

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE CHAIR

This Newsletter highlights the diversity of department engagement in issues of the real world both on campus and off. Our spotlight on the Spanish Translation Workshop and on a series of new courses reflects student interest in complex social and political realities. Similarly, the recent off-campus activities of our colleagues at scholarly gatherings mirrors our department's continuing commitment to investigating the changing faces of the national and ethnic communities we study in our classrooms. Look for future newsletters that will further explore where and how our faculty and students, from Foreign Languages have found ways to make a difference.

Michael Spingler, Chair

SPANISH TRANSLATION WORKSHOP: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT HOME AND ABROAD

Since its inception over a decade ago, The Spanish "Translation Workshop" (Sp. 141) has become a training center for aspiring translators and has often helped in real-world translation projects. This year's workshop, as reported by Spanish Professor Carol D'Lugo, has been especially active in outreach both for the Worcester community and beyond.

Translation Workshop participants have had the opportunity to help both agencies and artists by translating documents from Spanish to English and from English to Spanish. The latter example was for Clark's Big Brother/Big Sister Program that pairs local middle-school children with our students. Students worked on a letter to parents explaining the program and inviting them to consider their children's participation. The class also helped IDCE Professor Duncan Earle translate a grant proposal to request funding for an alternative school in Chiapas, Mexico. This innovative school is envisioned for

young adult women and has as a main goal the enabling of a positive sense of awareness and self-esteem. The group's larger vision follows the Mayan concept of horizontal thinking, which projects lasting self-sustenance and equality for all through coming generations.

Finally, the class engaged in translating two poems and a darkly comical prose piece for our own Prof. BELÉN ATIENZA. Prof. Atienza came to class to offer insights into the composing process and the deeper layers she hoped would be retained in the translation. The entire class will be credited with the translation when the works are published.

NEW SPRING COURSES in 2007

FREN 168: Immigration in France

France is proud of its long-standing reputation of a "land of asylum." However, in the light of social unrest that gripped the country in late 2005, as well as the ever-growing popularity of the party of the extreme right, which advocates an anti-immigration policy, one wonders what the economic and social realities are for immigrant communities in France. The debates around the Islamic veil also pose the question of cultural assimilation and civil rights. This course will focus on three predominant communities: the North Africans, the Africans, and the Antilleans. Themes include: the riots of 2005, the 2002 presidential elections, immigration in post-war France, women and Islam in France, racism and prejudice, illegal immigration, and the role played by intellectuals in immigrant communities. Professor Odile Ferly. T F 12 – 1:15 p.m.

CLAS222: Jesus, History and the Apocalypse

Studies the many aspects of the "historical Jesus" issue. What can be known with certainty about Jesus of Nazareth? What do we know with reasonable historical confidence? How does one evaluate, as a historian, ancient texts (the canonical and non-canonical Gospels, among others) that supply inconsistent accounts and that make religious claims not subject to historical analysis? The course also focuses on the historical context of Jesus, as a first-century Palestinian Jew under Roman authority. Professor Paul Burke. W 9 – 11:50 a.m.

FACULTY NOTES

On October 16th, EVERETT FOX, Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of Clark’s Jewish Studies Program, spoke at the “Symposium on Bible Translation” at Rutgers University. The symposium was presented to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Bildner Center Program in Jewish Studies. In December, Professor Fox’s article, “Bible—Modern Versions,” will appear in a new edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*

On Oct. 18 Associate Professor of Spanish MARÍA ACOSTA CRUZ was invited lecturer for the Quinsigamond Community College Distinguished Lecturer in the Liberal Arts Program. Her lecture, titled "How to Recognize a Puerto Rican" dealt with Latino cultural expression in the United States. The talk explored matters related to the use and misuse of stereotypes of Puerto Ricans and the marketing of a Latino image.

CATHERINE QUICK SPINGLER, Lecturer in French, participated in Arden Seminars on Intellectual Renewal for Leaders in Lenox, MA held October 26-29. Tina Packer, Artistic Director of Shakespeare and Company, and Tamar March, Founder and Director of The Arden Institute, guided discussions on subjects as varied as Plato’s “The Allegory of the Cave” and Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night.” Costumes from past productions and designed by Cathie Spingler at Clark University are the subject of a photo essay in the current issue of *Stir Magazine*, a campus publication devoted to photography.

On November 9th, Spanish Professor MARVIN D’LUGO will help inaugurate the opening session of “Memories of Modernity,” an international conference on Hispanic Cinemas for which he is co-organizer, sponsored by the Stony Brook University

and *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas*, the international film journal for which Professor D’Lugo is one of the American editors. The conference, held at the Stony Brook Center in Manhattan, will bring together film scholars from Europe, the U. S. and Latin America for two days of presentations and debates around the topic of the impact of cultural modernity through cinema in the Hispanic world.

This fall Professor BETH GALE (French) and ALICE VALENTINE (Japanese) are team-teaching a course in language pedagogy at Holy Cross for the Colleges of the Worcester Consortium program. The course, "Teaching a Foreign Language: Methodology in Practice," is designed for graduate students planning to teach Modern Foreign languages or ESL courses. Among the participants are the Foreign Language Assistants at Holy Cross and our own BEI ZHANG, who teaches first-year Chinese at Clark.

ALUMNI NOTES

OMAR POM (’99 French/Spanish) writes that after spending two years in radio journalism, he decided on a career shift and enrolled in a two-year teaching certificate program. In December of 2004 he received a certificate of secondary education in Spanish and French from the Aruba Pedagogical Institute. Since August 2006, he has been working at the Milton Peters School in Dutch St. Martin as a French and Spanish secondary education teacher. For him this marks a return to the island of his grandparents. He is learning much about teaching and about the culture of the island.

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 The Spanish conversation hour, Tertulia, continues on Tuesdays 2:45-4 p.m. in Foreign Languages & Literatures office 302ES. Students from all levels of Spanish are welcome to join in and socialize with stimulating conversation.

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 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, in care of the Department or call us at (508) 793-7342, 793-7234. 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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