

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

As we head into break, it has been a busy few weeks for the Department. Although Profs. Atienza, D'Lugo (both), Ferly, and Spingler are on Sabbatical, we continue to offer a wide range of courses in both language instruction and aspects of culture and identity. The mission of the department in this regard will be greatly strengthened in the Fall with the arrival of Robert Tobin, our new Leir Professor of Foreign Languages and Cultures. Prof. Tobin, currently at Whitman College in Washington State, will spearhead the program out of our core course, The National Imagination (CMLT 130), and teach classes in both gender studies and German literature and culture. His first course, to be given in the Fall, will be "Sexuality and Textuality." We look forward to Prof. Tobin's experienced and invigorating presence among us for years to come.

As students register for the Fall semester, we eagerly anticipate the return of Profs. Belén Atienza, Carol D'Lugo, Odile Ferly, and Michael Spingler, and the arrival of new visiting professors in Spanish, German, and Chinese. A new appointment in History, the Leffell Chair, will broaden course offerings in Jewish Studies, both in East European Jewish history and Yiddish literature. Thus it promises to be a year of growth for the Department, with strong support for the teaching of language and expanded offerings in culture and Comparative Literature.

Everett Fox

FACULTY NOTES

Professor PAUL BURKE will be delivering a paper, "St. Pilate and the Conversion of Tiberius," at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England, 14 March 2008 at Connecticut College, New London, CT. It should also be noted that Prof. Burke will be teaching a Language and Culture Perspective course, "Romans, Barbarians and Scholars," in the Luxembourg May Term, 11 May-7 June 2008. This will be the first time an LCP course has been offered in the May Term.

On February 6th, Professor BETH GALE joined professors Winston Napier of English and Amy Richter of History in presenting a paper on the theme "The American Story: Whose Story Is It?" for the Humanities Scholars Collaborative visit to Clark. On February 16th, she presented a modified session of her Fairy Tales class for the Presidential Scholars program on campus.

On February 14, 2008 the first meeting of the Foreign Languages Curriculum Team took place in Jonas Clark at the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education. The team currently consists of CONNIE MONTROSS from Clark University, Susan O'Malley of the Sullivan Middle School and Marilyn Alejandra of the Main South High School. The goals of the team are to identify best practices in the field of second language acquisition, analyze the relationship between those practices and the Massachusetts Foreign Language Standards and develop curriculum that incorporates both the best practices and the standards. Professor Tom DelPrete received the funding for this team through a grant awarded to the Department of Education at Clark.

The French Study Abroad program welcomed five students to Dijon. Rachel Ambrose, Kaytlyn Gillis, Emily Holland, Charlotte Laussy and Kaitlyn Sephton arrived in Dijon on January 21st. During three days of orientation they met with professors from the Centre International d'Etudes Francaises, opened bank accounts, became acquainted with the city and met their host families. They re-connected with two students spending the year in Dijon, Jake Kovach and Diana Ciechorska. The orientation sessions were conducted under the supervision of Adriane Van Gils, Director of the Study Abroad program and CATHERINE QUICK SPINGLER of the French Department.

Professor CAROL D'LUGO writes that she has two articles accepted for publication: "La India María vs. Cantinflas and El Santo: Identity Construction within Aspects of Race, Gender, and Class in Popular Mexican Cinema" for *Cine-Lit VI*, and "Fictions of Apprenticeship: Following the Growth of Narrative Strategies and Cultural Ideologies in Rosario Castellanos" for *Hispanófila*.

Two articles on Spanish cinema by Professor MARVIN D'LUGO have recently appeared in print: "El extraño viaje alrededor dell cine de Almodóvar." Rpt. In Herrera, Javier / Martínez-Carazo, Cristina (eds.): *His-*

panismo y cine. La casa de la riqueza. Estudios de cultura de España Vol.11 Madrid / Frankfurt: Iberoamericana / Vervuert 2007:199-218; and "Gardel, el film hispano y la construcción auditiva." *Cine, Nación y Nacionalidades en España.* Estudios dirigidos por Nancy Berthier y Jean-Claude Seguin. Madrid: Colección Casa de Velázquez, Vol. 100: 147-63.

On February 11 and 12, Professor Marvin D'Lugo was the invited guest of the School for Studies in Art and Culture at Carleton University (Ottawa, Ontario). On February 11, he gave a public lecture: "Of Brothels and Boleros: The Sites and Sounds of Modernity in Mexican Musical Cinema." On February 12 he presented a workshop on "Aural Culture in Hispanic Cinemas" for graduate students and faculty of Carleton's Ph.D. program in Cultural Mediations. On February 28, he was one of the invited speakers for a day-long symposium at Dartmouth College: 1808-2008 "Goya and the Foundation of Modernity." He will present a paper entitled "The Cinematic Goya." The symposium is sponsored by the Dartmouth College Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Leslie Center for the Humanities, John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, Hood Museum of Art, Department of Art History, and the Spanish Consulate at Boston.

ALUMNI NEWS

Department secretary Zinta Moskalew recently spotted former student **Beatriz Meza '06** at the State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico concert at Mechanics Hall. Ms. Meza eagerly responded to a request to update us on her own news as follows:

After graduating with a BA in Government and International Relations, and German, I found a job at the Mexican Consulate in Boston. I started working in the Documentation Department, issuing Mexican passports and Mexican Visas to foreigners. As of 2008 I've been working as the Receptionist. The activities I have done with the Consulate include going to events (such as the Sinfonia del Estado de Mexico), mobile consulates in the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, as well as within Massachusetts, parties for the Mexican Independence Day, and other events as such.

Recently I had the honor of meeting President Felipe Calderon on his visit to the US. He gave a conference at Harvard University this past February 11th, and we were in charge of most of the logistics of his trip to Boston.

Shawn Goodspeed '06 former Latin Teaching Assistant – as Assistant Director, Regional Planning, Alumni Affairs treks around the country but also has to get used to "staff/employee" vacation schedules.

We hope, in the true spirit of Clark, to continue to follow our graduates in their positions around the world.

Our former French Teaching Assistant from Versailles in 2005-2006, **Sophie Kienlen**, has continued an energetic life with her internship at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Communication Department, followed by yet another one at the Alliance Francaise in Bulgaria and even defending her Master's degree in History. Recently Sophie wrote:

I wanted to share with you great news: I was accepted for the Monitorat (Teaching assistantship) position in the History Department at my University in Versailles. I am very happy because in the French system it is a great opportunity as it opens the doors to teaching once your PhD is completed!

I am back in the United States for a short visit, right on time to enjoy the greatest dinner and family reunion in America. I am in Hartford, Conn., with my friends from Boston my "American Family" (Adam, the son, is the exchange partner of my sister Pauline and they took really good care of me while I was in MA two years ago). I will be staying in Boston for a week or so and then heading down to New York for a couple of weeks for research purposes (what a tough life, I know...).

Hope you are all enjoying gravy (at Thanksgiving) as much as I do!

Best wishes, Sophie

LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

Get ready for the **13th Annual Latino Film Festival**: theme *Mal de Amores* (Love Sickness) and four films during the week of March 25 with a special appearance of guest producers Lullilo Ruiz and Belly Torres for the film *Maldeamores* on March 29. Details later.

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 (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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