
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
The University of Wisconsin-Madison
1018 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1557

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Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese:

Greetings from Madison, where after a long winter, spring has finally arrived! You will have noticed that we have changed the format of the Tinta newsletter. We are now producing both a briefer spring mailing to update you on our outreach endeavors, as well as a fuller fall newsletter that will report on faculty and student news. This will provide you with more timely information about our activities throughout the year.

The Residencia de Estudiantes, the Spanish residence floor, continues to be a great success, attracting far more students than we can accommodate with current resources. If you enjoy reading about the Residencia's activities, you might consider funding this important undergraduate initiative. We also are very proud of the graduate-student events that the department has helped sponsor this year: the Ibero-American Writers in the Era of Globalization as well as the annual Kaleidoscope conference, which enhance our students' professional development at the M.A. and Ph.D. level. With your help we can continue to fund such important opportunities.

Please remember to send us your information as mentioned on the insert to this newsletter. We would like to keep in touch and receive news from you, to learn more about our friends and alumni.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Ivy Corfis



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Spring 2007

Editor: Juan F. Egea



News & Events

The 2006-2007 Academic Year has been as busy and productive as usual for everyone in the Department. As this newsletter goes to the printer, the "Ibero-American Writers in the Era of Globalization," a symposium organized by a group of graduate students in the Department that brought to Madison eight writers from six different Ibero-American countries, has just come to a conclusion. More exciting events are coming our way in March and April, including the graduate student conference Kaleidoscope, a conference on "Performing Brazil," and visits by renowned scholars like **Diana Taylor**. You can read about it all in our fall edition of *Tinta*. In the fall of 2006, **Julio Ramos**, from the University of California at Berkeley, gave a talk entitled "Ficciones del sujeto moderno: un diálogo improbable entre Benjamin y Pessoa." In February 2007, **Nora Strejilevich** lectured on "Beyond the Language of Truth: Memory, History, and Testimony."

Faculty News

The Department's faculty has been active getting their research programs in print. Here you can find a sample of some of the more notable publications. Prof. **Luís Madureira** published the monograph: *Imaginary Geographies in Portuguese and Lusophone-African Literature: Narratives of Discovery and Empire* (Edwin Mellen Press). Prof. **Margarita Zamora** co-edited the book *Cuba: Contrapuntos de cultura, historia y sociedad/Cuba: Counterpoints on Culture, History, and Society*, forthcoming in Ediciones Callejón. Professional conferences around the country are literally taken over by members of our Department, as was the case in the latest Mid America Conference on Hispanic Literatures (MACHL), which took place in Missouri. Four of our faculty members, together with graduate students **Mary Kempen** and **Courtney Lanz**, delivered papers at that conference. Look forward to this year's MACHL in October 4-6, 2007 in Madison. We are the hosting institution! The main theme will be "Literature and Re-configuration of Knowledge." Last, but not least, in the fall of 2006, **Kathryn Sanchez** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, with tenure. Congratulations, Kathryn!

Graduate Students News

Rebecca Atencio and **Paula Di Dio** were winners of the Humanities Exposed awards in 2006. These awards recognize the high quality of academic work and creative community service of graduate students in the humanities. **Patricia Rengel** and **Nancy Bird-Soto** presented a paper at the International Literary Congress in Arecibo, Puerto Rico in November 2006. They have been collaborating on the very successful *Personalidades de la cultura hispánica* podcasts. These are instructional listening materials that are being used by Spanish departments across the country. The project will be featured in our next issue of *Tinta*. Patricia also received the 2006 Teaching Assistant Award for her contribution to the educational mission of the UW-Madison.

Alumni & Friends

Those who once walked the corridors of Van Hise and rode its elevators are doing very interesting things after they leave the Department. Recent and not so recent students of the Department will be featured in our newsletter periodically. On page four, we offer two brief and very different stories about our alumni's life after graduation. We want to hear from you. Send us your news, pictures or comments. Some of our alumni are also our best friends. They have expressed their commitment to this Department's mission through very generous donations, without which many of our initiatives and programs could not be possible. To all of you, thanks so much. Our most interesting and exciting initiatives depend on your generosity.

Department's Donors (2006)

- \$5000 or over**
- Kathryn L Kidder**
- \$3000 or over**
- Evjue Foundation
- \$1000 or over**
- Linda Paul
- \$750 or over**
- Mary B Loud
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- Melanie J Hayward
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- Diana Kay Jankovich
- Maureen Maloney
- Kristi L Marcelle
- David C Peterson
- Betty A Scalise
- David J Schuettler
- Elissa R Speizman
- Lynn K Talbot
- Megan A Webster
- Other amounts**
- Andrew J Barragry
- David H R Barnes
- Judith O Belinkie
- Myrna Goldman
- Jodi L Iverson
- Heather L Johnson
- Gunda S Kaiser
- Gerald J Langowski
- Phillip Emmanuel Losey
- Pamela A Miller
- Lois M Oglesby
- Ivanice S Passos De Nicolò
- Janice R Rockin
- Christoph E Schweitzer
- Jeffrey and Gretchen Seymour
- Danielle P Skupas



é *The Residencia de estudiantes in Madrid, 1915. "La colina de los chopos," as Juan Ramón Jiménez called it. It is still there. Writers and scholars still occupy its rooms and enrich the country's culture.*

La Resi



It was in 1910 when the original Residencia de Estudiantes was founded in Madrid. Designed to turn university life into a truly intellectual adventure, Salvador Dalí, Luis Buñuel and Federico García Lorca, among others, made it the emblem of an era of artistic experimentation and camaraderie. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese's "resi" is a Lakeshore dorm floor with 18 students determined to make their own Spanish-speaking community right in the core of our campus. They talk, learn, have fun and, in fact, live in Spanish. This is a wonderful opportunity to be abroad at home.

This year's residents have not limited the use of their Spanish-speaking abilities to the confines of their living quarters. In addition to a series of fun and cultural activities organized by Graduate Coordinator Francisco Vega Torres, they are reaching out to the community. In February 2007, they volunteered to help Midvale Elementary School with registration. Hispanic families could count on our students to translate for them while registering their children. This outreach service will continue in the future. Hispanic personalities in the Madison area will visit La Residencia. La Resi is already becoming a site where the Spanish language is building bridges to the Spanish-speaking community in Madison.

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Our Residencia occupies a floor in Adams Hall, on the shores of Lake Mendota. 18 UW-Madison undergraduates live there. The desire to be part of that community is very high. With the appropriate funding, two floors could be full with students eager to speak the Spanish language in every activity. Our residents are future doctors, health workers, educators and international relations experts who will put their Spanish to good use in their professional life.

In Their Own Words

While on study abroad in Madrid, the time had come to decide on housing for the next academic year. I was thrilled to find housing at La Residencia de Estudiantes. In order to help retain the acquired Spanish, speaking it daily upon my return from Spain was imperative, and the Residencia has provided with a wonderful space for just that. Besides speaking Spanish with my fellow peers, there are several students who have studied abroad and even a native Argentinean student. These students add a unique perspective, especially when we discuss about different Hispanophone cultures. Moreover, I particularly appreciate having, Francisco Vega Torres, the Spanish Graduate Coordinator, living with us. Apart from organizing cultural activities, Francisco enjoys talking with us and at the same time has the needed patience to correct our repeated grammatical mistakes. Finally, Professor Marcelo Pellegrini, our Faculty Director, teaches us through informal weekly discussions the particularities of his culture and shares his witty Chilean humor at the biweekly International Learning Community dinners.

Patrick Peczerski is a senior graduating in 2008 majoring in International Studies, Spanish and Polish.



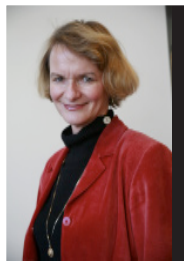
*Francisco Vega Torres (left), from Puerto Rico, is the Residencia's third Graduate Language Program Coordinator since its creation. He not only organizes all sorts of cultural and social events, but also tutors the residents. Most students in the Residencia are also taking intermediate or advanced Spanish courses. They are encouraged to speak Spanish not only in the hallways, but also in their rooms and anywhere they are with other students from the floor. Even cooking has been turned into a cultural experience. On October 5, 2006, for instance, and under Francisco's supervision, a group of four students prepared the following menu for their fellow residents: lemonade and passion fruit juice, empanadas (Argentina), quesadillas (Mexico), chicken wings (Southern USA), tortilla española (Spain), and garlic soup. According to our inside informers, everything was *delicioso*.*

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Alumni Profiles



Picture by Steve Salpukas. Text courtesy of the College of Williams and Mary

Francie Cate-Arries received her doctorate degree from our Department in 1987 and now teaches at the College of Williams and Mary. She was selected as one of the 12 statewide recipients of the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Awards, sponsored by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Dominion. The award recognizes the finest among Virginia's college faculty for their demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and public service. A specialist in contemporary Spanish cultural studies, she has published on a wide range of topics including Vázquez Montalbán's detective novels, the art of Salvador Dalí and Remedios Varo, and the exile authors of the Spanish Civil War. As a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow, she wrote the book Spanish Culture behind Barbed-Wire: Memory and Representation of the French Concentration Camps, 1939-1945. "In every course I teach," Francie writes, "I ask students to join me on a journey into sometimes radically different realms in time and space where English isn't spoken, where nothing may resemble home. I urge them to walk into worlds created on the page, on the screen, on the canvas, on city streets, which may seem light-years away from the places they know best."

We asked some of our recent graduates how Spanish or Portuguese has affected their life after graduation. This is Ryan Shanovich's answer (B. A., 2004). Ryan is currently working in the NYU School of Law Students for Human Rights (LSHR), Renditions to Torture Advocacy Group.

This question is inherently faulted, for it implies that Spanish has stopped affecting my life when in reality it is gaining importance and momentum. I depended upon my years of Spanish at UW to apply for legal internships in the Supreme Court of Argentina and several NGOs operating in the Southern Cone. When they review my resume, they will encounter experience as an interpreter for public schools and legal clinics after a year teaching in Chile – all of which occurred after graduation. I honestly cannot imagine how vapid the previous two years would seem if I erased all of my bilingual experience. I would not know the vast majority of my friends, or of the lives of dozens of Chileans abroad or Latinos at home, and my entire world view would be sheltered from the "other" American reality. Furthermore, I would not be a student at NYU School of Law. Like everything heuristic, Spanish is a vehicle for self-expression and a tool for achieving personal and professional goals. It has been so for me. Ultimately, the question isn't how Spanish affects one's life after graduation, but how much one will allow it to.



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