Message from the Chair  Randal Johnson

This will be the final newsletter published during my tenure as Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. I have been appointed Director of the University of California’s Education Abroad Program in Brazil, starting January 1, 2002. I am very pleased to announce that Professor Gerardo Luzuriaga has been named my successor.

It has been an honor to serve the Department during the past five years, and I step down with very mixed feelings. We have accomplished a lot, yet there is always much to do. Without going into too much detail, I would like to review some of the positive achievements of the past few years. First, we have added two new faculty members, Jesus Torrecilla (1997) and Elizabeth Marchant (1998), both of whom have since received tenure. We have congratulated the Department’s first two faculty Distinguished Teaching Award winners—Verónica Cortez (1997) and Efraín Kristal (1999)—and we have continued such awards for graduate teaching assistants, with winners Sandra Pérez-Linggi (1999) and Carol Lee-Benner (2000). Three of our undergraduates—Virginia Dicono, Argelia Andrade, and Dante Camargo—have received prestigious Charles E. and Sue K. Young Undergraduate Awards from the College of Letters and Science.

Academically, we have revised our undergraduate major programs and have implemented our new graduate program requirements. We have established new summer Travel Study Programs in Brazil, Mexico, and along the road to Santiago de Compostela in France and Spain. We have hosted major academic conferences on Chicano literature and culture (1997), the Spanish Generation of ‘98 (1998), and Mexican culture (2000), and we have welcomed such distinguished novelists as Juan Goytisolo, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Ivan Angelo to UCLA.

We have provided new levels of very efficient staff support, and we all know that without that support our jobs would be much more difficult. Through generous gifts from friends of the Department, we have substantially increased the amount of research funding available to graduate students and faculty, and we guaranteed the future stability of the departmental library and reading room. In this regard I would particularly like to thank Ben and Rue Pine and Lorraine Lydeen for their support. I would also like to thank the anonymous donors who provided funding for remodeling the library, for the creation of the Distinguished Alumni Dinner and Lecture, and for additional research support. Many thanks as well to all of the alumni and friends of the Department who have generously supported our endeavors.

With the selection of Professor Gerardo Luzuriaga as Chair, the Department will be in very good hands. Professor Luzuriaga has been at UCLA since 1969, and he has ample experience in many different areas of the University. A specialist on Latin American theater, he is the author of such books as Del realismo al expresionismo: El teatro de Aguilera Malta, Popular Theater for Social Change in Latin America, and Introducción a las teorías latinoamericanas del teatro. I offer my congratulations and my support to him as he assumes his new responsibilities. Até breve.
Grant Awards Received

Teaching, Learning, and Technology Collaborative Grant

Randal Johnson and Susan Schaffer were awarded $57,860 by the University of California’s Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLtC) to begin building and populating an Electronic Language Materials Archive (ELMA). This project includes the collaboration of M. Victoria González-Pagani from UCSC’s Language Program, Robert Blake from UCS’s Department of Spanish and Classics, Tim McGovern from UCSB’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Kim Jansma from UCLA’s Department of French and Francophone Studies and Elizabeth Guthrie from UC’s Department of French and Italian. The TLtC grants review committee stated that ELMA “will be a tremendous resource for language teachers across the system with broadly usable material and in a form that is expandable.” ELMA will be featured as an exemplary project in the TLtC Webzine in November 2001. To read more about the project, go to http://www.ucltmc.org/news/2001/12(feature_3.htm.

Instructional Improvement Programs Grant for Intermediate Spanish

Randal Johnson and Susan Schaffer received $10,250 from UCLA’s Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs, as well as matching funds from Dean Pauline Yu, to continue to develop and implement web-based grammar instruction and self-tests for Intermediate Spanish. Eric Thau is serving as 2001-2002 Graduate Research Assistant to help design online self-tests and video-based grammar modules. The digital modules feature clips from Univisión programming.

Learning Grant

Professors Adriana Bergero, Héctor Calderón, Gerardo Luzuriaga, Elizabeth Marchant, Claudia Parodi, Susan Plann, Carlos Quicoli, and Sylvia Sherno have received a Faculty Affinity Group Grant of $8,000 from the Ford Foundation to explore ways to incorporate service learning and experiential learning in their classes.

Summer 2001 Study Abroad

The Summer 2001 Brazil Travel Study Program in Salvador, Bahia, was directed by Professor Randal Johnson. Twenty-one students participated in the program. In Salvador they took an intensive Portuguese language course as well as a course on Brazilian culture featuring speakers addressing such areas as art, music, history, politics, Candomblé, grass-roots community organizations, comparative race relations, carnival, cuisine, and dance. Students took trips to Cachoeira, Morro de São Paulo, and Praia do Forte.

A joint program between Spanish and Portuguese and 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. Professor John Dagenais directed this year’s program.

The 2001 Summer Program in Granada, Spain, was directed by Professors Enrique Rodríguez-Cepeda and Guillermo Hernández, who were assisted by TAs Gabriel Barreneche, Pilar Asensio, and Fernando Oleas. The program started with a three-day visit to Madrid, followed by three weeks of intensive study in Granada and a visit to Barcelona.

Professor Claudia Parodi directed the 2001 summer program in the colonial town of Puebla, Mexico. Twenty-five UC students took several classes, including basic language, Spanish conversation, Mexican culture, dancing and cooking. They visited many museums and archeological sites near Puebla. In addition to studying, the students did some traveling. During their three-day trip to Oaxaca, they visited Monte Albán, Mitla, and chocolate, tequila, pottery, and rug (sarape) factories.
Faculty News

In July 2001 Shirley Arora attended the 13th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research held at the University of Melbourne, Australia. She presented the paper, “Proverbs, Narratives, and Communication: Some Contemporary Observations from Spanish-speaking Tradition,” and chaired a session on folk narrative.

Adriana Bergero participated in the 2001 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Convention in Washington, DC, where she presented the paper “La cultura del reassurance: la fiesta menemista y Buenos Aires viceversa.” At LASA she also participated in the first meeting of the LASA Southern Cone Studies. She was invited to be a member of the Editorial Board of Theorie und Kritik der Kultur und Literatur/Theoría y Crítica de la Cultura y de la Literatura, Ibero-Amerikanisches Forschungsseminar, Institut für Romanistik, Universität Leipzig.

Verónica Cortinez is spending her fall quarter sabbatical at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, with a grant from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. There she is doing research for her new project on the last four decades of Chilean cinema with Professor Manfred Engelbert. Thanks to a Ben and Rue Pine Travel Fellowship, she has traveled to the film archives in Berlin, Hamburg, and Paris. Her article on “Isabel Allende” will appear in the revised edition of Latin American Writers, edited by Carlos Solé, to be published this December by Scribners. Her article “Poemas inéditos de Jorge Teillier” will be published by the Revista Hispánica Moderna.

Randal Johnson directed the department’s 2001 Travel Study Program in Salvador, Bahía. While in Salvador, he spoke on contemporary Brazilian cinema at the Faculdade de Tecnologia e Ciências. In August, he taught a four-day course on literature and cinema at Itaú Cultural in São Paulo. An essay resulting from the course will appear in a volume on literature and cinema published by the same institute. In November he participated in a conference on Latin American cinema at the University of Notre Dame, presenting a paper on “Versions and Visions of History: Cinematic Representations of the Armed Struggle in Brazil.” He has been appointed new director of the University of California’s Education Abroad Program in Brazil.

Professor Efrain Kristal presented the following lectures in 2001: “Borges als Übersetzer,” Dean’s Lecture, University of Göttingen, July 5, and at the Johan Wolfgang Goethe-University of Frankfurt, June 28; “Triumphs of Humility: Borges and Translation,” Chicago Public Library (in connection with the exhibition “Borges, the Time Machine,” for whose catalogue Professor Kristal wrote one of the essays, November 6; “La filosofía angloamericana y la teoría de la literatura,” Department of Philosophy, Universidad Católica de Lima, November 21; “La culpa no está en las estrellas. La responsabilidad moral en las novelas políticas de Mario Vargas Llosa,” conference on “Las guerras de este mundo,” Lima, November 22; “Santa Rosa de Lima en la obra de Ramón Mujica,” Miraflores City Hall, Lima, November 23. While in Lima, Professor Kristal also participated in a public dialogue with Mario Vargas Llosa about Conversation in the Cathedral (November 19) and was interviewed by several television stations and newspapers. During the fall quarter, he served as Acting Chair of UCLA’s Department of Comparative Literature.

Gerardo Luzuriaga’s article “La ‘tenorización’ de la política en el teatro festivo de la Revolución Mexicana” was published in Studies in Latin American Popular Culture 20 (2001). In July, he attended a four-day conference of the Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia held at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. He read a paper on “El teatro festivo político mexicano.” On October 25 he moderated a session on contemporary Central American prose fiction at a conference held at California State University, Northridge.

Elizabeth Marchant and her husband, Rafael Pérez-Torres, are the proud parents of Caetano Julián, who was born on September 16.


Claudia Parodi published “Contacto de dialectos y lenguas en el Nuevo Mundo: La vernacularización del español en América,” International Journal for the Soci-
Recent and Upcoming Events

April 21-22, 2001: Professor Randal Johnson was the Guest of Honor at the XXIV Symposium on Portuguese Traditions (Europe, America, Africa, Asia). Among the other guests were the Consul-General of Brazil, Dr. José Vicente Sá Pimentel, the Consul-General of Portugal, Dr. Augusto Saraiva Peixoto, and the Cultural Attaché of Portugal, Dr. José Martins Goulart.

June 2001: A group of undergraduate students staged Osvaldo Dragún’s La historia del hombre que se convir
tió en perro, with the assistance of Professor Gerardo Luzuriaga. The play was performed during the farewell reception of the Undergraduate Students Association of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and later during the Department’s pre-commencement celebration. Members of “Los Nuevos Comediantes” were Alex Montes, Diana Ramirez de Soto, Maurício Elwyn, Hiliana López, Ana Páez, Elmer Magaña, and Karol Deras.

October 23, 2001: The Salvadoran writer Horacio Castellanos Moya spoke on “Cultura Centroamericana luego de las guerras.” He is the author of numerous books, including, most recently, El arma en el hombre (2001).

October 24, 2001: Jaime Ginzburg of the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, spoke on “Intelectuals, Culture and Authoritarianism in Brazil.”

November 2, 2001: Brazilian novelist Márcio Souza spoke on “The Writer and the Amazon World.” Mr. Souza currently serves as President of Brazil’s National Foundation for the Arts (FUNARTE).

November 16: Professor Ivan Schulman (University of Illinois) returned to campus to deliver the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus Lecture, made possible by a generous donation from a Friend of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. His lecture was titled “Narrating Orientalism in Spanish American Modernism.” On the evening of November 15, at a dinner for faculty and guests, Professor Schulman offered a more personal view on “The Perils of Research.”

November 26, 2001: Dr. Heloísa Pontes of the Department of Antropologia, UNICAMP, presented “A geração de críticos da cultura brasileira: os intelectuais acadêmi-
cos da revista Clima.”

December 5, 2001: Visiting Professor David Frier, of the University of Leeds, lectured on “Others whose Immortal Deeds / Have Conquered Death’s Oblivion: Names, Knowledge and Power in Portuguese Literature from the Renaissance to Saramago.”

Portuguese Symposium Anniversary

April 20-21, 2002 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Symposium on Portuguese Traditions (Europe, America, Africa, Asia). The two-day event will take place at the Sunset Recreation Center, and participants are expected from Brazil and Portugal, as well as from many parts of the US and Canada. A supplementary theme will feature the 80th anniversary of the historic Semana de Arte Moderna (São Paulo, 1922-2002). Special Guests of Honor will be Ambassador Alberto da Costa e Silva from the Brazilian Academy of Letters, and Dr. José Blano, Administrator of the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon.

Conference on Central American Literature

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese will sponsor a conference on Central American literature on May 24 and 25, 2002. This will be the first such event at the University of California system. It is being organized by Professors Gerardo Luzuriaga and Adriana Bergero. A special feature of this conference will be the participation of several novelists and poets. Some of the writers who have been invited are Sergio Ramírez, Arturo Monterroso, Claribel Alegría, and Manlio Argueta.
ology of Language 149; “Avances recientes de la lingüística mexicana,” Encuentro Internacional de Lingüística de Noroeste, Sonora; “Coineización e historia: la sincronía, ventana de la diacronía,” Boletín de Filología, Chile; “Dogma y espectáculo en las comedias de santos: El Iris de Salamanca de Cayetano de Cabrera y Quintero,” La producción simbólica en la América Colonial, México. In October, Professor Parodi attended two conferences in Spain: “Encuentro de Directores de Departamentos de Español,” San Millán de la Cogolla, and “20º Congreso Internacional de la Lengua Española,” Spanish and the Media in the Modern World, Valladolid. The King of Spain and his family inaugurated the event in the presence of the presidents of Mexico, Argentina and Equatorial Guinea. In November, Professor Parodi was the keynote speaker at the Decimotercera Jornada Pedagógica para la Educación Bilingüe, held in Los Angeles. She spoke on “El español de Los Angeles y sus hablantes.”

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.


Sylvia Sherno participated in the Advanced Placement reading held in San Antonio in June. With the help of the Ben and Rue Pine Travel Fellowship and an ISOP travel grant, she also visited the Fundación Germán Sánchez Ruipérez in Salamanca, Spain, where she conducted research on Spanish writer Elena Fortún. Fortún was the author of Celia, the highly popular children’s book series published during the 1920s and 1930s. Dr. Sherno’s book, Weaving the World: The Poetry of Gloria Fuertes, was published in November by Romance Monographs, University of Mississippi.


Carlos Fernández is participating in the UCLA Paris Program in Critical Theory. This program provides advanced graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines a unique opportunity to familiarize themselves with cutting-edge French and European theoretical research by participating in a weekly seminar organized during the fall quarter in Paris by the Program’s founder and director, Northwestern Professor Samuel Weber. Fernández also received a summer mentorship grant this year.

Ana Beatriz Figueroa, Olivia Treviño, and Dr. Sylvia Sherno received Friends of Spanish and Portuguese Research Travel Fellowships.

Alejandro Lee-Chan, Eric Thau, and Michael Sinisgalli were selected by the Lower Division Supervisory Committee to receive the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese Outstanding Teaching Award.

José Rosbel López has accepted a tenure track position at California State University, Dominguez Hills.


Under the auspices of Ben and Rue Pine Travel Fellowships, Lizzy Moromisato, Damian Bacich, and Fernando Olaes accompanied Professor Claudia Parodi to the National Library in Mexico City to initiate the “Mexican Colonial Documents in Mexican Archives” project. The primary objective of the project is to reconstruct Latin American colonial literature considering the cultural environment that surrounded literary production at the time. This includes the study of “arcos triunfales,” “piras funebres,” “concursos literarios,” “sermones,” and so forth. In Mexico, students of UCLA Professor Emeritus José Pascual Buxó gave talks about their research projects.

The 2000-2001 Richard Reeve Essay Prize was awarded to Diana Ramírez de Soto for her paper, written in Spanish, on the Central American writer Omar Cabezas. The annual Richard Reeve prize is awarded to a student with a major or minor in one of the Department’s

(Continued on page 6)
News continued

undergraduate degree programs for the best academic paper written for a course in Spanish American literature. In the Spring, the Department created the José Rubia Barcia Essay Prize, for the best academic paper written for an undergraduate course in Spanish literature. It will be awarded for the first time in Spring 2002.

Alumni News

John M. Bennett (PhD 1970) has published a collaborative work of bilingual poetry, CHAC PROSTIBULARIO, Columbus, OH: Pavement Saw Press, 2001. The co-author is Ivan Arguelles.

Degrees

Fall '00
Ph.D. Mehl Penrose
M.A. Laura Cannon
        Martha Corona
        Andrea Crawford
        Suk Yong Yi-Kang
        Rachel Hanna

Marisol Pérez
Heather Riggs
Earl Smith
Stephanie Fidel
Sadie Nickleson

Winter '01
Ph.D. Cristina Mitrovici
C. Phil. Cristina Moon

José López-Morín

Spring '01
C. Phil. Olivia Treviño
M.A. Amy Rell
        Jason Rothman
        Manuel Linares

Yasmine Beale-Rosano
Alexandra Erlichman
Alessandra Santos

Summer '01
Ph.D. Helena Méndez-Medina
Sandra Pérez-Linggi

Fall '01
Ph.D. Soraya Alamdari
        Emanuelle Oliveira

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