

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome back after what I hope has been a relaxing and productive winter break. With this issue of the Foreign Languages Newsletter, I begin my sabbatical and turn the reigns of the department over to my colleague, MARVIN D'LUGO. I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed over the three years of my chairmanship to the intellectually exciting and culturally rich activities that have filled the pages of the newsletter. In particular, thanks must go to ZINTA MOSKALEW, our department secretary who has worked diligently with me to sustain the newsletter. The job of collecting, writing up and editing each issue has been, of course, a collective enterprise and much thanks go to department colleagues, emeriti faculty and alums who have kept in touch with us, sharing the achievements and progress both in post-graduate education and their professional lives. My hope is that they keep the news coming.

With this issue, the Newsletter celebrates its 30th anniversary of continuous publication. Begun in the Spring of 1977 under the leadership of Professor WALTER SCHATZBERG, the Foreign Languages Newsletter was initially a semi-annual report that primarily chronicled the scholarly achievements of our faculty. Under the creative editorship of our colleague WILLIAM FERGUSON, Associate Professor of Spanish, a new "broadside" format was devised and the newsletter was published six times a year. With increased news space and frequency of distribution and Bill's guidance, we were able to shift the focus from faculty to student activities, and from a chronicling of past activities to the announcement of forthcoming events. Special alumni notes became a regular feature of the newsletter. The increase of interests and activities occasioned a further expansion of the newsletter to its current four-column format. Besides distribution in classes, the newsletter is regularly mailed to area colleges and universities, Clarkies on study-abroad programs

and to over two hundred alums and "friends of the department." More recently, we have begun to post issues on the department website.

If there is any secret to the longevity and success of the Newsletter, it must be that we have evolved from a conventional academic report to a common space to announce our forthcoming Department activities, celebrate the achievements of members of our community and to sustain an ongoing dialogue both on campus and off with that expanding group of friends. During my sabbatical stay in Paris, I will look forward to receiving news of my friends' continued progress. A bientôt

Michael Spingler, Chair

COMMUNITY FIELD PROJECTS: SPAN. 117

We continue our look at Department courses that involve community outreach by focusing on Spanish 117: "Community Field Projects" internship course, which began in 1974 and is now Clark's longest sustained community-outreach internship. Over that period, a number of faculty members — Marvin D'Lugo, María Acosta Cruz and most recently Constance Montross, have supervised the internship program with notable success and acclaim. In its current format, as Prof. CONSTANCE MONTROSS explains, the course has two goals: to serve the Latino community of Worcester; to enable students to learn about the Latino community and culture in Worcester and throughout the United States. To those ends, the students work in the community 6-8 hours a week in off-campus activities. Clarkies have worked at several sites including Centro Las Americas, the Goddard St. School, University Park School, Pernet, (a family health service) and Main South Community Development Corporation in various capacities such as teaching English as second language, mentoring young Latinos, translating documents or interpreting, doing community surveys, and assisting in bilingual classrooms. We work closely with the Community En-

agement and Volunteering Center which provides other service opportunities for students as they become aware of them.

Here are some of the field experiences from last semester's participants:

LIZZY FOX: "I have been working with several programs at Pernet Family Health Center. I go on several Early Intervention Visits each week as a translator. This program provides free early education therapy to children from infancy until three years of age while their mothers participate in the Spanish-speaking "Parents Helping Parents" classes on Friday mornings. I have also worked at the "Homework Club," an after-school program for middle-school students. Through this program, I connected with a family for whom I am now a 'Family Mentor.' I visit them once a week to help with homework and other things and I act as a contact between the family and the Pernet Center. The work is very interesting and inspiring because I get to see the many different living situations that Latinos experience in Worcester. I also get the privilege of watching their children grow and learn."

LAURA DE GRUSH: "Through working at Centro Las Americas and Pernet, I have met various people who have shaped my understanding of Worcester and the folks who live here. They have told me amazing things about their lives and experiences, and I have been able to share my story with them as well (always to their amusement). I feel very connected to the community through working at a food pantry and helping the Elderly Services at Centro. I have met people who knew Perón, Trujillo, and Franco, I have met people who worked in sugarcane and coffee fields, and then others who have lived in the US for their whole lives. I have formed close bonds through hearing about their

families at the food pantry and in teaching English to the elderly or painting with them. They still always beat me at Dominos!"

RACHEL REIZEN: "I work for the mentoring program at St. Peter's Church. I was matched with a 5-year old from Mexico whom I have been working with since the beginning of the year. I have helped her with the difficult transition of using only Spanish at home to using English at school. In turn, she has helped me improve my Spanish and has prepared me in many ways for the upcoming year in the Dominican Republic.

I plan to continue working with her and the program for the rest of this academic year, and hope to continue our contact after returning from the Caribbean. Spanish 117 has been an exceptional course, not only for the classroom readings and discussions, but also for our work and experience in the Worcester community."

NEW VISITING FACULTY IN SPANISH

This semester we welcome a new visiting colleague in Spanish who is already well-known to our students studying at the Tandem Center in Madrid. At Tandem Prof. **BELÉN ROJAS MEDINA** teaches all levels of language courses and supervises teachers in collaborative work with the Cervantes Institute in Madrid. With a degree from the University of Granada, Belén also taught Spanish language, culture and literature at the Tianjin University in China for three years. Among her professional activities in China she helped edit a Spanish-Chinese dictionary. This semester, she will be teaching Spanish Culture (Spanish 133) and Spanish Dramatic Expression (Spanish 140).

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER is published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Estabrook Hall 301, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610. Please send news items and announcements of coming events to Newsletter Editor, care of the Department, or call us at (508) 793-7342, 793-7234 (e-mail: jberg@clarku.edu). If you are not yet on our mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to us so that we can keep you fully informed of Foreign Languages Department activities.

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