On June 25, 2009, Professor Samuel G. Armistead was nominated to the Real Academia Española as a “miembro numerario” of the North American Academy of Spanish Language. Other foreign nominations include Alan Deyermond, Dorothy Severin, Elías Rivers, Christopher Maurer, Ian Michael and Nélida Piñón.

Beyond its curricular activities, our department fosters opportunities for motivated students of Spanish and Portuguese to expand their linguistic and cultural knowledge in informal environments. Over the past two years, undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty and staff from our department have been active in organizing and running the Spanish club and the Portuguese club: Bate Papo.

This year, Iliana Portaro and Jason Smith (both Ph.D. Spanish students) sponsored and advised Lucas Hammons (President), Tanvi Chauhan (Vice-President), William Ramirez & Joanna Stoopack (Secretaries), Bryant Salvatierra (Publicity) and Eleni Stephanides (Treasurer) in
their efforts to found the Spanish Club. As Iliana Portaro mentions: “the officers and the members in general are an exceptional group of students and they have made this experience very rewarding.” The officers are very involved in the planning process: deciding when events will take place and what will be done; reserving rooms and materials; creating flyers; doing Facebook updates; managing the budget and keeping track of expenses and visiting classes.

Some of the various activities the Spanish Club has offered include: screenings of Spanish films, potlucks, game nights (Jeopardy in Spanish) and conversation groups at the Delta of Venus. Last year a mixer was held at Woodstock’s Pizza. Members are also encouraged to attend other events on campus that relate to Hispanic culture, such as the film series HIA hosts every Friday night at 7pm, concerts at the Mondavi Center, lectures and poetry readings. As well as leisure activities, the Spanish Club hosts a study session at the end of each quarter. This has become a very popular event and in their last study session (Winter 2009), they assisted approximately 30 students with the aid of the graduate students in our department who, despite their busy schedules, regularly volunteer as tutors every quarter. Also, last quarter (Winter 2010) undergraduates students from Spanish 117 (Teaching Spanish to Spanish Speakers: Praxis and Theory; taught by Prof. Colombi; Dalia Magaña, TA) volunteered as tutors. This quarter the students from Spanish 116: Applied Spanish Linguistics (taught by Maria Cetto) will assist during the club-sponsored tutoring session.

The Club also recently organized an informational session entitled, “The Spanish Major: In School and Beyond.” The goal of this session was to help students identify the skills that would be acquired in the Spanish Major, explore future career paths and learn how to articulate skills to potential employers. During this session, recent alumni Dalia Magaña and Ross Richards talked about their experiences as Spanish majors. Prof. Rob Newcomb discussed the advantages of being multilingual and, in particular, how the Spanish major and Portuguese minor can be “complementary courses of study and provide intellectual and job-related advantages to the student.” Rosana Avila from the Education Abroad Program discussed the benefits of studying abroad. Prof. Colombi and Laura Barrera (undergraduate major advisor) answered pertinent questions.

The Spanish Club has been a clear success that has reached its goals of encouraging social and cultural activities through the vehicle of Spanish language. However, it is not the only opportunity that students in our department have to enhance and enjoy their knowledge of foreign languages. In the same vein as the Spanish Club, the Portuguese conversation club Bate Papo meets monthly on Tuesday afternoons at the Delta of Venus, joined by Professors Leopoldo Bernucci and Robert Newcomb and Portuguese Instructor Nitza Tenenblat. The club represents the best option in Davis for discussing the present and past of the Lusophone world as well as enjoying the luxury of speaking in the warm Portuguese language.
Estimados colegas, estudiantes y amigos:

I would like to start this year's newsletter with: "Al mal tiempo, buena cara", i.e., I believe this year has been one of the most challenging and trying years that our campus has been through. But as the proverb goes, we have tried our best (and succeeded) to support each other in our endeavors as a community. So I would like especially to mention Iliana Portaro's dedication and efforts as the liaison with the department in organizing the events. To give you just one example, in April 26th, the Spanish Club put together an event with alumni, graduate students, staff, faculty and members of the Career Center, Peace Corps and other organizations to talk about "life after the major in Spanish". This event was very well attended (there was standing room only) and generated a very lively discussion. The Portuguese counterpart to the Spanish Club, Bate Papo, continues to bring together students interested in conversing in Portuguese. Another example is the film festival that Robert Newcomb organized. Finally we had the very successful and well-attended colloquium: the V Annual Graduate Student Colloquium on Hispanic Languages, Literatures and Cultures held on November 7th, 2009.

We continue to offer our students many options for study abroad. The two Quarter Abroad Programs in Mendoza, Argentina and Madrid, Spain were fully enrolled again this year again. For the summer of 2010, students will have the possibility of attending programs in Argentina (Buenos Aires), Brazil, (Bahia), Chile (Santiago) and Spain (Burgos). These thriving and very popular study abroad programs are essential to the mission of our department of allowing students the opportunity to experience and develop a better linguistic and intercultural understanding.

I am also happy to announce that this year five of our doctoral graduates have accepted positions in colleges and universities nationwide: Moises Park (Latin American Literature) as an Assistant Professor at Gordon University; Jason Smith (Linguistics) as Assistant Professor at Southern Utah University; Omar Velázquez Mendoza (Linguistics) as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia; José Manuel Villalba (Peninsular Literature) as a Lecturer at University of Kentucky and Milagros Gómez (Latin American Literature) as an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. This is excellent news in this financial climate. ¡¡¡Felicitaciones a todos ustedes!!!

These are difficult times. However, we are proving that for us, this challenge is an opportunity to become even more resourceful and creative—nothing less than the best is our goal, and together we can achieve it. ¡Adelante!

Saludos,

Cecilia

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**Student Teaching Award.**

At the curricular level, our Portuguese language instruction (with courses for first and second year Portuguese 1-3, Portuguese 23, and Portuguese for Spanish Speakers) continues to thrive and has accepted the first cohort for the minor in Luso-Brazilian studies.

I also would like to underscore the vitality of the Spanish Club and how it is helping to bring undergraduate, graduate and faculty together. I would like especially to mention Iliana Portaro's dedication and efforts as the liaison with the department in organizing the events. To give you just one example, in April 26th, the Spanish Club put together an event with alumni, graduate students, staff, faculty and members of the Career Center, Peace Corps and other organizations to talk about "life after the major in Spanish". This event was very well attended (there was standing room only) and generated a very lively discussion. The Portuguese counterpart to the Spanish Club, Bate Papo, continues to bring together students interested in conversing in Portuguese. Another example is the film festival that Robert Newcomb organized. Finally we had the very successful and well-attended colloquium: the V Annual Graduate Student Colloquium on Hispanic Languages, Literatures and Cultures held on November 7th, 2009.

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Saludos,

Cecilia

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**Chair’s Words:**

Cecilia Colombi

June 12, 2010
Iliana Portaro and Omar Velázquez Mendoza were awarded the 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

Jenny Nadaner was awarded the Professors of the Future fellowship for her project entitled “Building interdisciplinary pedagogy: Workshops for Graduate Student TA’s/AI’s to develop hub topics for multidimensional extensions of curriculum”.

Álvaro Llosa has been awarded the university-wide UCD Dissertation Year Fellowship to help him complete his dissertation entitled "Clásicos 2.0: El hilo digital de la ficción impresa".

Jeanne Hart’s logo design was selected for next year’s TGFS (Thank Goodness For Staff) picnic. The logo will be used for advertising the next year’s picnic and will be on t-shirts available for purchase. Besides recognition, Jeanne received $50 for winning.

Maria Saldana-Seibert received the Soaring to New Heights Individual Award.
Spring quarter 2010 marks our bittersweet farewell to one of the most important and most beloved members of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Of the nearly 22 years Kay Green has spent at UC Davis, she has worked in Graduate programs for 19 and Kay states, “it’s been the most rewarding job. I get to meet all these wonderful young people who are full of energy and creative ideas. That’s what I will miss the most when I leave.”

Modest to an extreme, when asked about herself, Kay stated, “most people already know pretty much everything there is to know about me.” However, Kay’s varied history and interests may surprise many.

When Kay applied to UCD, she had been working at Clark Pest Control which had no health benefits or retirement plan. With two small children and a need for good health insurance, she applied to the University which, at the time, had the best benefits in the area. However, Kay stayed not because of the benefits, but because of “students and the environment on campus – at least where I was lucky enough to work – was so incredibly supportive of staff.”

Kay began working at UCD for the Cooperative Extension Specialists in Vegetable Crops, a department which Kay felt was extremely important because of their role working hand-in-hand with the farmers in California (and the world) to improve all aspects of crop production but specifically postharvest handling of crops.

After being in Veg Crops for about two years, UCD experienced a budget crisis and many staff were laid off. As a result, the remaining staff had to take on extra duties. That’s when Kay took over the very small MA program in Veg Crops. A few years later she faced another budget crisis and more duties. Kay says “I took on payroll and personnel for the entire Veg Crops department (staff, students, faculty) in addition to my other duties. I also became the admin. assistant for a training grant which paid 25% of my salary but was ‘soft money’. Thankfully the grant kept being renewed.”

After 10 years in Veg Crops, Kay began feeling overwhelmed by the payroll and personnel side of her job and wanted to do more with students. She applied for and was hired as a Graduate Program Liaison in the Graduate Dean’s office. She enjoyed the work but the students she saw were either at the end stage of their time - filing theses or dissertations - or having some major conflict. So she made another change after 2 years in that job. Kay states that the best thing that came out of that experience was working and becoming friends with her still best friend, Cathy Jurado.

Just as she realized working in a dean’s office was not for her, the job in Spanish and German became available. She states, “I was very lucky to get hired for that position. After a couple of years as the grad assistant for Spanish and German, my counterpart in French and Comp Lit left for another job. Katherine Perrone was already supervising all the units at that time and decided it would be a good idea to combine all four grad programs. I accepted the challenge of assisting these four programs and have never looked back. It has been a wonderful way to finish my last years at UCD.”

“Before coming to UCD” Kay states, “well, that’s a whole other tale and too long to tell for this newsletter. I’ll just say, I met my husband while we were both in the Navy stationed at NAS Lemoore. He was the night baker and I was a line cook. I came in early one cold morning as he was finishing baking some bread for lunch. I yanked open one of the ovens to get warm and he yelled at me. Thus began a beautiful relationship! We had our first date a few weeks later; dated for about 6 weeks and then went to Las Vegas and got married. And here we are, 33 years later.”

Trained as a professional chef, Kay worked as a cook in the Navy, one of the many jobs she held before coming to UC Davis. After her retirement, Kay will keep busy with a new business venture she and Cathy Jurado have started, “Tea Cozy Catering” – tea and comfort brought to you in your home.
Kay and her husband love to ride motorcycles. They currently own cream and teal colored Harley Davidson Heritage Softail which they plan to ride to the Street Vibrations celebration in Reno this September (2010).

Kay also loves traveling, particularly to the North Coast of California; she and her husband go to Ft. Bragg as often as they can when they need to escape. She also loves Hawaii, her husband’s least favorite place to visit (although he has promised to take her one last time).

Kay has two stepsons, one daughter and one son, and six grandchildren! Kay says that the biggest recent milestone in her life is her upcoming retirement from UC Davis.

Farewell Kay, we love and will miss you. We wish you the very best for your much-deserved retirement!

Post Script

Laura Barrera, Falicia Savala and Jenny Shorts organized a farewell party for Kay on Friday June 4 in 912 Sproul. Several months before, after hearing that Kay had entered a contest to win a trip to Tuscany, Cristina Martínez-Carazo got the idea of trying to raise enough money for a ticket to Tuscany and a few nights in a hotel. The monetary goal was set at $2,000 dollars; Laura admitted that this was a very ambitious gift, but one that Kay would treasure even if the full amount was not raised. Laura diligently collected donations; Falicia and Jenny created a memory book— in lieu of a goodbye card for faculty, staff and students to sign—and took group photos of the language and literature departments to include. All of this was done in secret, just down the hall from Kay, without her knowing. Laura collected an unbelievable total of $4,100, which was used to purchase a certificate from STA Travel and a gift certificate from “Villa Campresti” in Tuscany. The outpouring of generosity shown by everyone was a testament to how much Kay truly means to the department and how much she will be missed. The surprises were presented to Kay at the party, completely packed with Kay’s adoring fans, dying to see her reaction. Professor Gail Finney sang “The Eyes of Texas are Upon You,” the official fight song of the University of Texas in honor of their shared home state, lyrics modified to narrate Kay’s experiences in Sproul.

The following is an extract of the thank you letter Kay sent to the department:

“I really want to thank all of you for being a part of my life. You have all enriched me so much and I am so grateful to have had the privilege to work with you all. Long ago, a co-worker and I used to joke that since we were born beautiful and not rich, we were very lucky to love coming to work every day. I can truthfully say that with few exceptions it has always been a joy to come to work here.

“I’ve had the great good fortune to have played a small part in the lives of so many amazing graduate students. I have watched as they arrived rather tentative and left confident and ready to make their mark on the world. It has been the greatest pleasure of this job to witness that transformation.

“The faculty I’ve worked with have been so gracious and have always shown me great respect. Because of my interactions with faculty with varied interests, I’ve learned about postharvest handling of vegetable crops, the senescence of tomatoes, the romance of Don Quixote, the beauty of learning new languages, and a list of must-read books. All this, and Italy too! It’s too much!

“Most of all, I have been incredibly fortunate to have worked with the very best co-workers, especially these last ten years in Lang Lit. Because of these wonderful, competent team players, I am able to keep that smile on my face and stay calm when necessary, and have time to help grad students when they need me. I would not have been able to enjoy any of the successes I’ve had without the help and support of my beautiful friends that I work with each day. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

“I don’t believe words can adequately say how full my heart is right now. I’m happy to be moving on to a new chapter of my life but I will miss you all so much! Thank you for everything especially the beyond-belief generous gift of Tuscany!

“Grazie mille!!”
Karen came to the Spanish department in 1974, as an undergraduate transfer student in her junior year. Although originally she didn’t plan to study Spanish—she chose her major by leafing through the course catalogue and picking one where she wouldn’t have to take math, chemistry or statistics—she graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1976 and made such a positive impression that the faculty went far out of their way to get her to return to the department for grad school. After finishing her BA, she went to law school briefly, dropped out in the first year and then, while traveling in Greece, one of her UCD Spanish professors got in touch with her to see if he could convince her to return. “There was no such thing as e-mail, or cell phones,” remembers Karen. “I got a letter in the main post office, traveling in Greece, one of her UCD Spanish professors got in touch with her to see if he could convince her to return. “There was no such thing as e-mail, or cell phones,” remembers Karen. “I got a letter in the main post office, general delivery, asking if I would consider coming to Davis as a grad student, and to work as a TA.” She came back for the following year, starting the MA program in 1978.

At the time, the department was radically different than it is now. It offered only one emphasis, Peninsular Spanish Literature. Karen remembers that many of the professors in the department were Spaniards—“there were not too many Latin Americanists back then.” Karen says that although she probably would have liked studying linguistics a lot more, she found the one linguistics class offered by the department completely confusing. Karen studied with Reed Anderson, Robert Scari, Hugo Verani, Antonio Sánchez Romeralo and Don Castanien. Karen recalls the year she started as a graduate student: “there were six new grad students starting that year, all women, all gringas. You did the MA program and then if you did well and they liked you, they would invite you to apply to the PhD program.” Karen was invited to stay on for the PhD, but she declined. “If there was a wider variety of faculty perhaps, or more choices to take things outside of the department,” she thinks that her decision might have been different. “It was interesting,” Karen says, “I always enjoyed studying languages, but what I really loved was teaching—even though teaching in those days was nothing like now, with Norma helping you learn how to teach. One day we met with the supervisor, Fabián Samaniego; he gave us the book, taught us how to do pattern drills, and the next day class started.”

“Times were different then as a graduate student.” There were only 8 or 9 PhD students at the time. “They had all been here at least 10 years,” Karen recalls “…it was a total feudal system.” The department and the university have changed in other ways as well: “I remember sitting in class in the second-floor rooms of Olson Hall, spring quarter, with the windows open, smoking…they had little paper/foil ashtrays in all the classrooms.”

Spanish grad students lacked many of the resources today’s students enjoy; she remembers that after graduation, “I didn’t really have a job planned. It wasn’t like it is now. There was nobody to help you do a job search, there was no career center, it was just totally random.”

Throughout Karen’s student years at UCD, she also worked as a weekend and night manager at an earlier incarnation of the Coffee House, which back then hosted concerts on a regular basis. “As the weekend and night manager, I had to deal with the bands. We had Devo, Los Lobos, Talking Heads…they were all really nice. It was quite cool. That was the other side of my life. I continued there until I got my MA…plenty of free coffee.”

Karen decided to stay in the area because her then-boyfriend was in a PhD program in Computer Science at UCD. After finishing the MA degree in 1980, Karen taught Spanish at Sac City College for a while, and continued teaching at UCD in the Spanish department on a quarter-by-quarter basis for two or three years, “picking up where I could.” She also began working as a researcher for Sánchez Romeralo, on the Bibliografía del romancero oral, collaborating with Suzanne Peterson and Sam Armistead. Although they collaborated on the Bibliografía, published in 1980, Karen and Sam did not meet until 1981 when Sam joined the department (although they did not start working together until 1982 due to health problems Sam suffered at the time). “As soon as I started working for Sam, he began agitating to have my job turned into a staff position, so my job here is totally due to Sam getting the position solidified.” Karen also continued to work with Sánchez Romeralo for a few more years, but once the career staff position was created, she was happy to work only with Sam. “Their working styles were sooo different—Sam had a six-month plan, a two-year plan. He would sit down and tell you this directly, whereas with Sánchez Romeralo you never knew when something was coming up, and when it came, it had to be done tomorrow. He liked to correct things endlessly, to get them just right.” By then, living in Winters, after marrying Tom Arons (long-time UCD computer systems and networking.
Karen has collaborated with different people over the years, including Sam’s co-authors and many different publishers.

Nancy Loeb, a grants administrator who worked in the department for a time and then went on to Sac State, collaborated with Sam on his grants, and Karen learned from her how to write grant proposal budgets and work with the UCD grants office (OVCR). In 1998 Sam was awarded a NEH/NSF $498,000 grant for 1999-2001, written by co-PI Bruce Rosenstock, then a professor in Religious Studies, which was used to make a website that would make accessible all of Sam’s field recordings of the *romancero*, after they had been digitized and transcribed.

Karen remembers, “That was a big deal. We had a workspace in the library on the 4th floor, got a bunch of computers, bought a server. Bruce did all the technological stuff (with help from IT consultants). We had it set up so that students would work in the office there. First, we had tapes transferred from reel-to-reel and cassette to digital formats (wav or mp3), some at media services, some here in my office.” Karen was the project editor, graduate students worked as supervisors, and they hired undergrads and other non-students to listen to the audio files and transcribe them. “We had to set up norms for how to show different Judeo-Spanish sounds. Some of the undergrads were really good. I did a lot of the oversight and the technical aspects, but a lot of that was also done by the grad students. Then it had to be coded in mark-up language so it would display properly. I took care of that. Over the years I’ve done a little of that continually to keep it up to date.” Karen says that the project is “ongoing and somewhat problematic” and that she would like to change and update the way the website looks. Check it out at http://www.sephardifolklit.org/FlsJ/.

Karen’s position has varied from 50% to full time over the years, depending on budgets and grant funding; she continues working half time in the Spanish department at present. To supplement her part-time schedule, she has also worked as an editor and translator in other departments on campus. She has worked for Plant Science, the Vet school, Landscape Architecture and University Extension, along with faculty in Genetics and Environmental Toxicology. She currently also works as an analyst with Katherine Perrone in the Arts departments, “So I’m definitely staying here half-time for the next year, and that’s about all I can say.”

Karen lives in Winters with Barry Parker, her *novio* of 9 years (who she has known since the 70’s here in Davis). Her daughter Abby, 23, received her BA from Smith College in 2008 and is now a grad student at the LBJ School of Public Policy (Univ. of Texas), studying health policy, planning on medical school. Her daughter Anna, 21, just graduated Summa cum laude with a degree in Urban Studies from Barnard College at Columbia University, in New York (“appropriately enough” says Karen, since they grew up in rural Winters). “She was recently elected to Phi Beta Kappa!” says the proud mom. Anna will be working in New York City, so Karen will definitely continue to visit the East coast in the future.

Karen’s linguistic diversity made her an excellent candidate for working with Sam. Fluent in Spanish, with an advanced knowledge of French and Italian and a reading knowledge of Swedish, Portuguese and Catalan, over time Karen also became familiar with medieval language forms, Judeo-Spanish, loan words from Arabic, Turkish, Hebrew and Slavic languages. Karen, whose official title is now “Senior Editor,” recalls working with Sam at the beginning: “Initially I was a research assistant, typing up his book manuscripts on a gigantic desktop computer. There was no ‘user-friendly’ interface in those days (no interface at all, in fact): I typed the text, interspersed with dot commands to indicate italic or bold text, new lines and paragraphs, or a new page. After checking my work on the blinking, greenish screen, I would move on to the next phase: word processing. I ran a series of commands and then waited, hopefully, for the result. If I was lucky, the text on my screen would look something like a well-typed page, perfectly formatted, minus visible commands. More often, there was some error that I would have to ferret out and correct before processing the text again and sending it to a printer. After Sam and I had painstakingly proofread it, I made the necessary corrections and we sent the typescript off to UC Press by mail.”

Because her husband was a computer programmer, Karen says she had IT help from the start; “I think from the beginning I understood computers in a way that lots of people didn’t that worked with them.” Working for Sam, in addition to typing up and formatting articles, Karen helped with correspondence and did library research. Karen recalls, “pre-internet, to find out what had been published, you had to go through the card catalogue, or you looked in journals for reviews. So I would go and I would look up the latest *Hispania* or something that he didn’t have in the office, to see what the reviews were, who’d written what, make photocopies, that kind of thing. For a long time he’d compile bibliographies about what had been published on *romancero* studies, every three years or something. It was a lot of work, but it kept him totally up to date on who was doing what. So I learned a lot about library research, how to use the resources available.”

Because Sam does not use computers, Karen has also done a lot of classroom support for Sam over the years, helping with letters of recommendation, and things like the online gradebook, for his classes. “Sam was always great to work for and really appreciative. He still is.” He was also flexible and extremely willing to accommodate Karen’s changing schedule needs, during the years when she was raising two children, and especially after she divorced in 1998. Nobody could hope to have a better, more understanding “boss” than Sam, according to Karen.

Karen has collaborated with different people over the years, including Sam’s co-authors and many different publishers.
Claudia Darrigrandi

“I’m very excited about being back at my home country and working at Universidad Alberto Hurtado, the Jesuit University of Chile. I began last year teaching Spanish as a foreign language, and now I am in charge of the Spanish Language Program for Foreign Students and Study Abroad Programs for the College of Philosophy and Humanities. I also have the great opportunity to collaborate with the design of extension activities for the larger community—which include courses, workshops, journals, seminars, conferences, book launches, film festivals, etc—in both the Department of History and Literature, among other responsibilities.”

Milagros Gómez

"After 10 years in UC Davis, even though it feels like I got here yesterday, I’m excited to be the new Assistant Professor at University of Minnesota, Duluth. I’ll be teaching different levels of Spanish language and Hispanic Culture classes for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. A big change, especially the weather (snow and below zero temperatures), but looking forward to start a new chapter in both my personal and professional life. Since I will be living in close proximity to the penguins, I will definitely be doing lots of shopping for warm clothes in the next few weeks!!"

Moises Park

“I am thrilled to go back to East Coast. Starting fall of 2010 I will be working as an Assistant Professor at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. I will be teaching advanced composition, Latin American literature and film classes, as well as taking students to study abroad during some summers. I will be joining the Modern Language Department faculty but will teach some classes in the Communications Arts Department. Gordon College is only 30 minutes away from the diverse city of Boston.”

Milagros Gómez

"After 10 years in UC Davis, even though it feels like I got here yesterday, I’m excited to be the new Assistant Professor at University of Minnesota, Duluth. I’ll be teaching different levels of Spanish language and Hispanic Culture classes for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. A big change, especially the weather (snow and below zero temperatures), but looking forward to start a new chapter in both my personal and professional life. Since I will be living in close proximity to the penguins, I will definitely be doing lots of shopping for warm clothes in the next few weeks!!"

Jason Smith

"I'm very excited about my new position in the Foreign Language & Philosophy Department at Southern Utah University. I'll be teaching all levels of the Spanish language and culture and will be able to develop some linguistics courses in the future. The university is near some great national parks like Zion, Bryce Canyon and the Grand Canyon and I can't wait to explore them."

Matthew Zealand

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have found a position that allows me to explore two of my greatest passions -- the Spanish language and fútbol -- while living in scintillating San Francisco. Drew School is a small college preparatory high school in the city. I am currently teaching introductory Spanish as well as advanced honors Spanish and AP Spanish. Beyond the classroom, I am coaching cross-country and girl's varsity soccer and serving on what seems like a dozen school committees. I'll also be traveling to Seville, Spain this summer to attend a two-week professional development course for teachers of AP Spanish and perhaps, to learn a thing or two about how to really dance some flamenco. ¡Olé!"
Elaine Brooks

Hello to the students and faculty of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UC Davis. I graduated with a Ph.D. in Spanish Medieval Literature from UC Davis in 1990 after having accepted a position in 1989 as Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of New Orleans. Living and studying in Davis (1982-1989) were some of the happiest years of my life. I loved graduate school and I hope the current students are enjoying their years of graduate study as much as I did. I was lucky to study with the following professors: Samuel G. Armistead, Marta Altisent, Máximo Torreblanca, Antonio Sánchez-Romeralo, Hugo Verani, and Ricardo Gullón.

Currently I hold the titles of Professor of Spanish and Seraphia D. Leyda Teaching Fellow at UNO (University of New Orleans). For 15 years I published mostly work on 15th-century cancionero poetry, but Hurricane Katrina changed the direction of my scholarship. I am currently the lead author of the first fully digital textbook in Spanish called Nosotros (not to be confused with the text used in high schools). Because all of New Orleans has to be ready to evacuate five months out of the year, we developed a textbook that will allow for seamless instruction whether we are on campus or evacuated across the state of Louisiana. What we didn’t know when we were developing Nosotros is that we were pioneering a text that fully incorporates lab work within the text. When Nosotros is completed, I will continue work on a book-length study of Rojas’ Celestina which has been on hold since 2005.

And, oh, I almost forgot. For the last two years I have been the Academic Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at UNO. This is another career shift that has kept me very busy because there are more than 600 students in the IDS program. Like life with its twists and turns (no hurricane pun intended), you never know where your degrees in Spanish will take you… just enjoy where you are now and embrace the knowledge your professors have shared with you.

Susana Chávez Silverman

I’ve been at a rather shocking number of institutions of higher learning, either as a student or docente, sometimes both at once (4 UC’s, Harvard University, the University of South Africa and Pomona College). However, since leaving Davis in 1989 (I received my Ph.D. in 1991) for the Los Angeles area, where I was born, I’ve stayed put at Pomona College, where I’m professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies.

While at Pomona I’ve published essays on Argentine poet Alejandra Pizarnik (1936-72), the subject of my dissertation, which I wrote under the direction of a rather unusual, but wonderful, committee: medievalist Samuel G. Armistead, visiting professor David Lagmanovich, the late Antonio Sánchez-Romeralo, and Emilie Bergmann (of UC Berkeley). I’ve also co-edited two volumes of essays in literary and cultural studies: Tropicalizations: Transcultural Representations of Latinidad (1997) and Reading and Writing the Ambiente (2000). But what really has given me a new lease on life, intellectually and personally, are my bilingual crónicas. I was awarded an NEH fellowship and spent 13 months, during 2000-01, with my family (partner Pierre, and son Etienne, age 23) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, working on contemporary Argentine poetry. While living in what had been, since high school, la ciudad de mis sueños, I began to send bilingual e-mails to many friends, familia and students, letters from the southern (Cone!)
front. Readers responded with enthusiasm, often telling me, “you write exactly how you speak.”

On my return to the U.S. (a rough re-entry, right around 9-11, pero esa es otra), my longtime editor at Wisconsin suggested I table my scholarly book on poetry and begin to seriously consider polishing a group of crónicas for publication as a book. And the rest is history! Even in a flatlining book market, the University of Wisconsin Press took a chance on my unusual, resolutely bilingual work. In 2004 Wisconsin published my book, Killer Crónicas: Bilingual Memories; my second book, Scenes from la Cuenca de Los Angeles y otros Natural Disasters just came out a couple of weeks ago (also with Wisconsin). I still publish “scholarly” work, too, but it’s mos def taken a back seat to my “creative” stuff (entre comillas, because I love confounding las categorías).

I have a soft spot for the Dept. of Spanish & Classics at UC Davis because although I’d had an extremely peripatetic—and somewhat protracted—academic career, once I got to Davis something caught fire, and Davis was where I received my terminal degree. I have remained close to several people I met at Davis: Sam Armistead, for 30 years my father’s main scholarly collaborator and closest friend--and my “Padrino”, Karen Olson, Epi Díaz Navarro, Elaine Brooks, Florence Moorhead-Rosenberg, Carlos García Fernández. And through my work, I’m in contact with current Davis-ites, Robert McKee Irwin, Sergio de la Mora (Chicano Studies) and Cristina Martínez Carazo (my former roomate, pero esa es otra). I have a great admiration for the exciting scholarship being produced by current faculty and alumni in the department and look forward to continuing to receive updates. ¡Saludos desde SoCal!

David Jerez-Gómez

I graduated from UC Davis in 2006 with a Ph.D. in Early Modern Spanish Literature. I am currently at California State University, San Bernardino, where I am an Assistant Professor of Spanish and teach various graduate and undergraduate courses, as well as basic levels of Spanish. One of the most exciting aspects of this job is to have graduate students with whom to share the books I have always enjoyed reading (Don Quijote, El Libro de Buen Amor, La Celestina) while preparing them to pursue doctorate studies in other institutions. We are definitely proud of our master’s program, helping first-generation university students, many of whom have Hispanic heritage, to achieve their goals in higher education. CSUSB is a teaching oriented institution with a strong emphasis in reaching out to typically under-privileged communities. Meanwhile I also have the opportunity to carry out my research working on a book manuscript and exploring new fields of Early Modern Spanish Literature. I actively participate in conferences where at times I have the fortune of meeting again with my dear professors and friends I graduated with. UC Davis was the realization of a dream when I arrived in the Fall of 2000, given that I was going to study “romancero” and Golden Age literature with two admired professors: Samuel Armistead and Adrienne Martín, who later on became great friends and mentors. While in Davis I had the honor to work in the exciting Sephardic Folk Literature Project with professor Armistead, Karen Olson and many other excellent students. During these years I also met other professors of great influence on me such as Linda Egan, and Marta Alitsent. Also Norma López-Burton whose experience has helped me enormously in the fundamental beginning and intermediate Spanish levels. There are others who, for
Jeanette Pucheau

Hello everyone! I am writing to you from the wild Northland of Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, where I am finishing off my first year working as an Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Although fearful of the frigid arctic winters of the Duluth-Superior area where I now work and live, I believe I have successfully weathered the winter and the first academic year. The University of Wisconsin-Superior is a small liberal arts college within the University of Wisconsin system set up against the majestic backdrop of Lake Superior. Although the transition from Davis has been a bit difficult, I have enjoyed the area immensely. The people and students here are very down to earth and hardworking, and the landscape is full of forests, creeks and hiking trails. The “Twin-Ports” areas (of Duluth, MN and Superior-WI) also boast four universities which imbue the area with a rich cultural life and a healthy array of cafes and restaurants.

The last two semesters here I have taught beginning and intermediate language, as well as three upper division courses; one on Contemporary Latin American culture through film, which was tremendously popular with the students, as well as a course on Advanced Spanish Language, in which I used Norma Lopez Burton’s textbook “Rumbos” to integrate advanced grammar with a strong emphasis on culture. This past semester I have been teaching Spanish language as well as an upper division course on Latin American Culture and Civilization, in which we have explored such varied topics as “la Civilización y la barbarie” to dictatorship and memory with Ariel Dorfman’s work “La muerte y la doncella.” I have also created a Spanish conversation circle to encourage students to speak Spanish in informal situations on and

Denise Minor

It has been almost three years since I completed my Ph.D. and began work as a Spanish linguistics professor at California State University, Chico. I remember very clearly dreaming about the day I would finish and FINALLY have a real job. Now that I have that real job, on occasion I find myself dreaming about those years as a graduate student when I rode my bike to campus every day, wore jeans all the time and was constantly learning something new from my amazing professors.

Life as a professor was rough at first, but I can say unequivocally that it has all been worthwhile. It has been just as much fun and as rewarding as I had hoped it would be. Here at Chico State, I teach second semester Spanish, Spanish Phonology, Spanish Linguistics, Spanish Teaching Methodology and a class to prepare Spanish majors to take the exit exam. In conjunction with the teaching methodology seminar, I am in charge of a service/learning program through which I place all of the class’s students in public school classrooms to work for 45 hours with credentialed teachers. I am also the advisor to an on-line bilingual news magazine called ChicoSol (www.chicosol.org). One of the best things about teaching at Chico State is the large population of Chicano and Mexican students. There is an amazing creative energy in this department that manifests in many ways, particularly in our Asociación de Teatro y Poesía, a drama troupe that produces plays and publishes poetry in both Spanish and English.

My most recent publication was Bring the Rebels Aboard: Language Choices and Motivational Systems in Elementary Immersion Education. It was published in the bilingual Canadian journal Notos.
off campus. I have even been able to integrate many of our Spanish speaking international students from Colombia and Spain to help out with the circle, and to give presentations on their home countries in my classes.

I was also recently awarded a travel grant from the International Programs office that will finance an exploratory trip to Argentina to develop a short-term faculty led Spanish program for our students. The program I hope to develop would be a Spanish immersion program in Tandil, Argentina, where the students would be welcomed by a unique and rural culture of the Argentinean “pampa húmeda” and at the foot of the sierras of the “Tandilia” range. I am very excited about this venture, and will be traveling to Argentina for two weeks in August to start to develop a foundation for the program I have proposed.

I have also been involved in the organization of the Senior Experience Event, where our graduating seniors with individualized majors in Spanish Studies will give presentations on their experiences living abroad in Puerto Rico and Chile.

I am greatly indebted to my dear friends in Davis for both their moral and “intellectual” support and inspiration. I also am very grateful for the unyielding support and guidance I received from Professors Cristina Martínez-Carazo and Marta Altisent.

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**Emma Sepúlveda Pulivrenti**

My son Jonathan (JJ) will graduate from college in four days. I was pregnant with him when I walked in the commencement ceremony in June, twenty three years ago. Looking at him now I realize how fast time has gone by. I graduated in 1986 from the Department of Spanish and Classics. I had the good fortune to be a student of Dr. Antonio Sanchez Romeralo, Dr. Ricardo Gullón, Dr. Samuel Armistead and Dr. Marta Altisent, among others. The best of the best who taught me so much, not only about literature but also about life. My most profound gratitude goes to them.

The same year that I graduated, I took a job as an Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. It seems that the fast pace of my life has never stopped since then. I have done much more than I ever dreamt to accomplish and I have walked paths I never thought I would chose. At UNR, I became an Associate and then a Full Professor. A few years later I was awarded the Foundation Professorship. I have published 23 books and traveled to some exiting places around the world, giving lectures and readings of my work. I ran for the Nevada Senate (and lost) and became an activist for the rights of immigrants, and I have been a columnist on Latino issues for the last 14 years for both English and Spanish language newspapers.

I have received several national awards such as Women of the Year in Literature from GEMS International TV, the Mujer Award from the National Hispana Leadership Institute (Washington) and the Willie Velazquez Award from the US Hispanic Leadership Institute (Chicago). I was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 2004 and I was honored with the Nevada Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2005.

Now in 2010, I divide my time between family, writing, teaching and my work as a Director of the UNR Latino Research Center that I founded in 2004. Last year I was appointed by the Obama administration to the federal commission to study the creation of the National Museum for the American Latino in Washington DC.

Twenty two years ago when seating outside the Spanish Department building, eating figs with Magaly Lagunas, Carol Copenhagen and other classmates (figs that we cut from that gigantic tree near the building), I would have never thought for a second that I would have walked this wonderful path in my life. Thank you Aggies, thank you to all of you out there from the class of 1986.
Eve Zyzik

I arrived in Davis in 1998 after receiving a BA in Spanish and French at Indiana University. I finished the Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics (with a designated emphasis in Second Language Acquisition) in 2004 and began my first job at Michigan State University that same year. During my four years at Michigan State, I taught a variety of courses in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, including a methodology course for incoming TAs (my favorite!). In addition, I was affiliated with the Ph.D. program in Second Language Studies, where I worked with graduate students and collaborated on projects with faculty from other departments. These experiences at Michigan State were crucial for building my research profile, but I was eager to come back to California, and to the UC system in particular. In 2008 I accepted a job at UC Santa Cruz in the Language Program, a multi-language unit that provides basic language instruction and offers a small number of upper-division courses. Here at UC Santa Cruz my job entails more administrative responsibility, including designing a new major in Spanish Studies. I teach courses in Spanish language and linguistics and I continue to instruct and mentor graduate students from other departments who teach language classes.

I consider my time at UC Davis as extremely rewarding on all levels. Thanks to the guidance and support of my professors (especially Prof. Robert Blake, my thesis director), I was able to pursue research projects that inspired me and provided a constant source of motivation. I am also grateful for the opportunity to develop as a teacher, including the invaluable experience of being a Senior TA and assisting Norma López-Burton in the pedagogy course. While at Davis I worked on several teaching manuals that, from what I hear, have been helpful to new TAs in the department.

My advice to current graduate students at UCD: enjoy the sunshine and pleasant climate (both literal and metaphorical) and appreciate the opportunities for personal and professional growth that the department provides.

Diccionario de estudios culturales latinoamericanos

In September, 2009, Diccionario de estudios culturales latinoamericanos, a key word reference including definitions and genealogies of 48 terms, which Robert McKee Irwin coedited with Mónica Szurmuk, was published in Mexico (Siglo XXI/Instituto Mora). Contributors include leading figures in the field of Latin American cultural studies (Jesús Martín Barbero, George Yúdice, Ileana Rodríguez, Debra Castillo, Román de la Campa) as well as up and coming scholars, including several UCD faculty (Michael Lazzara of Spanish, Desirée Martín of English) and alumni (Sebastiaan Faber, Claudia Darrigrandi, both of Spanish). The text was officially presented at the Casa de la Universidad de California in Mexico City by Néstor García Canclini, arguably the “founding father” of Latin American cultural studies, and Benjamín Juárez Echenique, former director of Mexico’s Centro Nacional de las Artes in September, and a few months later in Buenos Aires by Pablo Alabarces and Alejandra Laera, both professors at la Universidad de Buenos Aires. The Diccionario will be launched in Bogotá this September with a presentation by Santiago Castro Gómez of el Instituto Pensar of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and Fabio López de la Roche of la Universidad Nacional de Colombia. For a detailed review of the text, see the fall issue of A Contracorriente (http://www.ncsu.edu/acontracorriente/fall_09/pag_4.htm).

The Cultural Studies in the Americas research cluster, sponsored by the Davis Humanities Institute and the Hemispheric Institute on the Americas, in conjunction with colleagues of the graduate program in Cultural Studies at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá organized the international symposium, “Estudios Culturales en las Américas: Compromiso, Colaboración, Transformación.” This event, held simultaneously in Bogotá and Davis through a videoconference connection, brought into dialogue leading scholars from the field from all over Latin America including Catherine Walsh (Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Quito), José Manuel Valenzuela Arce (Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Tijuana), Patricia Fumero (Universidad de Costa Rica), Jose Jorge de Carvalho (Universidade de Brasília), Ricardo Kaliman (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán), Gisela Cánepa (Pontificia Universidad Católica, Lima), Eduardo Restrepo (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá), Marta Zambrano (Universidad Nacional de Colombia), Beatriz Ocampo (Universidad Nacional de Santiago del Estero, Argentina), Juan Ricardo Aparicio (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá), as well as from the UC system, including Estelle Tarica of UC Berkeley and Maylei Blackwell of UCLA. Proceedings will be published later this year in the Colombian journal Tábula Rasa (http://www.tabularasa.johannaorduz.com/descripcion.html). The research cluster is made up of faculty and graduate students from multiple departments and programs at UCD, and its current executive committee includes faculty sponsors Robert McKee Irwin and Michael Lazzara, both from Spanish, and graduate students.

Portuguese program:

Building on gains from previous years, the Portuguese Program has made significant strides in 2009-2010. We now offer a full range of lower and upper division courses in Portuguese language and Luso-Brazilian literature and culture. We are proud to report that enrollments have been strong, particularly for our POR 31: Portuguese for Spanish-speakers course, which has twice consecutively reached maximum enrollment. Additionally, Profs. Bernucci and Newcomb have collaborated with the department at large on a number of Luso-Brazilian initiatives, including the introduction of an undergraduate Minor in Luso-Brazilian Studies; the “Brazilian Literature, Culture and the Arts” summer abroad program in Salvador, Brazil, now in its third year, organization of a Fall 2010 symposium/library exhibit, “Euclides da Cunha: A Career Between the Disciplines;” and the launch of our new website (portuguese.ucdavis.edu). Finally, the program was honored to receive a $10,000 grant from the UCLC, for development of Portuguese-language film clips for classroom use.

New Issue of Brújula

Brújula announces the release of its 7th volume “Theoretical Cross-Pollination in Latin America: Mapping Transnational Exchanges”. Brújula’s committee is made up of graduate students of diverse disciplines including the Department of Spanish and Portuguese: Consuelo Cervantes, Jonathan Dettman, Sergio Díaz-Luna, Tim Johnson, Erik Larson, Ernesto Ortíz-Díaz, Arturo Vargas, Valentina Velázquez-Zvierkova and Karina Zelaya.
Francisco X. Alarcón

Francisco X. Alarcón was the keynote speaker at the Fall Literary Conference at National–Louis University, Illinois, on October 8, 2010; and was the keynote speaker at “The Real California Gold: Indigenous and Immigrant Heritage Language of California”, University of California, Davis, on May 7, 2010; the title of his keynote address was “El poder de la palabra / The Power of the Word: Toward a Nahuatl / Mestizo Consciousness and Self-Empowerment through Poetry.” He was also the featured poet of “Floricanto: An Evening of Poetry, Music, and Dance” at Stanford University on April 23, 2010; and participated on April-Poetry Month as the featured poet in community festivals known at as “El Día de los Niños/De los Libros” at the City of West Sacramento Public Library and at the César Chávez Public Library in Salinas, California. The Theater Arts Department of the University of Arizona performed at 13 different venues in Tucson, Arizona, (from Marh 13 to May 1, 2010), a bilingual play, “Words and Other Voices / Palabras y otras voces,” directed by professor Bobbi McKean, based on Alarcon’s bilingual children poems. He was able to attend the last two play presentations at the Santa Rosa Public Library and at the University of Arizona Poetry Center in Tucson on May 1, 2010.

Francisco created the Facebook page, POETS RESPONDING TO SB 1070, after the signing of that controversial new law in Arizona. This Facebook page had close to 2,500 active members in less than two weeks. His goal is to get 100 poets to submit their poems in response to SB 1070 and then publish an anthology of the submitted poems. You can visit this on-line poetic project at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Poets-Responding-to-SB-1070/117494558268757?ref=ts
Samuel G. Armistead In November 2009, Professor Armistead gave the opening lecture at a conference in Oviedo, Spain: El Patrimonio oral de Asturias: balance y perspectivas, put on by the Seminario de Filoloxía Asturiana (Universidad de Oviedo) and the Archivo de la Tradición Oral (Muséu del Pueblu d'Asturies). His paper, "La crucial importancia del Romancero asturiano: Asturias y las áreas laterales," is to be published in the Actas, November 2009 (forthcoming).

Professor Armistead also wrote several articles to be published in upcoming Festschrift (homenage) volumes, including “Juan Ruiz’s Names for the Go-Between (LBA, vv. 924-7),” Estudios celestinescos y medievales en honor del profesor Joseph Thomas Snow, 2 vols., Coord. Devid Paolini (New York: Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 2010; forthcoming). According to professor Armistead, this article “comprueba, según creo, que Juan Ruiz tenía que haber tenido un conocimiento estupendo y muy detallado del árabe, para poder elaborar, como hizo, los apodos de la alcahueta."

His article “Hispanic and Balkan Ballad Traditions: Parallels and Congeners,” Festschrift for Stephen Reckert (Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda, 2010; forthcoming), highlights connections between Hispanic ballads and some of their related Balkan counterparts (Serbian, Slovenian, Hungarian, Bulgarian and more).

Professor Armistead was invited to Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) on May 21, 2010, where he presented a lecture in OSU’s Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies lecture series, "Mementos, Keepsakes, and Tokens." The topic of his talk was: "Judeo-Spanish Folk-Literature: Hispanic Myths and Sephardic Realities." Professor Armistead also attended the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 13-16, 2010), at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI, where he presented a paper on "Bevis of Hampton and the Hispanic Ballad of Celinos."

Emilio Bejel Professor Bejel published an article titled "José Martí: iconografía y memoria" in the cultural cybernetic journal La Habana elegante. The article is a critical study of how Martí’s physical image has been used and abused by the Cuban State since, at least, the beginning of the 20th century. His article "Antecedentes de la homofobia cubana" was reproduced by the cultural cybernetic journal "Otro lunes. revista hispanoamericana de cultura." The article first appeared in the anthology "Cuba: contrapunto de cultura, historia y sociedad," Scarano/Zamora, editors (San Juan, P.R.: Ediciones Callejón, 2007). http://www.otrolunes.com/hemeroteca-ol/número-06/html/este-lunes/este-lunes-n06-a01-p01-2009.html On March 15, 2010, Professor Bejel delivered a lecture at U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill titled "Gays and Nationalism in the Cuban Revolution." He was invited by the Institute of the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill.

In addition to his publications, Professor Bernucci gave the following lectures:


Travis Bradley Professor Bradley delivered a conference presentation entitled "Mid Front Vowel Lowering before Rhotics in Ibero-Romance" at the 40th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (University of Washington, Seattle, March 2010). He also gave an invited guest lecture on his current research into Judeo-Spanish phonology for the Linguistics Department and the Hispanic Linguistics Students Association at the University of Southern California (April 2010). The title of his invited talk was "Secondary Palatalization and Labialization in Judeo-Spanish."

Bradley continues another two-year term as Director of the UC Davis Second Language Acquisition Institute. The SLAI sponsored two guest lectures in 2009-10 and organized a two-day conference entitled "The Real California Gold": Indigenous & Immigrant Heritage Languages of California, held at UC Davis in May 2010. As co-Principal Investigators, Bradley and Professor Martha Macri (Rumsey Chair in California Indian Studies, Department of Native American Studies, Director of the Native American Language Center) were awarded two grants in support of the conference: a UC California Studies Systemwide Workshop Award from the UC California Studies Consortium and UC Humanities Research Institute, and a UC Davis...
Professor Colombi presented the following five papers this year: “Spanish as heritage language in the Unite States: Macrogenres as forms of initiation into a culture” at "The Real California Gold": Indigenous an Immigrant Heritage Languages of California-- UC Davis, May 2010; “Academic genres in Spanish: explorin CLAE” at AAAL (American Association of Applied Linguistics) Annual Meeting-- Atlanta in May 2010 “Academic and Cultural Literacy for Heritage Speakers of Spanish” at the First International Conference o Heritage/Community Languages. UCLA- Los Angeles on Feb 10 2010; “Nuestras historias: el rol del lenguaje en el desarrollo de una alfabetización avanzada” at ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages) Annual Meeting - San Diego- California in Nov. 2009; “Developing Advanced Literacy i Spanish by Latino Students in the United States” at the Societas Linguistica Europaea 42nd Annual Meeting Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal, Sept., 2009. She is also serving on the College Board -Advancement Program (AP) Spanish Language Development Committee for 2009-2012.

She also gave two invited talks this year: “Estrategias para criar niños bilingües: La importancia de iniciar y mantener programas de español para hablantes nativos” and “Academic Language Development in Latino Students of Spanish- Workshop” at Project: En nuestra Lengua. Department of Romance Languages- Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program-University of Michigan, Ann Arbor on May 10, 2010.

She also has a contract for a book to be published by September of this year: Monsivaisiana: aforismos de un pueblo que quisiera ser ciudadano, from the Martin Meidenbauer Publisher of Munich.

In the fall, Professor Egan coordinated the department's first pro-seminar on research and methodology for graduate students, now approved by the Graduate Council and officially denoted as Spanish 203. In the upcoming academic year, it will be given in the winter. It is required for new graduate students and optional for any other graduate student wanting to take all or any selected of the 10 seminars.

Her freshman seminar she has now given three times by very popular demand, “The Lost Art of Letter Writing (Real Mail, Not Email)”, routinely exceeds the supposed maximum enrollment. Students enjoy the fun of learning to write thank-you notes, personal letters, love letters, travel descriptions home, requests for letters of recommendation, cover letters for job applications and many more, all on personal stationery with real stamps. Most of her students are freshmen, but seniors and even professors have taken the course.

Robert Irwin Robert McKee Irwin served this year as the Chair of the Mexican Cultural and Literary Studies Discussion Group of the Modern Language Association. He coauthored a pair of articles with Mónica Szurmuk: "Cultural Studies and the Field of 'Spanish' in the US Academy" in /A Contracorriente/ (http://www.ncsu.edu/acontracorriente/spring_09/index.htm) and "Los estudios culturales en programas de postgrado en América Latina: propuestas pedagógicas y metodológicas" in /Tabula Rasa/ (Colombia). He also published "Joaquín Murrieta: cultura popular, migración y los límites de la literatura latinoamericana" in /Cuadernos de Literatura/ (Venezuela); "Memín Pingüín: /Lios Gordos con los Gringos/" in /Redrawing the Nation: National Identity in Latin/o American Comics/ (Héctor Fernández L’Hoest, Juan Poblete, eds.); and "Homeroerotismo y nación latinoamericana: unos patrones del México decimonónico" in /Masculinidades del siglo XIX en América Latina/ (Ana Peluffo, Eva-Lynn Jagoe, Ignacio Sánchez Prado, eds.). He gave an invited lecture at the University of Oregon, presented his work at "Geographical Imaginaries and Hispanic Film," a conference at Tulane University, and participated in a workshop on "Cultural Studies in the Americas: Scholarly, Intellectual, Political Practices" at the annual Cultural Studies Association conference in Berkeley.

Michael Lazzara During the past year Michael Lazzara published Telling Ruins in Latin America (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), a volume co-edited with Vicky Unruh (University of Kansas) that brings together essays by top scholars who collectively explore the relevance of ruins as a master trope of Latin American modernity. In the volume, Lazzara published an essay called “Pinochet’s Cadaver as Ruin and Palimpsest.” He also published articles on Latin American documentary film in Chasqui 38.2 (“Guzmán’s Allende”) and Latin American Perspectives 168.36.5 (“Filming Loss: (Post-)Memory, Subjectivity, and the Performance of Failure in Recent Argentine Documentary Films). His essay “Literatura y pedagogía: una reflexión polifónica (en homenaje a Arcadio Díaz Quiñones”) was published by Princeton University’s Program in Latin American Studies. Several of his book reviews appeared this year in Revista Iberoamericana, E-misférica, Colorado Review of Hispanic Studies, and A Contracorriente. Lazzara was also the recipient of a 2009 ASUCD award for Excellence in Teaching.
**Norma López-Burton** Professor López-Burton was given the 2009 Academic Federation Award for Excellence in Teaching. The ceremony took place while she was in Spain with Study Abroad students. The second edition of her book *Rumbos* was published. She also received the Academic Federation Developmental Award in 2009.

**Adrienne Martín** This year Professor Martín was elected Vice-President of the Cervantes Society of America; after this three-year term, she will become President.

Professor Martín and Prof. Anne Cruz (U. Miami) were awarded a $143,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct a 2010 Summer Seminar for School Teachers on “Literary Pícaros and Pícaras and their Travels in Early Modern Spain” [http://www.as.miami.edu/personal/neh/].


**Cristina Martínez-Carazo** Cristina Martínez-Carazo co-edited with Sebastiaan Faber the volume *Contra el olvido. El exilio español en Estados Unidos*, published by the Instituto Franklin de Estudios Norteamericanos, at the Universidad de Alcalá. Professor Martínez-Carazo and Sebastiaan Faber authored the introduction to the volume. Other contributors include Enric Bou, Nuria Morgado, José María Naharro-Calderón, Mercedes Juliá, Ricardo F. Vivancos-Pérez, Álvaro Romero-Marco, Samuel G. Armistead, Soledad Fox, Javier Herrera, Francisco Caudet and Victor Fuentes.

Professor Martínez-Carazo also continues to direct the spring quarter abroad program in Madrid, now in its ninth year. This year the program had the highest number of students enrolled since its inception. She also directs the summer Education Abroad Program in Burgos Spain, which was also filled to its maximum capacity of students this year.

**Robert Newcomb** During 2009-2010 Prof. Newcomb completed his book manuscript, *Nossa and Nuestra América: Inter-American Dialogues*, which is currently under review at a university press. He published, or has articles forthcoming, in the journals *ellipsis*, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, *Estudos Avançados*, *Hispania*, and *Chasqui*. Continuing his engagement with comparative Luso-Hispanic studies, he is excited to begin work on his second book project, tentatively titled *Iberianist Dialogues and Disjunctions*.

Prof. Newcomb’s teaching has focused on Portuguese language and Latin American literature. During 2009-10 he taught new courses, including the graduate seminar “Utopian Dreams and Dystopian Nightmares in Inter-American Fiction” (Fall 2009), and the undergraduate Humanities course “Globalized Brazil” (Spring
2010). Prof. Newcomb has also been active in developing the department’s Portuguese Program, collaborating with Leopoldo Bernucci in introducing new courses, administering a new undergraduate Minor in Luso-Brazilian Studies and the ongoing summer abroad program in Salvador, Brazil, and in securing funding (including a $10,000 grant from the UCLC) to develop pedagogical materials. In May 2010 he and his fiancé Kelley Weiss were married in Calaveras, CA.


**Recent Visitors**

**Ángeles Encinar** Professor Ángeles Encinar of Saint Louis University in Madrid gave the presentation “El Microrelato y la imagen: Una dialéctica integradora en la narrativa de José María Merino” on Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

**Sebastiaan Faber** Sebastiaan Faber, Professor and Chair of the Department of Hispanic Studies at Oberlin College gave the presentation "La literatura como acto afiliativo. Memoria, historia y nueva novela de la guerra civil” on October 29, 2009.

**Joao Adolfo Hansen** Professor João Adolfo Hansen (Department of Brazilian Literature, University of São Paulo), a recognized authority on the literature of colonial Brazil, joined the department on February 22nd, 2010 for a talk on "Letras luso-brasileiras coloniais e historiografia literária" (Colonial Luso-Brazilian Letters and Literary Historiography). Professor Hansen was a visiting fellow at Stanford University at the time of his visit to campus. His conference paper was subsequently uploaded to the departmental website, making it available to the community at large.
Alex Rivera  Director Alex Rivera visited the campus and presented his dystopian film “Sleep Dealer” on February 8, 2010.

Diana Taylor  Diana Taylor, Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish at NYU; Founding Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics gave the presentation “Trauma as Durational Performance: A Walk Through Villa Grimaldi”.

Visiting Scholars

Lupe Maria Arenillas  Guadalupe Arenillas came to UC Davis with a Predoctoral Fellowship from the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Notre Dame to work under the mentorship of Professor Michael Lazzara. During the 2009-2010 academic year, she has been writing her dissertation on sites of memory and new representations of the 1970’s and 80’s in Argentina and Uruguay. During winter quarter, she worked with Michael Lazzara on the organization and implementation of SPA 175, “Argentina and Chile since the 60’s: Politics, Aesthetics, Memory." Next year, Arenillas will join Northern Michigan University as Assistant Professor of Spanish.

Tamara Spira  Tamara Lea Spira has had the privilege of working as a UC President’s Postdoctoral fellow in the Spanish Department this year under the mentorship of Professor Lazzara. Spira, who received her PhD in the History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies Departments at UC Santa Cruz in 2009, has been working to complete her first manuscript, Movements of Feeling, which examines how feminist authors engage with legacies of military violence and re-write interlinked histories of neoliberalism in Chile and the United States. To finish this project, she has been completing research for a final chapter about Pisagua prison in Northern Chile, which intermittently served as a concentration camp for leftists and “sexual dissidents” throughout the twentieth century and was converted into a hotel after the formal transition to democracy. She has also started research for her second book project, which will examine legacies of dictatorship and the emergence of Zionism in the Southern Cone.

Dr. Spira has appreciated the welcoming environment in the Department and has enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a broad range of activities at UC Davis, particularly the Latin American Cultural Studies Research Cluster. This year, she has presented her work at several academic conferences and has also enjoyed opportunities to present her work in the Women and Gender Studies Department and the Cultural Studies Colloquium at UC Davis. Dr. Spira is appreciative of her new academic communities at UC Davis and looks forward to continuing to build collaborations and relationships with faculty and students in her next year in residence. She welcomes inquiries at tspira@ucdavis.edu.
5th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium on Latin American and Iberian Languages, Literatures and Cultures November 7, 2009

Keynote speech by Raúl Aranovich,

Presentations by our graduate students:


2009 Colloquium Committee

Omar Velázquez-Mendoza (Chair)

Moises Park (Webmaster)

Robert Newcomb (Faculty advisor)

Area Coordinators: 

Katie Stafford (Iberian literature)

Jason Smith (Linguistics)

Iliana Portaro (Latin American literature)

Session Moderators:

Emily Davidson  Consuelo Cervantes  Jonathan Dettman  Juan Manuel Portillo  Valerie Hecht  Bárbara Gunn  Kristen Ware  Brad Langer  Marfa Cetto  Álvaro Llosa  Manuel Gómez Navarro  Ernesto Ortiz-Díaz
Maria Cetto attended the 27th annual CALICO 2010 conference "Enhancing Language Learning: Research, innovation, and evaluation in CALL" in Amherst in June 2010 where she gave the presentation “Dynamic Assessment, feedback and students’ attitude in a Tri-modal SCMC”.

She also co-authored a chapter with Professor Robert Blake in the CALICO Journal special issue titled “Second Language Acquisition Theories, Technologies, and Language Learning”


Emily Foss published “Síntesis de poesía y prosa, sueño y realidad: la ‘novela lírica’ de Bécquer y Nerval” in Espéculo: Revista de Estudios Literarios (vol. 44).

Raquel García presented “Una revolución feminista a medias” en La literatura nazi en América de Roberto Bolaño” at the 16th Mexican Conference held at UC Irvine on April 29 -30 to May 1, 2010. She has also worked as an aspiring director for her DE in Performance Studies has directed a scene from Sure Thing (1988) and a short one-act play Arabian Nights (2001), both written by David Ives and starring Valerie Hecht and Timothy Johnson. Currently, for an independent study Raquel is directing a scene from David Mamet’s American Buffalo (1975) starring Valerie Hecht and Jason Smith. Raquel would like to thank her colleagues for participating in these projects!

Erik Larson’s article “Anxious spaces: The Noir Stylistics of José Pablo Feinmann’s Últimos Días de la Víctima” was accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of Cine y...revista de estudios interdisciplinarios sobre el cine en español. In April, 2010 Erik presented his paper “Night and the City: the Hollywood Turn of the Latin American Novela Negra” at the VII Annual UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Conference, “Transnationality in the Luso-Hispanic World”. He also gave the presentation “Mapping Trauma: A Discussion of the Noir Aesthetic in José Pablo Feinmann’s Últimos días de la víctima” at the conference” Merging Textualities, Emerging Paradigms in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Linguistics” at the University of Texas, Austin. November, 2009

Dalia Magaña presented on “The Role of Attitudes Towards the Rural Varieties of Spanish in the Heritage Classroom” at the First International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages, on February 19-21at UCLA.


Moises Park’s article, "South Reads Western and Eastern East: Second-hand Orientalism in Kiltro, A Chilean Martial Arts Film", was published in One World Periphery Reads the Other: Knowing the

Matthew Russell published his article “Made in America: la influencia del exilio estadounidense en el pensamiento histórico de Américo Castro” in Contra el olvido. El exilio español en Estados Unidos. Ed. Sebastiaan Faber and Cristina Martínez-Carazo, published by Alcalá de Henares. His article “The Holocaust as Trope in Post-Franco Spain: Historical Memory and the case of Enric Marco” was accepted for publication in a monographic issue of Letras Peninsulares entitled Raquel’s Shadow: Representation of The Holocaust in Peninsular Spanish Literature.


Jason Smith presented a paper at the 40th Annual Linguistics Symposium on Romance Languages at the University of Washington in March entitled "Lexical Specification and Ordered Allomorphy in Mexican Spanish Diminutives," in which he presented an Optimality Theory approach to Spanish Diminutive Formation.

Daniela Suárez presented her paper, “Crónica roja: la violencia real como genesis de la violencia textual” at the XVI Congreso de Literatura Mexicana on May 29-30 & May 1 at UC Irvine.

Omar Velázquez-Mendoza co-authored the article "Spanish Personal a and the Antidative" with Professor Raúl Aranovich of the Linguistics Department in Leow, R., Campos, H. & Lardière, D. (Eds.), Little Words: Their History, Phonology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Acquisition. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press. Omar also presented at the VIII Congreso Internacional de Historia de la Lengua Española in Santiago de Compostela, Spain in Septeber 2009. His article "Seruire a: orígenes primitivos de la a personal", co-authored with Professor Robert J. Blake will be published in the conference proceedings. Omar also attended the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference where he and Robert J. Blake presented the paper "Temprana marcación acusativa en el hispanorromance" which will be published in the conference proceedings for the Sessions on Romance Linguistics in Honor of Ray Harris-Northall, Rini, J. & Tuten, D (eds.). Univ of Kentucky Press.

Carolina Viera presented the paper "La construcción de la comunidad latina de EE.UU.: Comunidades voseantes" at “Transnationality in the Luso-Hispanic World”, the VII Annual UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Conference, April 29th and 30th. This paper will be published as Proceedings of the Conference at escholarship.org.

She also presented the paper “Archival Immigrant Newspapers as a Resource for Heritage Language Pedagogy” with Professor Julia Menard-Warwick at the "The Real California Gold": Indigenous & Immigrant Heritage Languages of California at UC Davis on May 7-8, 2010, as well as her paper "Voseo: ser diferente en la comunidad latina de EE.UU." at the 5th Annual Colloquium on Latin American and Iberian languages, literatures, and cultures, University of California, Davis, November 7, 2009.

Christine Willie gave the presentation “From Alcatraz to Point Assinika: Survivance of the Native American Image” at the NAISA 2010 Conference, Tucson, AZ: May 21, 2010, as well as “La presentación del indígena frente a la modernidad: George de Forest Brush y Rubén Darío” at the Arizona State University Graduate Conference: March 5, 2010.

Upcoming conference

The 23rd National Conference on Spanish in the United States: Spanish in Contact with Other Languages, “El español en el ámbito público/ Spanish in the Public Sphere”, will be held at the University of California, Davis on March 17-20 2011.
Congratulations to students who passed their Masters and Qualifying Exams this Year!

QEs: Kelly Bilinski, Jonathan Dettman, Manuel Gomez Navarro, Álvaro Llosa, Laura Mancheno-Macia, Bobby Nixon, Ernesto Ortiz-Diaz, Mónica Poza, Matt Russell and Karina Zelaya

Masters: Jose Ortigas, Roberto Lopez, and Daniela Suarez.

The Department welcomes Mandy Bachman as new Graduate Coordinator for the UCD language graduate programs

We are pleased to announce that Mandy Bachman will be filling Kay Green’s position as Graduate Coordinator for the UCD language graduate programs. Mandy worked as Kay’s assistant several years ago, and has since been working in the College of Engineering as a Graduate Coordinator for a large graduate program in Electrical and Computer Engineering. She has gained valuable experience in this position and we welcome her return to the department.

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Álvaro Llosa (Campus Photos)
Ernesto Ortíz-Díaz (EAP Story)
Brittany Cufaude (Formatting)
Robert Newcomb (Portuguese Program)
Robert Irwin (Cultural Studies stories)

Special thanks to the alumni and everyone who contributed to the newsletter.