the second session, Carlos Monsiváis and Margo Glantz spoke on “La formación del canon literario mexicano en la segunda mitad del siglo veinte” and “¿Se universaliza la literatura mexicana?”, respectively. Addressing the issue of Border Culture and Mexican Identity were Esteban Barragán and Martha Chávez Torres (both of El Colegio de Michoacán), Estela Davis, Guillermo Hernández and Claudia Parodi. Recent Mexican writers were discussed by Michael Schuessler, Eloy Urroz, Rosa Beltrán, and Jorge Volpi, themselves accomplished young writers. Carlos Bonfil, David Maciel, and Richard “Sonny” Espinosa all lectured on Mexican cinema. In the final session, Shifra Golan, Gregorio Luke, and Judy Baer spoke on contemporary Mexican and Chicano art. The event concluded on Friday evening with a reception with Mariachi music.

1999-2000 Mathews Lecture

Professor Gonzalo Sobejano, from Columbia University, was the guest speaker for the 1999-2000 Matthews Lecture. Because of unexpected weather conditions, Professor Sobejano’s visit in May had to be rescheduled for October 13. He spoke on "El mundo de la prosa y la prosa del mundo: de Cervantes a Galdós." Professor Sobejano is one of the best known and most respected scholars in the areas of Golden Age and modern Spanish literature. He has published numerous influential books and articles on topics ranging from Quevedo and Lope de Vega, to Galdós and Clarín, Ortega y Gasset, García Lorca, Martín Gaite, and post-Franco Spanish novelists.

Summer 2000 Study Abroad

Last summer the Department initiated a six-week travel study program in Brazil. Twenty students from the UC system, Dickinson College, and Columbia University studied Portuguese language and Afro-Brazilian culture at ACBEU (Associação Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos) in Salvador. Each student had the opportunity to enjoy a Brazilian family homestay as well as excursions to Morro de São Paulo and Cachoeira. The culture course included guest lectures by Brazilian scholars and visits to museums and other cultural sites. The Summer 2000 program was directed by Professor Elizabeth Marchant. A joint program with the UCLA History Department gave students the opportunity to travel the historic roads from St. James the Apostle in Paris to the cathedral and shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. The group, directed by Professor John Dagenais of the Spanish and Portuguese Department and Professor Teófilo Ruiz of the History Department, then followed the Portuguese pilgrimage road down to Lisbon.

The 2000 Summer Program in Granada, Spain, was directed by Professors Jesús Torrecilla and Enrique Rodríguez-Cepeda. With the help of TA’s Cristina Moon and Olivia Treviño, they were in charge of 74 students. The program started with a three-day visit to Madrid, followed by three weeks of intensive learning in Granada, and a visit to Barcelona.

Professor Gerardo Luzuriaga directed the one-month summer program in the delightful colonial town of Puebla, Mexico. During their month stay, the students enjoyed the religious and civic architecture of the centro histórico, and excursions to the archaeological sites of Cholula and Teotihuacán, as well as trips to Oaxaca, Veracruz, and the beaches.
Faculty News


Verónica Cortínez published "Historia o literatura?: El curioso caso de Bernal," in Estudios Coloniales I, ed. Julio Retamal Ávila (Santiago: Ediciones Universidad Andrés Bello, 2000). "Los territorios imaginarios de un novelista chileno," an interview with Roberto Castillo, appeared in Mester XXIX (2000). In June, she presented "Macondo versus Macondo: Teoría de la aldea global" at the XXXIII Congreso del Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana in Salamanca, Spain. In July she gave a lecture titled "Del exilio al retorno: El largo viaje de un cineasta chileno" at the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen, Germany. That same month she spoke on "Construcción de la historia literaria chilena" as part of the Tufts University Exchange Program at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago.

John Dagenais was Visiting Professor of Romance Studies at Duke University during Spring Quarter 2000. In February, he was a plenary speaker at a University of Chicago symposium on "Crafting History for the Present: Uses of the Past in the Middle Ages." In June he participated in a symposium on "The Future of the Page" at the University of Saskatchewan. During the spring he also lectured at the University of Virginia and at Georgetown University. He has received a $20,000 grant from the GTE Foundation to develop digital materials relating to the medieval pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Together with his colleague in History, Teo Ruiz, he led a group of students along the French, Spanish and Portuguese roads to Santiago de Compostela in a travel-study course this past summer.

Carroll B. Johnson's Cervantes and the Material World was published in May by the University of Illinois Press. The book is a new take on Don Quijote and the Novelas ejemplares, focusing on the presence of the material world and suggesting how phenomena such as commerce and the ownership of the means of production impinge on and determine the characters' character and their possibilities for action.

Randal Johnson's "The Brazilian Film Industry" appeared in The International Movie Industry (Southern Illinois University Press, 2000), and "Departing from Central Station: Notes on the Reemergence of Brazilian Cinema" was included in the inaugural issue of the Brazilian e-Journal (a publication of the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C.). He has given the following lectures or papers: "Devouring the Western Tradition: Cannibalism as Metaphor in Brazilian Literature," conference on "The Internationalism of National Literatures," UCLA, 11 March 2000; "The Chanchada Legacy: Lessons for the 1990s," XXII Annual Congress, Latin American Studies Association, 16-18 March, Miami; "Os Matadores and the Reemergence of Brazilian Cinema," University of Arizona, 18 April; "Cinema in Brazil," Ohio State University, 27 April; "Current Trends in Latin American Film Scholarship," 50th International Congress of Americanists, Warsaw, Poland, 11 July 2000. On 28 March he participated in a debate on the image of Brazil in foreign cinemas as part of the film series O Olhar Estrangeiro, sponsored by the Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil in Rio de Janeiro. In April he participated in a radio discussion of the 500th anniversary of the Portuguese arrival in Brazil on the Global Village Program, KPFW 90.7 FM (Los Angeles), and in May he introduced a discussion of Beto Brant's film Os Matadores, at UC Irvine.

Recent Events

On January 27th, Brazilian filmmaker Carlos Diegues visited the Department for an informal discussion with faculty and students of his most recent film, Orfeu (1999), which was screened as part of the UCLA Film and Television Archive's annual Latin American Film Festival.

March 2: Fernão Pessoa Ramos, from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, and a visiting scholar during Winter 2000, presented a lecture entitled, "A questão do popular como elemento central na cultura brasileira: o caso do cinema."

March 13: Ana Luiza Andrade, Professor at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil, and a Visiting Professor in Winter quarter, delivered a lecture titled "Machado e o Olhar."

March 14: Félix Martínez-Bonati spoke on "El Postmodernismo de Ortega y Gasset: Una conversación informal sobre teoría literaria y la situación intelectual."

March 16: "El Teatro de Federico García Lorca entre la tradición y la vanguardia," a lecture by María Francisca Vilches de Frutos, Investigadora Científica, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid.

April 13: Magdalena Coll of UC Berkeley spoke on "Estudio de Manuscritos Novohispanos: Un texto femenino del siglo XVII."

April 15-16: The XXIII Symposium on Portuguese Traditions attracted more than forty speakers from Portugal, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and across the United States. The XXIV Symposium will be held on April 20-21, 2001.

May 11 and 12: Conference on Mexican Culture for the Millennium. Please see related article, page 2.

June 2: Saúl Yurkiévich, Professor at the University of Paris and Visiting Professor in Spring 2000, gave a bilingual poetry reading in the Lydean Reading Room.

September 29: The Department celebrated the publication of Elizabeth Marchant's book, Critical Acts: Latin American Women and Cultural Criticism. Speakers included Professor Silvia Bermúdez from UCSB, and Professor Francine Masiello from UC Berkeley.


October 23: David Frier, from the University of Leeds spoke on "Saramago's The Gospel According to Jesus Christ: Outline of a Newer Testament." During the spring quarter, 2000, Dr. Frier was a Visiting Professor of Portuguese.

November 3: Thanks to a generous gift from a friend of the Department, Professor Joseph V. Ricapito delivered the 2000 Distinguished Alumnus Lecture, speaking on "Cervantes, Lepanto, and the Concept of Pain and Wounding." Professor Ricapito, who received his Ph.D. at UCLA in 1966, is an eminent scholar of the Spanish Golden Age. Among his many publications are Bibliografía razonada y anotada de las obras maestras de la picaresca española (1980) and Cervantes's Novelas ejemplares: Between History and Creativity (1996). He currently teaches at Louisiana State University.

November 4: The Department was a major co-sponsor of the day-long program, "Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: A Muse for the Americas," organized by UCLA Extension. Professor Efrain Kristal gave the event's opening lecture.

On November 9, 2000, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese co-sponsored a discussion, with David M. Gitlitz and Linda Kay Davidson, of their award-winning A Drizzle of Honey: The Lives and Recipes of Spain's Secret Jews.

Degrees

Fall '99
MA Julia Fernández Zuriñe Lekuona
C.Phil Álvaro Molina
Yun Sook Kim
Sandra Pérez-Lingga

Winter '00
MA Jon Chang
C.Phil Kent Dickson
Nataly Tcherepashenets

Spring '00
MA Gabriel Barrenechea
Damian Bacich
Catherine Fountain
C.Phil Alejandro Lee Chan
Ana Beatriz Figueira
Michael Hammer

Summer '00
C.Phil Michael Sinisgalli

Fall '00
Ph.D. Mehl Penrose
American Literature 60 (Spring, 1999). He then published two articles on Borges: "Borges en el Collège de France," which appeared in Taller de Letras 27 (1999); and "Borges y la traducción," Lexis XXIII, no.1, (1999). Finally, he published the article "La historia imperial de España en el Orlando Furioso y La Araucana," in Dulce et decorum est philologiam colere: Festschrift für Dietrich Briesemeister, ed. Sybille Grosse and Axel Schoenberger (Berlin: Domus Editoria Europea, 1999).

Elizabeth Marchant published "Nationalism, Race, and Naturalism in Aluisio Azevedo’s O mulato” in the September 2000 issue of Hispánia.

At very short notice, on May 19 Professor C. Brian Morris stepped in for Gonzalo Sobejano, who was to give the Lois B. Matthews Lecture (see related item on page 2). Professor Morris delivered an illustrated lecture entitled “Fire in the Flint: García Lorca in Harlem.” On May 26, he gave a brown bag talk on “A Knee in the Water: Island Poetry.” He has also recently published “Rafael Alberti” in the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Spanish Culture, ed. Eamonn Rodgers (London: Routledge, 1999); “The Cryptic Telegrams of Alberti’s ‘Yo eran un tonto y lo que he visto me ha hecho dos tontos’,” Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos, 24 (1999); “El fuego en el pedernal: García Lorca en Harlem,” in America en un poeta. Los viajes de Federico García Lorca al nuevo mundo y las repercusiones de su obra en la literatura americana, ed. Andrew A. Anderson (Seville: Universidad Internacional de Andalucía/ Fundación Focus-Abengoa, 1999); “El ‘tonto llorado del cielo’: El espejo esperpéntico de Rafael Alberti,” in LUDUS, ed. Gabriele Morelli (Valencia: Pre-Textos, 2000).

Claudia Parodi attended two conferences at Ohio State University. At the first, on semantics, she presented the paper "Negative Polarity Items in Spanish" (with M. Luján); at the second, on Hispanic Linguistics, she read "Aspect in Spanish Psych Verbs" (also with M. Luján). She also participated in the conference on Mexico (UCLA) with the paper "La difusión del español en México y en América Latina." She gave the paper "Palafox y Mendieta: visiones del indio" at the Congreso Internacional Juan de Mendoza in Mexico City.

Susan Plann presented a paper titled “Martín y Martín Ruiz, a 19th Century Deaf Blind Spaniard” at the meeting of Deaf History International IV, which was held in Washington, D.C. in June.


Student News

Kent Dickson and Dr. Verónica Cortínez were awarded departmental Del Amo Reseach Fellowships for 2000-2001.

Ben and Rue Pine Travel Awards were given to Nataley Tcherepashenets, Sun Yook Kim and José Rosbel López.

A generous gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous allowed the Department to offer “Friends of Spanish and Portuguese” research travel fellowships to Ana Beatriz Figueroa, Olivia Treviño, and Dr. Sylvia Sherno.

In spring 2000, Damian Bacich received a Fredi Chiappelli Travel Grant from the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies to do research in Spain on the Castilian translations of León Hebreo’s "Dialoghi d’amore". The research was carried out during the month of September, 2000.

Michael Hammer was awarded a Lenart Travel Fellowship in support of his research in Spain.

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Faculty, Student, and Alumni News continued from page 5

On October 28 Alejandro Lee-Chan participated at the AATSP Conference, Southern California Chapter, at Pasadena Community College, where he presented "Usos del Internet en la enseñanza del español".

Cristina Moon participated in the AATSP meeting in October, presenting "El Ciber World como elemento de investigación en las composiciones de primer y segundo año de español".

Alumni News

Hugo Isidro Kottler, Ed.D. (UCLA C.Phil. in Spanish, 1974) recently presented a paper at the III Jornada de Educación a Distancia Mercosur/Sul 1999 at the Universidad de Los Lagos, Osorno, Chile, entitled “Superando los Obstáculos a la Educación a Distancia Multina-}

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