MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the newest issue of the UCLA Department of Spanish & Portuguese newsletter. We are moving to a new format and schedule of publication. In the fall, the department will release a short "update" newsletter. A larger newsletter, encompassing the years events will be released in early summer. These changes are, in part, a response to our newly redesigned departmental website: spanport.ucla.edu. We hope that this website will take over many of the functions of our previous newsletter and become the first place you look for news of the department and upcoming activities. Please take a few moments to explore it and please also let us know if you have any suggestions for improving either the website or this newsletter.

I'll just take this opportunity to thank the staff, students, alumni, friends and faculty of the department for all their help and support over the past three years. Your contributions in so many areas have made this an enjoyable and exciting place to study and work.

Sincerely,
John Dagenais

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LAUNCH OF NEW DEPARTMENT WEBSITE
By Adriana Ruiz

This spring quarter marked the launch of the new Department of Spanish and Portuguese website at www.spanport.ucla.edu. Designed in collaboration with the Center for Digital Humanities, the new website is a pilot of an Internet-based Content Management System (CMS) that the entire UCLA Humanities Division eventually hopes to use. In addition to making content updates faster and easier, the CMS allows new features such as: a calendar that displays our busy event schedule, a comprehensive directory of the department that now includes faculty office hours and a page for each of our graduate and undergraduate student groups, and the ability to display articles on the main page highlighting the department’s most recent newsworthy events and accomplishments. Along with the launch of the new website, we also held a logo contest in hopes of adopting one of the entries as the permanent symbol for the department. The objective is to have a design that combines professionalism with a sense of the culture and history of the Spanish and Portuguese community. However, due to the dearth of submissions, no logo has been selected yet and the deadline has been extended. Anyone interested in participating in the logo contest can send their entry as an email attachment to Caleb Na at qg@humnet.ucla.edu. Any feedback on the new website can be directed to Adriana Ruiz at adriana@humnet.ucla.edu.

STUDENTS AWARDED 2007-2008 UCLA SUMMER RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

The Department would like to congratulate the following Summer Research Mentorship recipients and their mentors. The recipients of this fellowship are Argelia Andrade who will be working with Professors Claudia Parodi and Carlos Quijoli, Eli Carter who will be working with Professor Randal Johnson, Joanna Davila who will be working with Professor Adriana Bergero, Victoria Garrett who will also be working with Professor Adriana Bergero, Goretti Gonzalez who will be working with Professor Roberta Johnson, Erin Hogan who will also be working with Professor Roberta Johnson, Nadia Sanko who will be working with Professor Elizabeth Marchant, and Rachel VanWieren who will be working with Professor Veronica Cortinez.

HARRY AND YVONNE LENART TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO STUDENT

Manuel Guiterrez was awarded the prestigious Harry and Yvonne Lenart Travel Fellowship for 2007-2008. This award will allow him to conduct research in Mexico at the UNAM and the Biblioteca Nacional. He is primarily investigating literary magazines published in the early part of the twentieth century. Some of the magazines he will be investigating are Pegaso, Fatange, Ulises, Contemporaneos, Examen, Barandal, Tallo, Hijo Prodigio to name a few. He is chiefly interested in examining art criticism written by poets and

STUDENT SELECTED TO TEACH INNOVATIVE SEMINAR

Nadia Sanko was selected by the Office of Instructional Development to be part of the very competitive Collegium of University Teaching Fellows. As a CUTF she has the opportunity to teach her undergraduate seminar: Afro-Hispanic Literature & Popular Culture.

PROFESSOR ZUBIAURRE PROMOTED

The department would like to recognize Professor Maite Zubiaurre, whose promotion to Associate Professor with tenure was approved by the Univer-
MÁRIA AMPARRO ESCANDÓN: WRITER IN RESIDENCE
By Martiza Carranza de Fonseca

Maria Escandón began her writing career at age seven, while in her second year in elementary school. She remembers a day when she told her mother that a black and blue spot in her arm had resulted from a pinch her nana had given her. Her mother, understandably upset, fired the poor woman: Maria would later confess to have lied about the whole incident, revealing that her bruise was actually caused by a vaccine. Maria's grandmother told her: "You have too much imagination but if you try to fool people with what you say, you will cause harm with your lies. If all you want is to entertain, then what you say becomes a harmless story. Lies and stories are the same thing. The difference is in the intention. Either you want to lie or you want to entertain." Afterwards, Maria's grandmother gave her a notebook to write down her lies. And that is how it all began for our teacher who Newsweek and The New York Times, among other magazines, have named "Writer to watch."

According to Maria, writing is the result of a mix between experience and reference. For example, she says that some of the things that find their way into her fiction, she has either imagined or, sometimes, even purposely lived. Her advice for those who want to write creatively is the following: "a story teller must be an expert liar, who should have the ability to get characters in and out of trouble."

Maria has two writing theories. The first is that of "el molejete," which has three legs or "patitas," as she calls them. "If a leg is missing, the guacamole spills..."
WALSH AND HERNÁNDEZ WIN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Two undergraduates have been honored with a Service Award for their outstanding contributions to the Latino community. First place winner Brenda Walsh, a double major in Spanish and Comparative Literature who will graduate in fall 2007, received a prize of $300; runner-up Aida Hernández, a Spanish and Linguistics major who graduated this June, received $200. The award, which is sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Chicano Studies Research Center, goes to the graduating senior with the best record of service to the Latino community.

Although both Walsh and Hernández have worked at numerous sites and organizations, they agree that their most meaningful experience was with Listos!, an after-school program that teaches Spanish to African American children. Located at 42nd Street Elementary School in Leimert Park, the classes are sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships, and the community-based program ABRAZAR. Walsh has worked continuously as the Listos! lead teacher since fall 2006, and Hernández served as co-teacher in fall 2006 and spring 2007. Walsh, who grew up speaking both English and Spanish, calls her work with the program “one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life.” Hernández, who as a child herself learned English as a second language, notes her satisfaction at seeing her young students master Spanish, then turn around and teach their newly acquired words to parents and grandparents.

Walsh was also honored for her work at Venice High School, where she assisted new immigrant students in Life Skills and ESL, at COPE (Community Outreach Prevention and Education), where she worked to educate children from low income families on public health issues; at SCOPE (Students for Community Outreach Prevention and Education), where she educated patients at the Venice Family Clinic about available resources; and at Delta Gamma sorority, where she worked to raise money for the Blind Children’s Center of Los Angeles.

Hernández was also recognized for tutoring at-risk middle school students at the non-profit San Fernando Valley Partnership; serving as a teaching assistant at Robert Fulton Preparatory School in Van Nuys; and collaborating in academic research projects on janitorial subcontracting, exploitation of day laborers, and Latinos’ use of public parks in the US and Latin America.

After graduation, Hernández plans to become a high school Spanish teacher; Walsh plans to earn a Masters degree in marriage and family counseling and

DEPARTMENT’S SECOND SHORT STORY CONTEST

In honor of writer Maria Amparo Escandón’s visit this spring quarter, the Service Committee of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese organized the second short story writing contest. Joining the department in offering moral and financial support were the Chicano Studies Research Center, the Center for European and Eurasian Studies, and the Latin American Center. Judges included distinguished visitor Escandón, and Professors Adriana Bergero and Jesús Torrecilla. Representing the graduate students were judges Bethany Beyer and Bryan Green (for Parraños). Professor Marchant headed the panel of judges.

Twenty-seven students, graduate and undergraduate, Spanish and Portuguese majors and minors, as well as contestants from other departments (Comparative Literature, History, English, Philosophy, Economics, International Development Studies, Anthropology, and Communications), summoned their creative energies and submitted stories of two to three pages in length on a broad range of themes and in a variety of styles. The only requirements were that the work be original and that it be written in either Spanish or Portuguese.

First place winners in both the graduate and undergraduate categories will be awarded $300, while the second place winner will receive $250. In addition, the undergraduate first- and second-place winners’ stories will be published in La Gente de Aztlan, the contribution in the graduate category will appear in Parraños.

The following entrants placed first in their respec-
tive categories: undergraduate José Esteban Córdoba de la Barrera for his story “Melodia,” and graduate student Cassandra Tesch’s Portuguese-language “A Dádiva.” Runner-up in the undergraduate category was “El conjunto del Quitamarido,” by Eden E. Fair-weather.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese is proud of the winners, and congratulates them and all the contest entrants, who cast their fears and modesty aside to participate in this event.

CAROLINA SITNISKY: 2007 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD WINNER

When Carolina was awarded the Distinguished TA Award this year, we couldn’t believe it! Not because Carolina Sitnisky isn’t infinitely worthy of the award, but because this was four years in a row that the Department’s TAs have been so honored.

Carolina graduated from the University of Buenos Aires with a degree in literary theory and Latin American literature. After college she traveled throughout Latin America for an entertainment company. Her work involved searching for a “generic” Spanish that could be applied to corporate communications. In the process, she realized this was a futile attempt given the linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversity of the many Latin American communities. Separating culture from language was not possible. Years later when she started teaching language, this observation would prove to be particularly relevant.

After several years of being out of the academic world, Carolina decided she wanted to come back and earn her doctorate. She began her studies here in Fall ’03, earning her MA degree in 2005. She is currently working on her dissertation under the direction of Professor Efrain Kristal.

Carolina has taught several levels of first- and second-year Spanish. She introduced various innovations to the syllabi of these courses including new composition topics for first-year language. This was

UCLA PROGRAM TEACHES SPANISH TO CHILDREN IN SOUTH LOS ANGELES

By Letitia Marquez
Reprinted with the permission of the UCLA Office of Media Relations

Second-grader Leslie has found a new passion in her life – Spanish. And she’s not shy about it.

“Buenos dias, buenas tardes, chocolate, chocolate,” Leslie said when asked to repeat the words she knows in Spanish. “Uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco.”

Leslie is taking Spanish classes after school through Listos!, a program funded by the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships and organized by the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the nonprofit organizations Abrazar and the Foundation for Second Chances mentoring program. Classes are held after school three times a week at 42nd Street Elementary School in the Leimert Park area of South Los Angeles.

The classes target African American youth who live in neighborhoods in which Spanish speakers are abundant. Organizers hope the classes will help improve communication and relationships between African American and Latino communities.

“I love it,” said Leslie’s mother, Emelia James, about Listos! “She just wants to say things in Spanish all the time. She’ll say ‘Ask me how to say this.’

Spanish is a necessity in a city that is increasingly Latino, said James, who also has started taking Spanish classes. She wants Leslie to start speaking young so that she won’t have to struggle later in life to learn a new language.

That is exactly the goal of the program, which is aimed at elementary school children, said Susan Plann. During summer 2006 graduate student Maritza Fonseca provided training for the classes. Undergraduate Brenda Walsh is the lead instructor, and Aida Hernández and Gladys Gudino have participated throughout the 2006-2007 academic year as Walsh’s co-teachers.

According to Plann, children are more likely to learn a language fluently if they are exposed to it before their teen years. After that, it is more difficult for a person to learn a language fluently.

Carlene Davis, who was frustrated by her lack of Spanish in such a diverse city, founded the Abrazar program in 2003 to teach Spanish to African American children. Listos!, which means both “smart” and “ready” in Spanish, is Abrazar’s collaborative program with UCLA.

“I took Spanish for four years in high school and I still wasn’t bilingual,” said Davis, who has a fulltime

See LISTOS on Page 8
ever," she says, adding, "I believe that the three legs are motivation, discipline and talent." I like her second theory, as well. On our very first day of class, Prof. Escandón told us that behind our thorax, "invisible to X-rays" every one of us has a well filled with experiences accumulated throughout our lives. She says that we must throw a bucket down the well in order to bring to the surface the "mierda" (shit) that lies within. From that contaminated sewage one gets the material that inspires one's writing." It is at this particular spot where we "are connected with the gut." From this connection comes, rushing forth, "our best writing."

Commenting on the academic level of her students, Prof. Escandón said: "It has surprised me the high level of motivation and passion for writing that students, both graduate and undergraduate, have demonstrated. Due to this, from the very beginning of the course, I had to adjust my syllabus to fit their needs."

Carolyn Gonzalez commented: "The class is outstanding. Professor Escandón is very supportive and encouraging. The assignments she gives us are very inspiring and thought provoking together with her criticism which is always constructive. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn from a woman who is such an outstanding writer herself."

Brenda Walsh, one of her undergraduate students had this to say: "Professor Escandón invites us to work on exercises that force us to leave our mental comfort zone and explore our creativity. I enjoy the class' interactive approach; we read and discuss every aspect of our stories and she gives us feedback."

For the past few weeks, Maria has been an understanding, inspiring and encouraging presence in our lives, beaming with energy and zest. We will miss her, along with her always warm and welcoming smile.

NEW MAJOR Cont. From Page 3

service and community-based learning in our classes. New classes in Spanish and Portuguese with community-based and/or service learning have been created and such components have also been added to already existing classes.

These efforts are driven in part by our awareness of our civic responsibilities. As a public university, we must respond to and serve the needs of our region. As a department of Spanish and Portuguese located in an area in which Latinos comprise (or will soon comprise) the majority, we feel a special obligation toward this segment of the population. The new major will forge closer links between Spanish and Portuguese students and faculty and the larger Latino community; it will also prepare students to succeed in a variety of fields and afford them an excellent foundation for life in the multicultural 21st century.

We look forward to an inaugural celebration and the welcoming of new majors in fall 2007.

SITINSKY Cont. from Page 5
done in the context of changing from the old textbook Claro que sí to the new textbook Puntos de partida. She created composition guidelines that required the students to consider the full range of materials studied in class. She was also cognizant of the need to incorporate themes and subjects the students would find relevant and feel comfortable writing about. In second year, Carolina introduced a new unified method to tie together the grammar and literature activities. This was especially important because second-year levels are the gateway to more advanced studies in Spanish. In Winter '05, Carolina worked closely with Professor Susan Plann to implement a pilot program funded by the Office of Instructional Development. The program paired UCLA Spanish-language students with Mexican English-language students from Garfield High School. Students exchanged e-mails in the language they were studying and these exchanges became the basis for the students' class compositions.

Carolina has not only excelled in teaching language. She has also distinguished herself as a superior TA in Spanish/Portuguese M42 Culture and Civilization of Spain and Portugal, Spanish 120C Hispanic Literature since 1898 and in Spanish 144B Mexican Culture. She had the opportunity to give one of the lectures in M42, earning the admiration of her fellow TA in the course. Her work in 144B was especially important given the untimely death last July of Professor Guillermo Hernández who was scheduled to give that course in Fall Quarter '06. Alejandro Pelayo, who has since stepped in to teach some of Professor Hernández' courses, volunteered to teach the course provided we could assign a knowledgeable TA. Karina Rincon and Carolina had both worked with Hernández in the past and although they were already assigned to language classes, they were asked to pitch in. The Department is very grateful for their exemplary work, especially the work they did on the syllabus for the course.

There is no doubt that Carolina Sitinsky has a great future as a scholar and teacher. We wish her the best as she dedicates next year to writing her dissertation. Oh, did I fail to mention that as a recipient of the Distinguished TA Award she is entitled to a Dissertation-year Fellowship? ¡Enhorabuena, Carolina!
It was in one of the big waves of immigration from Japan to South America (Brazil, Argentina and Peru), that Lizy’s grandparents arrived and settled in Lima. Olga and Augusto, Lizy’s parents, were born in Lima a few years later. Many years later, Lizy was lucky to be born and live in Rimac a small neighborhood near the historical Lima. In fact, not ten blocks away was el puente y la alameda where a certain lady would stroll by and was made famous in that lovely Peruvian waltz, La Flor de la canela.

Lizy attended an all-girls school, Maria Alvarado, founded by American missionaries that had a rigorous English curriculum. It was important to Lizy’s parents that she learn a second language. For nine years she was required to attend Saturday ESL school. At 12, she was able to begin adult-level classes. Lizy was taught phonology, syntax, and historical development of the language in order to be able to teach. It was around this time that she first heard of UCLA because she was using the late Victoria Fromkin’s Introduction to Linguistics. From then on, her secret wish was to someday attend UCLA.

After graduating from high school, Lizy entered the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She wanted to study law, a career her father, a civil engineer, was initially very much against. He did come around eventually and then was very supportive once he realized that that was what Lizy wanted to study. While at university, her mother and two brothers came to LA where some of her relatives already resided. The economy in Peru at the time was not good and after two years her father and Lizy joined them (she didn’t complete her law degree). Sadly, about a year and a half after arriving in LA, Lizy’s father was diagnosed with lung and brain cancer and lived only six more months. These were very difficult times.

Despite it all, Lizy needed to restart her college education. She attended LAACC while working at a toy store. She finally had enough credits to fulfill transfer requirements to UCLA where she hoped to major in Linguistics and Spanish. Unfortunately it took 7 ½ years to gain legal residency which made it, for all intents and purposes, impossible to transfer. She continued to take classes at the community college and finally in 1998 she was finally able to transfer to UCLA. She completed her last two years at UCLA as a Linguistics and Spanish major and got to meet Professor Victoria Fromkin, whom she’d admired for so long. As co-chair of ULSA, the Linguistics students association, she had Prof. Fromkin give a talk to the group. At the end of the talk, Lizy had the opportunity to share her story when Prof. Fromkin asked her why she chose to major in linguistics. She feels privileged to have taken courses in the Linguistics Department with Professors Pat Keating, Bruce Hayes, Tim Stowell (currently the Dean of Humanities) and in the Spanish and Portuguese Department with Professors Héctor Calderón, Claudia Parodi, Susan Plam and Dr. Susan Schaffer.

Although Lizy was part of the Class of 2000, she got tickets to the 1999 Commencement and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese pre-commencement celebration. That year the keynote speaker was her “paisa” Mario Vargas Llosa, who also said a few words at the department event. The connection with Department was established. Her professors encouraged her to continue her studies at the graduate level.

Lizy began her graduate studies on fellowship the first year. Although her main area of interest was linguistics she was always drawn to colonial Spanish American literature. She took courses on colonial literature with José Pascal Buxó and with Efrain Kristal. With Kristal she studied the Inca Garcilaso.

Lizy was able to combine her love of linguistics and literature in CECC (Centro de Estudios Coloniales Iberoamericanos), of which she was a founding member. The group, headed by Prof. Claudia Parodi, started as a study group but soon evolved into a real working group involved in archival research and paleography. The group has participated in seminars,
conferences, taken research trips to México City, to the UNAM, and to the Claustro de Sor Juana. At the Fondo Reservado of the UNAM Lízy found an exequía finísbe - which touched on the topic of mysticism. This sparked a special interest in what would become her dissertation topic. Ramón Mujica, a specialist on Santa Rosa de Lima, gave two talks on baroque colonial art. Mujica encouraged Lízy to consider studying *Vida de Santa Rosa*, a heroic poem written in the mid 17th century and consisting of 12 cantos depicting the life and miracles of Santa Rosa de Lima.

Santa Rosa (1586-1617) was the first saint born in the Americas. She was a criolla who grew up in Lima. Unlike Sor Juana, Santa Rosa was not an intellectual. She was what they called a "beata," not a nun, but she did wear the habit of the dominicos. She is considered a mystic and she is said to have performed miracles. After she died the dominicos took her case to Rome for canonization. Her canonization was of particular importance to the criollo cause. All of this is related in the epic poem, written years after she died. Lízy is particularly interested in trying to re-define the boundaries between religious poetry and epic poetry. It is also important to Lízy to demonstrate that in this poem, the epic formula needs to be reformulated in order to fit such a unique hero, a female saint born in the Americas. She is writing her dissertation under the co-direction of Efraín Kristal and long-time mentor, Claudia Parodi.

Lízy has been very active over the years in many aspects of the life of the department. She was Mester editor in 2005-06 and helped organize the graduate student conference *Visions and Revisions*. She co-wrote, with Alejandro Lee Chan, the Graduate Student Manual. She served as the Technology TA Coordinator for Spring '07 and in that capacity is taught the Spanish 490 course, "Using Technology in the Foreign Language Classroom."

The opportunity to provide many Los Angeles youth with a second language skill, which will prepare them to meet the needs of a diverse workforce and society, is being missed, she said.

"Even just being able to say 'hello' or 'my name is so-and-so' opens bridges," she added.

The program also dovetails with a new academic major created by the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese that will begin admitting students in fall 2007. The major, which will be known as "Spanish and Community and Culture," aims to prepare students for a wide variety of activities that require civic engagement, language skills and acquired sensitivity to cultural differences.

Plann hopes the partnership has laid the foundation to start language programs at other schools throughout Los Angeles.

Plann and Davis received funding for Listos! from the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships, whose goal is to nurture and develop partnerships between community groups and UCLA that produce joint efforts to improve the quality of life for area students.

**NEW ACADEMIC PERSONNEL OFFICER**

By Steven Schweitzer

Intriguing, handsome, striking and intelligent are all words that probably don't describe me very well. My name is Steven Schweitzer; you may remember me from such descriptions as Academic Personnel Coordinator, that guy with spikey hair, or even the dude who sits in room 5308. Regardless of what you choose to call me, I appreciate the opportunity and kindness that has been expressed to me these first couple of months.

I am originally from Los Angeles and as of this August will have worked with UCLA for 2 years. My career at UCLA started with front office work at BruinCard, and I eventually worked my way towards Academic Personnel Coordinator at the Dodd Hu-

See Schweitzer on Page 12
IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSOR CARROLL B. JOHNSON

By Rubén Benítez

It's very difficult for me to speak on this sad occasion about my good friend, Carroll Johnson. Sure, I can talk about Carroll as a brilliant scholar, as a top specialist in Spanish Literature of the Golden Age, as an original interpreter of Cervantes' masterwork, *Don Quijote de la Mancha*. I read Carroll's three important books, *Inside Guzman de Alfarache, Madness and Lust*, and *Cervantes and the Material World*. I also read all his articles, the reviews of his books and his replies to some ill-humored critics. Carroll was as brave, as valiant, and as intrepid in literary criticism as in life. He didn't hesitate to confront the traditional canons. Some weeks ago, after we talked about one of these critics, Roberto González Echevarría - teacher of my daughter in Yale University- Carroll agreed with me that his books, the books of Carroll, generate naturally controversial opinions. He, in some way, enjoyed controversy. Like his teacher, Joseph Silverman, the teacher that he admired the most, Carroll used frequently the arms of his quixotic idealism in literary battles; polemic was for him another way to defend the truth. He knew, also, that when you apply to the works of an icon of the cultural world, as Shakespeare or Cervantes, a Freudian or Marxist methodology, you are asking for trouble. In these cases, the critics will react against the methodology, against Sigmund Freud or Karl Marx, not against the writer. The truth is that nobody discussed or put in doubt the seriousness of Carroll as a scholar, the extraordinary extent of his information, the sharpness of his criticism, the elegance of his style.

I can also speak of Carroll as a teacher. I had direct and vivid testimonies of his excellent classes. All the students were always unanimous in the positive evaluation of his teaching. My wife, Maria Elena, was an enthusiastic student of Carroll. As a matter of fact, the name of my daughter, Marcela, is the name of one of the characters in *Don Quijote*; she decided to give this name to our child according to the interpretation she gave of Marcela as a free and independent woman in Carroll's classes. I also know, after having been with Carroll in many, many PhD oral exams, the quality of his questions, and the type of answers he expected. I attended his lectures, which were good examples of his talents for communication, especially the excellent one that he gave in 2005 as the university's Faculty Research Lecturer, which brought much honor to our department.

I can also speak about his chairmanship. In two of the three periods in which he was our chairman, I collaborated with him discussing problems, helping him in the selection of personnel, as well as judging performance. Sometimes, many times, we disagreed. Disagreements are the blood of the university because in spite of the cloisters, the university is not a convent. However, after these discussions Carroll was ready to open his office to me, offer me a seat and explain to me the scope of his views. We never lost our mutual respect and affection for each other. As a chairman Carroll imprinted in our department his professional ideas regarding scholarships, programs, admissions, and racial and social integration. Thirty years ago when very few people were aware of the discrimination that occurred in the university, Carroll was already an adamant defender of the women's and minorities' right to teach and to learn.

However, I don't want to talk about all of this. I want to talk about my friend Carroll Johnson. For almost forty years we had been together having dinners, drinking Californian wines, talking about our work, our wives and our children. When he was in distress I was there; when I was in distress Carroll and Leslie were knocking on the door of my house to give me company and support. When we were together in Madrid, I walked with Carroll and Leslie through all the corners of the city. How well I remember our trip to the Toledo of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer! In Spain Carroll's spirit was in its natural ambience. He knew how to find the most unusual and cheapest restaurant in Madrid. He surprised everybody with his excellent Spanish. In the hundreds of
THE ‘WIPED LENS OF TIME’ OR: DID I REALLY TEACH FOR FIFTY YEARS?

By C. Brian Morris

The answer to my rhetorical question is yes, twenty-two in Wales and England and twenty-eight in California, one at UCSB that paved the way to the twenty-seven I have spent at UCLA. When my colleagues in the Department resolved to invite me to join them, they set in motion a complex process which began with a telephone call from Carroll Johnson in February 1980: “Would you accept a permanent position if one were offered to you?” My reply, an unequivocal “Yes,” generated a new life for my family and a second career for me, one that has been infinitely more enriching and rewarding than the culturally hypothermic years I spent in the north of England. I knew that retirement would come one day; I did not think it would come so soon. The invitation to reflect on my time in the Department is tempting; those who live in the past would leap at the opportunity to start endless sentences with “I remember when...” to name colleagues now departed, and so linger over changes. Memory lane is a maudlin place, and it grows longer with age. In my experience, people’s reminiscences have as much magnetic appeal as a knitting pattern: they outdo neighbors’ videos in their ability to freeze the smile and glaze the eyes of the most equable audience. If, as Vladimir Nabokov contends, “One is always at home in one’s past,” there is no reason to assume that others will feel equally at ease with my past or with my ghosts, and there are a good many of those wandering the corridors of the Department. In evoking the “carefully wiped lens of time,” Nabokov knew the habit we all have of tidying up our memories, perhaps even drying a tear or two for those absent and much missed colleagues.

Rather than focus on the past twenty-seven years, I prefer to focus on the next twenty-seven, be they days, months, or any multiplication thereof. I will miss my classes, my beloved 119B, 133, 234, and 272; they were after all an indispensable part of my life for so long. I shall console myself by thinking that not all of my words fell on deaf ears, that they sparked many fine papers and dissertations, that some of my students have gone on to teach the language and literature that got into my blood many years ago in a Welsh school. In fifty years I taught many students: even if I tried to calculate the number – a pointless exercise, if ever there were one –, I am not sure if it would depress or uplift me. To be among young, bright people for so long has been a luxury and, I suspect, an elixir; I certainly have been graced to teach longer than many colleagues, and certainly longer than would have been possible in the United Kingdom, where I would have been put out to graze a long time ago. Teachers who have taught for a number of years invariably observe that students have changed; of course they have, and so have those who make the comment, secure in their ability to make a judgment that in their students’ papers would be faulted as a gross generalization. Change is a rule of life, it need not preoccupy us as much as it did Antonio Machado, whose recourse to tautological overkill cannot hide the profound truth of his solemn lines: “Todo se mueve, fluye, discurre, corre o gira; / cambia la mar y el monte y el ojo que los mira.” Since 1980 I have been witness to much movement and change; Machado’s allusion to the sea reminds us that ebb and flow are inseparable: while I miss my ghosts and commune with them, I am energized by the vibrant colleagues who have taken their place, by waves of buoyant students, and by those technological advances that seemed unthinkable fifty years ago. I invite anyone who sighs for the Good Old Days of Academia to sit for hours, as I did, taking notes long-hand, compiling card-indexes from labyrinthine card-catalogues, and typing papers on clunky typewriters with shredded ribbons. In a memorable poem Antonio Machado railed against the “carga bruta” that memory has to bear. The many memories generated in me by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese are not dead weight: faces, voices, conversations, meetings, committees, students pleading to be let into a class (and sometimes to be let out), papers to grade, rosters to complete, dissertations to read, letters and reports to write: they are an integral part of me. This has been my life, and I would not have

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Visit of Clayton Eshleman, University of California Regents’ Lecturer
By Michelle Clayton

For two weeks in late February 2007, the Department of Spanish & Portuguese was delighted to welcome as University of California Regents’ Lecturer the award-winning poet and translator Clayton Eshleman, with the co-sponsorship of the Latin American Center and the Department of Comparative Literature. An extraordinarily prolific writer, over the past half-century Eshleman has published more than forty books of his own poetry and prose, as well as groundbreaking translations of the Peruvian poet César Vallejo, the Chilean Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda, and the Francophone poets Aimé Césaire and Antonin Artaud. In 1978 his National Book Award-winning translation, with José Rubia Barcia, of the Complete Posthumous Poetry of César Vallejo introduced the Peruvian poet to a North American audience; his 1992 translation of Vallejo’s avant-garde collection Trile fuegaro the Academy of American Poets’ Landon Translation Award in its second edition. In late 2006 the University of California Press published a revised and completed edition of his Vallejo translations, The Complete Poetry of César Vallejo, which was the centerpiece of events organized to coincide with and celebrate his visit. Having Clayton Eshleman present to discuss his work as translator and poet for a variety of different audiences was a wonderful privilege, as well as a spur to thoughts about both translation and poetry, and the intersections between them. For those of us who tangle regularly with Vallejo’s rewardingly difficult poetry, but also for new readers, Eshleman’s translations provide an invaluable point of access not only to the language of the poems, but to the processes behind its composition; in the

Matthews Lecture - Elena Poniatowska
By John Skirius

Elena Poniatowska Amor gave the distinguished Lois B. Matthews Lecture at UCLA in 314 Royce Hall on April 27, 2007, at 3 p.m. to a full house. She left at 7 p.m. after spending hours receiving her many admirers and autographing their copies of her books.

The subject of the lecture was “The Literature that Rises from the Streets.” Poniatowska talked about the importance of testimonial narrative in Latin America and the influence of Ricardo Pozas’ novel, Juan the Chamula. She also mentioned Truman Capote’s In Cold Blood as a precedent of non-fiction using the techniques of fiction. In fact, Poniatowska herself has used historical people and events as material for her novels such as Tinisima, on the Italian photographer Tina Modotti; Hasta no verte Jesus mio, on the Mexican proletarian women, Jesusa Palancares; or El tren pasa primero, her latest novel about the railroad workers’ movement and general strike in Mexico during 1958-1959, ending in the imprisonment of hundreds of participants.

Poniatowska reminisced how she visited jails to get information for her works. This is true of her investigation of the railroad workers movement as well as for La noche de Tlatelolco, about the Mexican student movement of 1968 and subsequent bloody repression by the government. She remembered how she had feared the intervention of the police at any time during her preparation of the manuscript in the home of Mexican writer, Jose Emilio Pacheco.

If 1968 looms large in Poniatowska’s memory, so do 1994 and 2006 in Mexican history. She attended the meetings of intellectuals in the forests of Chiapas in 1994 in support of the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional; at the lecture, she remembered how student participants at this event named their bus after Ricardo Pozas.

See ESHLEMAN on Page 12
See PONIATOWSKA on Page 14
manities group, where I gained valuable experience in the Academic functions of UCLA. Finally, I have arrived here at the Rolfe/Campbell group where I hope to further gain experience in all Personnel functions.

Other than work, my primary interest lies in artwork where I have been predominantly illustrating comic book images and ideas that have been published in various books and games. Including, one UCLA children's game entitled, "Piggy's Playhouse". I frequently draw recreationally after work, so if any of you are interested in perhaps grabbing some tips from me or sharing your artistic insights, by all means stop by my office and speak your mind. I am always looking to bounce ideas off people for possible artistic projects in the future.

Eshleman Cont. from Page 11

published Complete Poetry itself, as in his many conversations at UCLA, Eshleman took his audience behind the scenes of both Vallejo's writing and his own translations to show us the investments and immense gains of a lifetime's involvement with poetry. It is no exaggeration to say that Anglophone readers will be indebted to Eshleman's labors for years to come.

And of course events organized around his visit gave audiences a series of opportunities to talk about poetry in a sustained and entertaining way, not to mention listening to some wonderful readings of poems. On February 22nd, Eshleman read to us from Vallejo's Complete Poetry, in a bilingual performance that featured the unsuspected poetry-reading gifts of our own Efrain Kristal and Chrystian Zegarra. The following day offered a symposium on the poetry of César Vallejo, divided into two parts: in the morning, a panel on translation, featuring Eshleman's memoir, alongside talks by renowned translator and UCLA professor of Slavic studies, Michael Heim, and the exceptional poetry translator and University of Chicago assistant professor Kelly Austin, a doctoral graduate of UCLA. The afternoon's events began with an evocative short film on Vallejo's last years by Stephen Hart (University of London), himself an outstanding critic of Vallejo's poetry, and continued with a panel offering new approaches to Vallejo's various collections by Efrain Kristal, Michelle Clayton, and Stephen Hart. All of these events prompted a wonderful turn-out and participation by graduate students and faculty from a number of different departments across campus, proving that even the most difficult Spanish-language poetry has no need to worry about finding an engaged and enthusiastic audience at UCLA.

It was a mark of Clayton Eshleman's generosity that he also led a number of translation workshops across campus during his visit to UCLA - for our own department, for the Center for World Languages, and for the graduate-run Babel Group for Translation Studies. His converts on campus look forward to his next visit to the department, where he will teach courses on translation in the winter quarter of 2008.
2006-2007 Critical Perspectives on Luso-Hispanisms Lecture Series

By Michelle Clayton, Anna More & Maite Zubiaurre

The lecture series Critical Perspectives on Luso-Hispanic Studies (CPLHIS), organized by Michelle Clayton, Anna More, and Maite Zubiaurre continued for a second year during 2006-2007. The series brings to UCLA prominent scholars whose work addresses theoretical issues in Luso-Hispanic studies. Speakers give both a public lecture and a seminar on a work in progress. This year's series focused on the tradition and future of Luso-Hispanic studies in the U.S.

The first speaker of this year's series was Roland Greene (Stanford University) whose work has centered, among other areas, on early modern literatures in a variety of languages. Prof. Greene has also worked extensively on modernist poetry, especially Brazilian concrete poetry. On November 27th, Prof. Greene gave a lecture entitled "The Past and Future of Close Reading" in which he questioned the applicability of close reading as a transhistorical interpretive methodology. Calling close reading akin to a "technology" he traced its emergence as the central disciplinary methodology for literary studies from the mid-twentieth century onward. Through a series of examples, Greene argued that early modern poems had to be understood as intertextual works in series rather than as isolated textual artifacts, as close reading would assume. On November 28th, Prof. Greene gave a seminar on a chapter from his book in progress Five Words. In this, Greene analyzes the cultural semantics of five words in early modern vernacular languages: blood, world, resistance, invention, and language. The seminar focused on the term "blood" which was semantically transformed during the 16th century from its meanings in Christian and Galenic symbolism to an active, circulating agent in the human body. In the period between these conceptual paradigms, Greene argues, blood was loosened from its semantic strictures and appeared in literary discourse in a variety of narrative and poetic situations as a strange material entity outside of a fixed symbolic code. In both his lecture and his seminar Greene showed how a comparative framework for early modern studies can dispel persistent ideas of isolated national literary traditions, including those of Hispanic and Lusophone literatures, to provide fruitful insights into broad-based cultural movements.

The second speaker of our series was Brad Epps, Professor and Chair of the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University. He has published over seventy articles on modern literature, film, art, architecture, and immigration from Spain, Latin America, Catalonia, and France and is the author of Significant Violence: Oppression and Resistance in the Narratives of Juan Goytisolo (Oxford UP), Spain Beyond Spain: Modernity, Literary History, and National Identity (with Luis Fernández Cifuentes, Bucknell UP), and Passing Lines: Immigration and Sexuality (with Bill Johnson-González and Keja Valens; Harvard UP). He is currently preparing four books: The Ethics of Promiscuity, on gay and lesbian issues in Latin America and Spain; Barcelona and Beyond, on the transformations of the Catalan capital; All About Almodóvar: A Passion for Cinema (with Despina Kakoudaki: University of Minnesota Press), and Transitos corporales: Sexualidad y cultura en el Cono Sur (with Carmen Berenguer, Luis Cárcamo-Huchante, and Raquel Olea), as well as a special issue of GLQ on Monique Wittig. Professor Epps gave a talk on "Africa in the Spanish Imaginary," in which he reflected upon the presence – as well as upon the often blatant and intriguing absence –, of the African continent in Spanish letters. Brad Epps highlighted the importance of reinterpreting Spanish modernity and imperialist nostalgia in the context of a new geographic constellation, that not only includes Latin America, but also the Spanish colonial presence in Africa. Brad Epps also gave a seminar on "Estudios Subalternos y Teoría Queer en el Contexto de los Estudios Hispánicos." During the seminar, Professor Epps discussed queer theory as an epistemological tool applied toward re-reading Spanish culture that has academic and intellectual consequences, but also affects the personal and the political.

Our third speaker was Neil Larsen, Professor of Comparative Literature and Critical Theory at the
missed it for anything, for I have found in the Department friendship, humanity, humor, respect for learning and culture, dedication, distinction, and unconditional support, especially from the chairpersons under whom I have been privileged to serve: Shirley Arora, Carroll Johnson, Randal Johnson, Gerardo Luzuriaga, and John Dagenais. My academic career began in 1957; my full, deep enjoyment of it began in 1980. For that I have to thank UCLA in general and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in particular.

University of California, Davis. Larsen is the author of numerous articles and three books focusing on such wide-ranging and interlocking issues as critical theory, Marxism, imperialism, postcolonial studies, cultural studies and institutional critique, as well as readings of individual Latin American and Brazilian authors. Throughout his career Larsen has focused on the institutional connections (or disconnections) between Latin American studies and critical theory, and this concern was clearly and richly embodied in his presentations at UCLA. His public lecture, “Towards a Theory of ‘Theory’”, took his audience through varying conceptions of theory in the humanities and social sciences, moving toward a new articulation of the place of critical theory in today’s academy. In a subsequent seminar, Larsen addressed the question of hybridity in Gilberto Freyre’s *Casa grande e senzala*, opening up provocative approaches to race theory through the question of reification. Both presentations, consistent with Larsen’s always rigorous and compelling questioning of institutional practices and the critical canons which govern the ways in which we approach our field, introduced their audience to new possibilities for viewing Latin American studies in the light of critical theory.

Concerning the Mexican presidential campaign of Manuel López Obrador during 2005-2006, Poniatowska has written the diary chronicle entitled *Amanecer en el Zócalo* (in press, Editorial Planeta). She actively participated in this campaign and declared the election results a fraud. She added that many Mexicans believe that López Obrador is their president.

Elena Poniatowska left an abiding impression at UCLA of her compassion for the poor and sense of social justice. She combined anecdotes with a sense of humor and also dramatically treated some of the tragic events of Mexican history. We were privileged to have as lecturer one of the most famous and distinguished writers of Mexico today.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS PROF. DAVID LUPHER
By Susan Plann

On October 16 the Department of Spanish and Portuguese hosted a lecture by Professor David Lupher of the University of Puget Sound in Washington state. Professor Lupher is a distinguished classicist and the author of the widely heralded book *Romans in a New World: Classical Models in Sixteenth-Century Spanish America* (University of Michigan 2003). In an erudite lecture titled “Keeping the ‘Latin’ in ‘Latin America’: A Classicist’s Intrusions” Prof. Lupher began by discussing the genesis of the term “Latin America,” which dates from the mid-nineteenth century. The origin of this term had nothing to do with the Latin language but rather with the so-called “Latin races,” a concept invoked to unite Spanish, Portuguese, and French interests against Anglo-Saxon America.

Prof. Lupher went on to discuss the divergent views of sixteenth century Spaniards who compared their exploits in the Americas with those of the Romans in Iberian a millennium and a half earlier. Some sixteenth century Spaniards identified with the Roman imperialists, boastfully comparing their exploits in the Americas to those of their Roman predecessors. But other Spaniards identified with the Romans’ Iberian victims, comparing their ancestors’ victimization with the suffering Spanish conquistadores inflicted on native Americans; not the least among them was Bernal Diaz, whose chronicle of the Spanish conquest of Mexico inspired Prof. Lupher’s study.

In attendance at Prof. Lupher’s talk were faculty and students from a range of disciplines, including Classics, History, and of course Spanish and Portuguese. A lively discussion and wine and cheese reception followed the lecture.

Other events related to Prof. Lupher’s visit to our campus included a lunch at the faculty center and dinner at the Napa Grill in Westwood; both events were attended by faculty and graduate students from a variety of disciplines.

CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR SERIES
By Malte Zublaur

This academic year, the Department has welcomed two renowned Spanish writers to our series “Conversation with the Author.” Lucia Erxenbarria and
Juan Manuel de Prada. Lucía Etxebarria, who visited UCLA in October of 2006 and talked about her work as a writer, is the author of Amor, curiosidad, Prozac y dudas (1997), the novel that brought her international fame. Her second novel, Beatriz y los cuerpos celestes (2001) was awarded the Nadal Prize. She also won the Primavera Prize with her novel De todo lo visible y lo invisible (2001), and the Planeta Prize in 2004 with her novel Un milagro en Equilibrio. Lucía Etxebarria is also a renowned poet and prolific writer of journalistic essays.

Juan Manuel de Prada is also among the most notable contemporary Spanish writers and novelists. We had the privilege to listen to Prada’s reflections upon the art of writing and creating fiction in February of 2007. His novel, La tempestad, was awarded the Planeta Prize in 1997. He is also the author of the novels Las máscaras del aire (1996), Las esquinas del aire (2000). La vida invisible (2003), and El séptimo relo (2007), and of several collections of essays. Both writers were introduced by the Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles, the Honorable Inocencio F. Arias.

**FIRST ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RECEPTION**

By Adriana Ruiz

The first annual Department of Spanish and Portuguese Undergraduate Welcome Reception was held on the evening of Wednesday, October 18, 2006. The event was an effort to introduce both new and returning Spanish and Portuguese majors and minors to our faculty, staff, graduate students and fellow undergraduate students in the department so that they can feel at home in the halls of Rolfe. The idea for the reception came from the Undergraduate Affairs Committee who knows that every year the department holds a welcome reception for new graduate students and thought it was important to start extending the welcome to those who make up our undergraduate population of 400 students because they are just as important in the make-up of the department. The reception took place in Royce Hall and the program consisted of a welcoming by Sylvia Sherno on behalf of the faculty, and a PowerPoint presentation about the different majors and minors, Travel Study Programs, and other opportunities available to undergraduates. It also served as a kick-off event and recruitment effort for the Undergraduate Spanish and Portuguese Association (USPA) which was introduced by then President Chase Raymond, a second year student in the combined Spanish and Portuguese major.

**PRESENTATION OF RUBÉN BENÍTEZ’S RECENT BOOK**

By Roberta Johnson

On February 9, 2007, more than 80 faculty, alumni, and friends crowded into the Hacienda Room of the UCLA Faculty Center to celebrate the publication of Emeritus Professor Rubén Benítez’s new book Bécquer y la tradición de la lírica popular (Desde Mi Celda, Zaragoza, Spain). This book, written in its entirety since Professor Benítez’s retirement in 1994, is the culmination of a career-long interest in Spain’s foremost nineteenth-century poet. It builds on Professor Benítez’s earlier Bécquer tradicionalista (1971) and offers a new theory of how educated poets absorb popular currents and then go on to create something new that reflects the popular but that is ultimately not popular poetry.

Howard Young (emeritus of Pomona College and author of well-known books on twentieth-century Spanish poets) led off the afternoon’s program by reminding us of Bécquer’s links to Modernist poetry and the importance of Rubén Benítez’s revelations to making those connections. Brian Morris, whose presentation was read in absentia by Carroll Johnson, noted that Rubén Benítez’s new book “is a dense, compact, artful study which, like the finest wine, has matured slowly and, I contend, could not have been written thirty to forty years ago. . . . This is a work full of insights, of sage judgements whose depth and density give a new meaning to the word ‘ingenuous.’” Professor Johnson, in his inimitably witty way, enlivened the proceedings with his extemporaneous comments on his friendship with Rubén Benítez. Edward Stanton, Rubén Benítez’s doctoral student nearly 40 years ago and now a well-published professor of Spanish at the University of Kentucky, honored his mentor with words of personal as well as professional praise. Maite Zubiaurre, new member of the department and expert on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Spanish literature, found in Professor Benítez’s book a revitali-
zation of a Bécquer whose image had become frayed in the tired Franco-era curriculum.

Rubén Benítez concluded the formal proceedings with an eloquent rejoinder that reminded all present of his supreme command of literature and language. A number of colleagues and alumni also spoke spontaneously about the importance Rubén Benítez holds for them as a friend and professor, and the afternoon gradually shifted from celebrating the appearance of a new book to recognizing Professor Benítez’s importance within the department’s tradition of intellectual excellence and its sense of community.

VISITING PROFESSOR ROBIN FIDDIAN
By Román Luján

During the winter quarter Professor Robin Fiddian from Oxford University taught the graduate course titled “The Poetry of Jorge Luis Borges”. Students had the opportunity to explore aesthetic and historical aspects in the lyric of the Argentinean poet from Fer var de Buenos Aires to La cina. The discussions of Borges’ poetry also addressed his essays and short stories.

Professor Fiddian’s visit coincided with a three-day symposium on César Vallejo to which he brilliantly contributed as moderator. “The Department of Spanish and Portuguese likewise benefited from his Visiting Professor Lecture titled “Arte de pájaros”: Pablo Neruda’s Oda a la gaviota and its precursors (with particular reference to Antonio Machado and Leopoldo Lugones),” a close reading on the Chilean writer’s classic poem.

Professor Fiddian has visited UCLA in the past and this second stay has strengthened his bond with our Department. We look forward to a future visit from this charismatic scholar.

ART EXHIBIT ON IMMIGRATION

Four of the Department’s undergraduate students, Lauren Carden, Vanessa Davis, Natasha Phan, and Amabel Poblador, organized a truly superb exhibition called "Todos somos Inmigrantes (We are all Immigrants)" at the Art Gallery in Kerckhoff Hall as part of their final project for Professor Maite Zubiaurre’s course "Displacements: Immigration and Diaspora in Hispanic Literatures and Film." The exhibition featured art (paintings, woodcuts, sculptures, and photography) by local artists, among them, the Chicano and Latino artists of "Los de Abajo Printmaking Collective" (Kay Brown, Judith Duran, Antonio Escalante, Emelia Gutiérrez, Poli Marichal, Don New-
Justin is currently at work on two book projects - the first, a translation of Mario de Andrade’s early poetic works, the second on forms of urbanization in the Americas - while his first manuscript, Inter:America (Modern Culture and Poetry in the Americas) is under review at a major press. We look forward to following the development of Justin Read’s work and in the meantime, will never look at a map of Los Angeles in the same way again.

SANCTUARIES AND READINGS FROM THE HEART: POETRY AND PROSE
By Carolyn González

At the talk, novelist and poet Margarita Cota-Cárdenas read several of her pieces in a manner that indicated that she is an actress. She performed from her novels Puppet: A Chicano Novella (1987/2000), Sanctuaries of the Heart (2005) and two collections of poetry titled: Noches desparpajados (1976), and Marchitas de Mayo (1989). She kept her audience laughing much of the time and also thinking of the harsh criticism, at times masked by humor, of injustices committed against women, immigrants and Chicanas/os in this country.

The presentation began with Margarita speaking about Professor Guillermo Hernández, to whom the event was dedicated. She then began reading her work starting with her poem “Crisis de identidad” O “Ya no chingues,” a strong statement against critics of Chicanas or of herself. Other highlights of the reading were her rendition of “Mejor Fingimos” a poem humorously criticizing the need for writers to die before being recognized, “Tom’s Lovesong,” a poem dedicated to her husband and finally, her reading of “Malinche’s Discourse,” a chapter in Puppet which, tells her own rendition of Malinche’s story and engages in dialogue with other Chicanas who have rewritten this historical figure.

After the reading, the audience expressed their approval and a student of our department even went so far as to say she wished Margarita could “come every week.” Plans for Margarita in the future include the publishing of a bilingual edition of her poetry, another novel which will feature the protagonist of Puppet and, I hope, another visit to UCLA.

The Symposium on Portuguese Traditions (Europe, America, Africa, Asia), founded and organized annually by Prof. Claude L. Hulet, celebrated its XXX Anniversary on April 21-22, 2007, in the Sunset Recreation Center, with the presentation of thirty-three papers. The event was commemorated in the program of the morning of the 21st with presentations by Prof. Randal Johnson, Director, Latin American Center, Prof. John Dagenais, Chairman, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and Ambassador Theresa Maria Machado Quintella, Consul General, Brazilian Consulate, Los Angeles. Prof. Dagenais presided over the formal reception that evening, sponsored by the Department to honor Prof. Hulet’s achievements, which featured the presentation of the festschrift, Tradições Portuguesas/Portuguese Traditions: In Honor of Claude L. Hulet, by its editors, Prof. Francisco C. Fagundes, of the University of Massachusetts, and Prof. Irene Maria F., Blayer, of Brock University. Their remarks were followed by those of Tony Goulart, director of Portuguese Heritage Publications and UCLA Graduate Student Henry Schwarz.

FOURTH ANNUAL SPANISH & PORTUGUESE GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

This year’s conference was titled “Literature and the Arts: Interdisciplinary Convergence within Luso-Hispanic Cultures” and took place May 10 and 11 in Royce 326. It was organized by Vanessa Fernández, Catalina Fortes, Victoria Garrett, Bryan Green and Manuel Gutiérrez. The conference examined the role the visual arts have played in lending ‘new energies’ to all literary genres in the Luso-Hispanic cultures. What do Jorge Luis Borges and Christopher Nolan’s film Memento say about memory? How is early mod-
ern fashion and painting portrayed in Mateo Alemán’s Guzman de Alfaraache? Can Octavio Paz’ poem “Blanco” be transformed into a short film? And finally, what do Buster Keaton and Federico García Lorca have in common? These were some of the themes that the graduate student conference explored. Thursday’s keynote address, by Professor Maite Zubiaurre, was “Erotic Cultures and the Spanish Silver Age.” Friday’s keynote address, by Professor Enrico Mario Santi, was “Miradas Sagradas: La poesía visual de Octavio Paz” and featured a special screening of “Blanco.” It was a successful event that provided invaluable experience and opportunities for intellectual exchange.

AND THE BEAT GOES ON... USPA 2006-2007
By Manuel R. Cuellar

This has been a year filled with numerous activities for the Undergraduate Spanish and Portuguese Association (USPA): lectures with established journalists, social outings, film screenings and even tango lessons!

To start off the winter quarter, we had a round table discussion with professors Susan Blinn and Sylvia Sherno, who shared their experience as professors and their research interests. On February 2nd, we went to see Frida Kahlo at the Frida Kahlo Theatre, a play that recounts the life of the famous Mexican painter. On February 14th, Róger Lindo, a Los Angeles Times journalist and poet, gave a talk on his first novel El perro en la niebla, which tells the story of a young Salvadoran trapped in the Civil War of El Salvador.

Spring quarter marked the start of Jueves de cine, USPA’s annual spring film festival. The festival kicked off with the screening of the Argentinean film El polaquito on April 19th (moderated by Professor Makela Brizuela). Next were two films from director Guillermo Del Toro: El espinazo del diablo on May 10th (moderated by Professor Adriana Bergero) and El laberinto del fauno on May 17th. To top it off, the series ended with the premier at UCLA of Salvador, a Spanish film that tells the story of Salvador Puig Antich, the last political prisoner to be executed in Spain by the garrote vil on May 24th (moderated by Professor Jesús Torrecilla).

On May 8th, USPA, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Chicano Studies Research Center sponsored a lecture by journalist and writer, Ron Arias, in which the author recounted his experience as a writer and journalist of People magazine.

USPA also started a Grupo de conversación for non-natives speakers of Spanish, which met on Thursdays under the guidance of former UCLA lecturer, Gloria Gálvez-Carlisle. In addition, Professor Makela Brizuela helped USPA create a tango troupe to perform during the reception after commencement on June 16th.

Closing out a successful year, USPA, the Graduate Student Association of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Chicano Studies Research Center presented Actos, a production directed by Ivardo Valenzuela on June 7th and 9th. The play, which consisted of 3 acts from El teatro campesino and El teatro de la esperanza, along with a performance piece by Mario Escobar, was organized to raise funds for the Guillermo E. Hernández Scholarship Fund.

INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS

If you’d like to have information about our events before they happen, you can visit our new website at www.spanport.ucla.edu for the latest news about upcoming events.

You can also receive weekly updates by joining our alumni and friends email listserves. To subscribe, simply send an email to the Department at spofic@humnet.ucla.edu.

We look forward to your joining us next year!
MAKELA BRIZUELA

Makela Brizuela served as a Literary Judge for the 31st Annual Harry Kurnitz Creative Writing Awards. It was presented by UCLA DASHW Center for International Students and Scholars. Brizuela also gave a multimedia presentation on “The History of Tango” at the Museum of Latin-American Art, Long Beach on March 23rd, 2007. She also collaborated with the National Heritage Language Resource Center at UCLA to conduct and discuss the preliminary results of the Heritage Language Learners Survey. Brizuela is currently actively helping the Undergraduate Spanish and Portuguese Student Association USPA by teaching the students to dance Tango and in that way creating access to the Argentine Culture.

MICHELLE CLAYTON

Professor Michelle Clayton organized a two-day symposium on the poetry of Cesar Vallejo on February 22 and 23, 2007, as part of a celebration of this year’s Regents Lecturer, translator and poet Clayton Eshleman, events included readings from Vallejo’s poetry, a roundtable discussion on translation, and a panel of critical readings, at which she presented the paper “Lyric Matters”. On April 21, 2007 she presented the paper “Intelligent Screens” at the American Comparative Literature Association conference in Puebla, Mexico, examining responses to silent film in Cesar Vallejo’s and Jose Carlos Mariategui’s writings of the 1920s.

VERONICA CORTINEZ

Professor Veronica Cortinez lectured on the history of Chilean literature for the Tufts University Exchange Program at the Universidad de Chile on July 13, 2006. She delivered the keynote speech, on Bernal Diaz del Castillo, at the V Jornada de Investiduración del Doctorado in Literature at the Universidad Católica de Chile on Nov. 10, 2006, and was invited to speak, also on Bernal, at the Universiteit Bremen, Germany, on Dec. 20, 2006. While in Chile, she became an evaluator for the Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico (FONDECYT), the government agency in charge of awarding national grants, and an editorial board member of the new literary journal, Letras Quemadas. Professor Cortinez was featured in Revista Que Paso (“Los profesores chilenos que más influyen en EEUU,” Sept. 23, 2006) and was interviewed by El Mercurio as one of four “top women scholars” (Oct. 10, 2006) as well as by El Pluralista, the Universidad de Chile’s periodical (“El espíritu de la universidad,” Dec. 2006). Her vision of the latest trends in Chilean literature, which she outlined by answering a set of questions from Foreign Policy (“Santiago’s Poetry in Motion,” Dec. 2006), provoked a lively debate in the letters to the editor on the intersection of politics and literary popularity. Since her return to Los Angeles, Professor Cortinez became a reviewer for Modern Philology.

JOHN DAGENAS

Professor John Dagenais was invited to serve as a respondent in a session on “Medievalism in the Margin” at the 2007 International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Two sessions he proposed, involving six scholars from Spain and the U.S., were accepted for the same congress. These are entitled “The Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela: The Ends of the Road in the 21st Century.”

Joaquín Gimeno Casalduero

Professor Joaquín Gimeno Casalduero published El Secreto de los Casalduero, Real Academia Alfonso X el Sabio, Murcia, 2006.

RANALD JOHNSON

Professor Randall Johnson has been invited to join the Advisory Board of the journal Ilha do Desterro, published by the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil. Some of his multiple activities as Director of the UCLA Latin American Institute (formerly Latin American Center) can be seen at http://www.international.ucla.edu/. His book on nonagenarian Portuguese filmmaker Manoel de Oliveira will be published this summer by the University of Illinois Press.

JORGE MARTURANO

Since December 2006, Professor Jorge Marturano has been co-organizer of the Cuba and the Caribbean Working Group sponsored by UCLA Latin American Center with Robin Derby (History) and César Ayala (Sociology). This very active group has hosted several speakers, such as Elizabeth Dore on Cuban oral history, Robert Hill on Jamaican proto-rastafarís, Judith Bellachern on Haitian influence on Cuban festivals, Pedro Pérez Sarduy on Black culture in Cuba, and Sergio Giral on his filmmaking career. The following scholars will also present their work during the coming weeks: Ricardo Ortiz on the Cuban companions of the Buena Vista Social Club, and Dore on Cuban oral history.

ANNA MORE

Professor Anna More is currently in Brazil, where she holds a Fulbright Fellowship for a project entitled “The Memory of Slavery in Contemporary Brazil.” The project investigates the effect of the legal recognition of quilombolas, descendants of runaway slaves, on the national memory of slavery. As part of the Fulbright she is teaching a graduate course on comparative racial paradigms in the U.S. and Latin America at the Centro de Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação sobre as Américas (Ceppac) at the Universidade Nacional de Brasilia (UnB).

Professor C. Brian Morris published “Luis Buñuel y los

His most recent publication is "Bajo un Segundo sol de surrealistas canarios," in Domingo-Luis Hernandez (ed.), Surrealismo/Siglo XX. Santa Cruz de Tenerife: Gobierno de Canarias, 2006, pp. 366-379.

SUSAN PLANN


SYLVIA SHERO
Dr. Sylvia Sherno has been awarded a Non-Senate Faculty Professional Development Award.

JOHN SKIRUS
Professor John Skirius gave a paper entitled "Obreros y empresarios: El Tren Pasa Primera, novella dialogica de Elena Poniatowska" at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Salamanca, Spain, on July 1, 2006. He is publishing the article, "La Piel Del Cielo: Amantes, lecturas y politica," on Elena Poniatowska's novel of 2001 in Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporanea, Number 33, April -June 2007 (in press).

CHRISTIAN ZEGARRA

MAITÉ ZUBIAURRE

She was invited to give the following talks during the academic year 2006-2007: "Erotic Cultures and the Spanish Silver Age," "Literature and the Arts: Interdisciplinary Convergence within Luso-Hispanic Cultures," Fourth Annual Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Conference at UCLA, May 2007; "Sexuality and Visual Culture in Modernist Spain: The "Other" Silver Age," University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, May 2007;


Maite Zubiaurre was elected executive member of the MLA division on Twentieth-Century Spanish Literature (MLA, 2007-2011). She is also member of the Advisory Committee for the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the humanities ("Cultures in Transnational Perspective") UCLA, 2006-2008, and Faculty participant of the inter-departmental and interdisciplinary initiative and Mellon Proposal, "Media, Technology, and Culture. A Multidisciplinary Research and Educational Initiative to Transform the Humanities at UCLA." She is co-organizer, together with Professors Michelle Clayton and Anna More, of Critical Perspectives on Luso-Hispanic Studies (CPLHS), an ongoing interdisciplinary and collaborative lecture series sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UCLA that discusses theoretical issues in Iberian and Latin American Studies. In 2006, she was the co-organizer, together with Professor and Chair John Dagenais, of the UCLA series, Politics of Memory: New Documentaries on the Spanish Civil War and the Franco Era, in colaboración.

06-07 GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

The 2006-2007 academic year at UCLA has been a wonderful one for the Department of Spanish & Portuguese's Graduate Student Association. As your GSA representatives this year we were able to organize a wide variety of activities for the student body. We started by asking our fellow grad students about their expectations and received great feedback.

The GSA's suggestion to institute an annual Orientation Day for all incoming grad students was approved by the Department and will be put into practice next year.

Together with Prof. Jesús Torrecilla, our Graduate
Advisor, the GSA organized quarterly meetings with grad students to discuss students' concerns, talk about the Masters' exam and provide helpful information about awards and fellowships.

As per the grad students' request, this year the GSA organized an informative talk with Prof. John Dagenais and Prof. Randal Johnson on how to conduct a job search in the academic field, and with Prof. Roberta Johnson and Prof. Maite Zubiaurre on how to get texts published.

The GSA also supported the successful Fourth Annual Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Conference at UCLA on May 10 and 11th, 2007, Literature and the Arts: Interdisciplinary Convergence Within Luso-Hispanic Cultures.

In the beloved memory of our dear Prof. Guillermo Hernández, together with the Undergraduate Spanish and Portuguese Association (USPA) and the Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) we planned a fundraiser event on June 7 and 9th to gather funds for the Guillermo E. Hernández Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In addition to organizing these important activities, the GSA took time to help improve the grad student lounge by acquiring a refrigerator, keeping the room clean, changing the furniture and buying reference books for everyone's perusal.

It has been an amazing year that we will never forget! Thank you so much for all your support and let's celebrate and welcome a new GSA!

Your GSA,
Carolina Sitnisky, President
Leah Kemp, Humanities Council Representative
Laura Lee, Vice President
Paula Thorrington, Vice-president of Student Affairs
Amanda Williams, T.A. Representative

MA DEGREES AWARDED IN SPRING 2007

The Department is honored to announce that the following students were awarded master's degrees:

Maritza Carranza de Fonseca
Courtney Fell
Carolyn González
Gorgetti González
Stephanic Grasso
Erin Hogan
Sandra Ruiz
Polina Vasiliev

Congratulations to all!

ARGELIA ANDRADE

Argelia Andrade presented at the 2007 UCSB Spanish and Portuguese Department's Graduate Student Conference under the panel "Chicanas/os, Society and Discourses: Literary, Linguistic and Historical Enquiries" held on April 21, 2007.

BETHANY BEYER

Bethany Beyer received a Summer FLAS Fellowship from the Latin American Studies Center to study Portuguese. She will be going on the UCLA program to Bahia in June.

DANIEL BROWN

Daniel Brown presented the paper: "El Escrutinio de los Libros: Nature as a Critical Evaluator of Literature in 'Los Pasos de Ulloa' and 'La Madre Naturaleza'" at the Mid-American Conference on Hispanic Literature at the University of Missouri-Columbia on November 16-18, 2006.

EDWARD CHAUCA

Edward Chauca presented a paper titled, "Taquín Oncoy: políticas de evangelización y la construcción de un sujeto de la violencia" on March 29th at the 7th Annual Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

COURTNEY FELL

Courtney Fell presented a paper titled, "Elguapalda's Tale in La Araucana: Elguapalda's Representation of a Lacanian Message through a Story of Love" on April 21 and 22, 2007 at the "Palabras para que?" conference in UCSB.

CATALINA FORTIES

Catalina Forties presented a paper titled "Dialogos entre la Generación X Norteamericana y la narrativa chilena de los noventas" at the Conference at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in August 2007. Her paper, "Corridos Diagnóstico fronterizo para un perdido" was accepted to the annual LASA conference, Montreal 2007. This paper is part of a session called "Redes locales, redes globales en la narrativa chilena del 2000.

VICTORIA GARRETT

On November 3-4, 2006 Victoria Garrett presented a paper titled "Reality or Illusion: Clemente Palma's Modernismo as Literature of Transition," for the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies at California State University Dominguez Hills. She also presented her paper, "Arenas y Sarduy: La identidad cubana a base de la teatralidad," at the 73rd annual Carolina Conference on Romance Literature hosted by the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill on March 29-31, 2007.

LIZ GOODIN

CAROLYN GONZÁLEZ
Carolyn González presented at the 2007 UCSB Spanish and Portuguese Department's Graduate Student Conference under the panel "Chicanas/os, Society and Discourse: Literary, Linguistic and Historical Enquiries" held on April 21, 2007.

SARAH HARRIS
Sarah Harris presented a paper called "Cyclical Journeys and Acting Out in Juan Marsé’s ‘Sti Dicen que Cai: The Repetition of Physical and Emotional Trauma’ at Boston College’s Fifteenth Annual Conference in Romance Studies. The conference took place in Chestnut Hill, MA on March 31, 2007. The title of the conference was "Migratory Texts: Physical and Metaphorical Journeys."

RONALDO NIBBE
The principal journal of Central American Literature, ISTMO, has published Ronaldo Nibbe’s paper entitled "El tiempo principia en Xibalbá - cidos vs. espirales. El movimiento del tiempo histórico en la novela de Luis de Lién." This was a paper Ronaldo Nibbe presented at the Congreso de Historia Centroamericana in Antigua, Guatemala, in July 2006. It is a further development of his presentation at the Graduate Student Conference at UCLA in the spring of 2006. The article is in Issue #13, July-December 2006 and can be accessed at: http://www.denison.edu/collaborations/istmo/proyectos/ tiempo.html
ISTMO is an on-line journal based at Denison University.

ALLISON RAMAY
Allison Ramay co-edited an anthology of Mapuche poetry with Soledad Falabella and Graciela Huinao titled "Hilando en la memoria: 7 mujeres mapuche" (Cuarto Propio, 2006).

SANDRA RUIZ
On November 3, 2006 Sandra Ruiz presented "Moving Beyond the Dialogue: Reyna Grande’s ‘Across A Hundred Mountains’ " at the Pacific Coast Council for Latin American Studies. She also made a presentation at the 2007 UCSB Spanish and Portuguese Department's Graduate Student Conference under the panel "Chicanas/os, Society and Discourse: Literary, Linguistic and Historical Enquiries" held on April 21, 2007.

MARIAM SAADA
From May 16-19, 2007 Mariam Saada attended the conference Le XIIème Symposium International d’Études Moriscas in Tunisia organized by L’Association de Recherche en Lettres, Langues et Civilisations du Maghreb (ARLER). She presented a paper titled "El uso del Corán en la literatura aljamía-morisca."

NADIA SOPHIA SANKO
This May Nadia Sophia Sanko is presenting at the 32nd annual Caribbean Studies Association conference which this year takes place in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. The conference theme is "Alternative Interpretations of the Circum-Caribbean: Interrogating Connections across History, Society, Culture, and Performance." The title of her particular presentation is "New Portrayals of the Afro-Caribbean Woman: The Performativity of Eroticism, Gender, and Race in Circum-Caribbean Literature and Film of the 1990s."

ARIEL TUMBAGA
California State University Dominguez Hills held its PCCLAS Conference in November 2006 where Ariel Tumbaga presented "Chicano Struggle and Yaqui Resistance: Chicano Literature’s Acquisition of the Yaqui Military Legend." In April 2007 he also presented "Waves, Flows, Streams and Floods: Migrations Past and Present" at the UCLA Graduate Student Conference on Migration and Race. At the University of California Santa Barbara Graduate Conference, "Palabras para que? Palabras para que? Addressing the Relevance of Discourse Practices in the Lusophone and Hispanic World" in April, Tumbaga presented "Brown Pride: The Rise of Mexican Colorism." He also presented at the 2007 UCSB Spanish and Portuguese Department's Graduate Student Conference under the panel "Chicanas/os, Society and Discourse: Literary, Linguistic and Historical Enquiries" held on April 21, 2007. Following the conference he was invited by moderator Francisco Lomell to submit a long version of his presentation for possible publication.

POLINA VASILEV
At the XXX Symposium on Portuguese Traditions, Polina Vasilev presented her conference paper titled "The Russian and Brazilian Communities in Los Angeles: a case study of...

GRADUATE STUDENT JOB PLACEMENT

PILAR ASENSIO has accepted a position at Yale University as a Lector.

DAMIAN BACICH has accepted a position at San Jose State University as an Assistant Professor of Spanish (Colonial Spanish American Literature).

CAROLYN KENDRICK has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at the Air Force Academy where she will be head of the Portuguese section of the Foreign Languages Department.

ALLISON LI is currently at San Jose State University as a lecturer in the Foreign Languages Department.

ALESSANDRA SANTOS has been appointed 2007-2008 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

CHRISTIAN ZETARRA has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Languages & Literature at the University of Utah.

We wish all of our graduates continued success.
Dissertations Filed


07-08 Dissertation-Year Fellowships

Sarah Harris, advised by Maite Zubiaurre.
Jasmina Arsova, advised by C. Brian Morris
Lizy Moromisato, advised by Efrain Kristal.
Carolina Sitnisky, advised by Efrain Kristal.

2007-2008 Department Travel Grants

These awards are funded by Ben and Rue Pine, Del Amo and the Friends and Alumni of Spanish & Portuguese Group. Graduate student recipients are:

Catalina Forttes
Angela Helmer
Román Luján
Máriam Saada
Carolina Sitnisky
Nadia Sanko
Ariel Tumbaga
Amanda Williams

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Trajectories...

By Joan Arias

I completed all the requirements for the PhD from UCLA’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese in 1998 after having dreamt all my life of teaching Spanish at the college level. “Life” intervened and my husband (Ron, MA, Journalism from UCLA 1967) and I went to Venezuela for a year where he wrote for the Caracas Daily Journal and I took care of our new baby and taught classes in English as a Second Language at the American and British Centers. When we moved back to the US, we lived for 3 years in Washington, DC where I taught beginning Spanish at Georgetown and English at the Montgomery County College through a government program for Cuban immigrants. I was fulfilling my dream although I was still dissertation-less! Ron worked at the InterAmerican Development Bank during that time as a PR professional.

I knew I would never advance without the dissertation and Ron wasn’t enjoying his job very much so we

Gloria Gálvez-Carlisle


She also participated in a round table discussion on the topic "Formas de Belleza" at the University of Concepción, Chile, on January 6, 2006. In April she was co-host and part of a team (archaeologist, geologist and historian) sponsored by UCLA Alumni Travel featuring Perú - Lima, Cuzco and Machu Picchu - in which she taught a series of classes on "Spanish for Travelers." On June 30, 2006 she read a paper entitled "Desafíos y controversias: ecología y ecocjusticia en narradoras latinoamericanas recientes" at the 8th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) held in Salamanca, Spain. In April 2007 she initiated a “Tertulia”, an informal Spanish Conversation for undergraduate non-native speakers, organized by the UCLA Undergraduate Spanish and Portuguese Association (USPA).

Gloria currently serves as a Book Review of Hispania, as an AP Reader for the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and as invited advisor on Spanish Language and Literature curriculum at the newly formed Quest University, British Columbia, Canada.

Charles Johnson

Charles Johnson (CPhil 1971) has been working for the past 25 years as a freelance Romance Language translator.

Keya Koul

Keya Koul will graduate with honors from Southwestern Law School on May 20, 2007. A few days after graduation, she will move to Albuquerque, New Mexico where she will be studying for and taking the July 2007 New Mexico State Bar Examination.

Kristina Mitrovici

Dr. Cristina Dobrescu-Mitrovici is currently serving as Assistant Professor in the Department of Languages and Cultures at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. In the past year she was invited to present the following papers:


I wish to express my deep gratitude to all those who have
given me material and spiritual support. Thank you.

GONZALO NAVAJAS

Prof. Gonzalo Navajas has published a new novel, *En blanco y negro* (Madrid: Verbum, 2007). He has been made a member of the Editorial Board of the Monographic Review/Revista monográfica. Prof. Navajas has published the articles, "El canon y los nuevos paradigmas culturales," *Iberoamericana* (VI, 22, 87-97), and "La escritura de la libertad y la cultura industrial en Francisco Ayala," *Hispania* (89, 4, 702-709). He gave invited lectures at the 2007 Hispanicistentag Congress (Dresden) and Darmouth. In May 2007 he was elected Nuremberg Member of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language and Corresponding Member of the Royal Spanish Academy of the Language.

CLAUDIA PRADA

Claudia Prada (MA 1994) currently serves as Director of Foreign Languages at View Park Prep. She is author of the book series *Say it in Spanish.*

JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ-PIMENTA

Juan Carlos Ramirez-Pimenta is Associate Professor of Spanish at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley. He teaches courses in Latin American Literature and Border culture. His most recent book is *De El Periquillo al perejillo: Ensayos sobre historia y cultura mexicana* published in 2006. In 2005 he co-edited with Salvador Fernandez, *El Norte y su frontera en la narrativa poblana mexicana.*

MICHAEL SCHUESSLER

Michael Schuessler has accepted a teaching position at Mexico’s Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM) in Mexico City, where he is currently helping to design the curricula in humanities with the support of a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship. In April the University of Texas Press published his edition of Alma Reed’s memoirs *Peregrina: Love and Death in Mexico.* The Spanish translation of the same text was recently published by Mexico’s Editorial Diana, and both include a foreword by Mexican writer Elena Poniatowska as well as a detailed introductory study by Schuessler. A movie based on this fascinating memoir is scheduled to begin filming in Mérida, Yucatán, in the fall. It will be directed by Carlos Bolado (*Bajo California. Sólo dos saben*) and will star Demián Bichir as Felipe Carrillo Puerto. The role of Alma Reed has not yet been announced.

EDWARD F. STANTON

Edward Stanton (Ph.D. 1972) gave the keynote lecture at the annual Gathering of Pilgrims in Williamsburg, VA, in March 2007. He has been guest editor of special issues of the following two journals: "Goya at the Equinox," *Romance Quarterly,* No. 1 (Winter 2007), and "Pegasos de dos siglos: Poesía en Kentucky," *Hispanic Poetry Review,* No. 1 (Spring 2007).

MARTIN C. TAYLOR

Martin C. Taylor, Ph.D., Hispanic Languages & Literatures (1964), taught at UCLA, Michigan, Cal-Berkeley, Nebraska, and Nova Southeastern. He wrote on, among others, Mistral, Borges, and Cortázar. Dr. Taylor chartered and led as dean, for 14 years, the first private U.S. university in Panama. Currently, in Miramar, Florida, where he teaches Spanish, ESOL, and applied phonetics, he is writing with Dr. Saul Sibisky, on the factors involved in interpretation and translation. In practice, interpreters face difficult social, legal, economic, intellectual, and ethical challenges. In theory, some of the physiological, cultural, and evolutionary factors involve brain-mind, memory, and consciousness. Among the many UCLA professors who inspired him both took a leap, applied for teaching jobs in California and returned to the Golden State. I as a Lecturer at Cal State San Bernardino and Ron as an instructor at San Bernardino Valley College. I returned to UCLA and Carroll Johnson was kind enough to "adopt" me and direct my dissertation on the Guzman de Alfarache, a topic I had selected with his and my former professor Joseph Silverman. Ron built a little office for me; I bought myself an electric typewriter (!) and I began work on the dissertation. When Cal State dropped its foreign language requirement (and me in the bargain!), I found a part-time job at LaVerne College and kept working chapter by chapter. By 1975, I was full-time at LaVerne and the proud possessor of a completed PhD. During the 10 years I was at LaVerne I received two NEH grants for summer study at major universities. At the University of Pittsburgh, Javier Herrero sponsored the publication of my dissertation as a Tamesis book and Joseph Silverman wrote the introduction.

But I began to weary of teaching and I didn’t find research compelling and in 1982 I went back to UCLA and enrolled in a career counseling class. With the help of the Career Center, I found a job as a disaster preparedness official (earthquake!) which led to an invitation to work for IBM as a Humanities Specialist in a new department founded to market to Universities. I’ve been there ever since! We moved to Connecticut and lived there until 11 years ago when we returned to California. I’ve had at least 5 different jobs at IBM and have been in more or less the same job - sales support - for about 10 years now. Ron changed careers as well - but I’ll let him tell that story himself in another note!

I’ve never regretted making that change. I believe the move revitalized me and despite the occasional frustrations of working for a large corporation, I like it! It’s important to point out that money didn’t drive me to leave teaching. I realized along the way that I was not in the right place and the career change made a big difference. I will probably retire in a couple of years and I have no idea what will happen next.