

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to a new academic year! These are exciting times for the Department. Enrollments are at capacity in all our programs. Clarkies appear to be increasingly aware of the importance of achieving proficiency in one or more foreign languages as our students combine their language study with an impressive variety of other disciplines. Study Abroad reports a dramatic increase in applicants for all programs. A new initiative is underway for two new programs in Chile. Clearly, a semester or year in an overseas program is becoming an increasingly popular option for students whether they are majoring or minoring in one of the languages we offer at Clark.

This is also the occasion to welcome the many new colleagues who join us this year and to wish them success in their courses. We hope you will use the newsletter to spread the word about relevant upcoming activities you are involved in and also to support the activities of your friends in the department in their work.

Marvin D'Lugo

NEW FACES AND OLD FRIENDS

Because of a rotation of sabbatical leaves and retirements, FL&L has a record number of new faces among our faculty this year. Let us welcome our new colleagues in French, German and Spanish.

INMACULADA ÁLVAREZ joins us as Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish. With her recent Ph.D. from Tulane University, "Inma" brings with her a wide range of research and teaching interests: Transatlantic Studies, contemporary Spanish literature and cinema, migration and gender studies. Co-author of *Close-Ups: 100 Years of Spanish Cinema*, a volume to be published next year by Blackwell Press, she is currently working on a single-authored book on transatlantic Hispanic literature and film, tentatively titled: *Using Desire: Cuban Imagery and Migration in Transnational Spain, 1984-1994*. Next semester, Inma will teach a course on Spanish film. Look for details in our next issue.

MABEL APARICIO is this year's Tandem Exchange Professor. A native of Argentina, she holds a degree in Chemistry and has taught in her native country, Germany and Spain at the Tandem Center. In Madrid, Mabel regularly offers the popular "Actualidades" course to Clark students. She is also one of the founding members of Spain's ASILIM (Association for the Linguistic Integration of Immigrants), a group charged with preparing professors to teach Spanish to Spain's ever-increasing immigrant population.

We also welcome **DIETER BLAUL**'s return to Clark from Hamburg Germany to take charge of our German Studies Program. Dieter completed his university studies in Munich with concentrations in Economics and Language Pedagogy. He took an advanced degree in Spanish literature at the Universidad Complutense (Madrid) and has taught at various German and European institutions of higher learning, most notably at ICADE, the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas (Spain), where he taught German legal language for law professionals.

FRANCK KOFFI joins the French Program as a Part-time lecturer. Franck received his M.A. from the Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux III and at Inseec-Paris, France. His research interests are in French, Francophone and Comparative Literature, baroque and literature, the influence of the media in western and democratic countries. Next semester he will offer a course on popular French Culture.

ERIC PARKS is Part-time Visiting Lecturer in Latin this year. With a B.A. from the College of Wooster (Ohio) in 1992, Eric is currently completing his Ph.D. in Classical Studies at Boston University, writing a dissertation on "The Portrayal of Women in the Works of Tacitus."

TERESA RUANO returns to Clark for her third visiting appointment. She is currently completing her doctoral dissertation at Madrid's Universidad Complutense on "La Guerra Civil Española en los libros de texto alemanes: el nacionalsocialismo, la República Federal y la República Democrática (1936-1989)." Familiar to Clark students through her classes offered at the Tandem, Teresa has also taught art history and modern Spanish literature at the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas since 1995. This semester she is offering Spanish 136: "The Female Voice in Spanish Narrative and Film." Next

semester she will teach “Tres pintores, Goya, Velázquez y Picasso.”

We also welcome the three new “Assistants” from France: LAURE GEANT and HOUARI SI ABDELKADER from the Université de Bourgogne in Dijon, and MAXIME BRIAND from the Université de Versailles, to assist students in French conversation.

LAS DALIAS

Prof. CAROL D’LUGO is mounting a campaign to help the children of a poor village in Argentina. Through her contact with Carlos Aletto, she has learned about the efforts of residents of Barrio Las Dalias to provide education materials and other support for the community’s children. As Carlos writes, “Books and notebooks are the tools with which to escape absolute poverty.”

Living conditions in Las Dalias are difficult, with streets unpaved, no electricity or running water. Our Department will soon begin collecting school supplies (pencils, pens, workbooks...) and, most importantly, books to send to Las Dalias. Beginning September 26, boxes will be in Estabrook and the UC for material contributions. For more information, please visit the website that Carlos helped create:

<http://barriolasdalias.bitacoras.com/archivos/2007/08/26/carol-una-nueva-emocion-otro-correo-ejemplar>

FACULTY NOTES

Professor of Spanish CAROL D’LUGO participated in the recent Latin American Studies Association Convention in Montréal Canada. She delivered a paper on the topic of “Refiguring the Trinity in Rosario Castellanos’s *Oficio de tinieblas*.”

Spanish Prof. MARVIN D’LUGO’S essay “The Construction of the Transnational Film Auteur: Some Notes on the *Cinema* of Eliseo Subiela” appears in the recently published *The Cinematic Art of Eliseo Subiela, Argentine Filmmaker*, edited by Nancy Membez. London: Mellen Press, 2007.

June 4, EVERETT FOX, Glick Professor of Judaica, spoke at the International Council of Philosophical Inquiry with Children and the Israeli Association of Philosophy for Children: Philosophical Inquiry with Children: A Meeting Point Between Cultures and Identities (at Hebrew University, Jerusalem). He presented a paper “Awakening Appreciation of the Text Through Translation: Deepening the Relationship between Children and the Ideas in the Biblical Text” based on his translation of the Bible on “Teaching Philosophy to Children.”

WHAT’S LATINO, ANYWAY?

As part of the celebration of Latino Heritage Month, Professor of Spanish MARVIN D’LUGO will give a talk entitled “What’s Latino, Anyway?” His talk, which includes samples of Latino performance videos will take place on September 25 in the Wright Hall Social Lounge at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Clark’s Office of Intercultural Affairs. Students of Spanish are strongly encouraged to attend.

ALUMS WRITE BACK

LAURA DeGRUSH, a 2006 Spanish grad, writes that she has joined the Peace Corps for two years and will be located in Paraguay assisting local families with agriculture and Africanized bees. Laura tells us that she will “be in Guaramaré for training until December when they send me off to a smaller village. Would this be my first choice? Well, sometimes a choice is given you and you can accept a wild adventure.”

KATE HOLZMAN, a 2006 grad, writes: “I am doing the fifth-year master’s program at Clark in Community Development. My Spanish skills are definitely an asset for this type of work, as it significantly broadens the number and scope of people and organizations I can work with. This past summer I received grants from ISS and IDCE to do research in Argentina on the topic of the role of community-based education in the Unemployed Workers Movement of La Matanza.

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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