II Student Colloquium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies

On October 15th, 2009, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese hosted the 2nd Student Colloquium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies. The presenters were from UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison and the keynote speaker was Prof. Dinorah Cortés-Vélez, from Marquette University, who gave the talk entitled: “Incorporating Ambiguity: Sor Juana and the Aporia of the Neuter Body.”

There was a wide range of topics covered by the panelists. From UWM, Amy Olen’s presentation was “Rocinante: El reflejo de Don Quijote en El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de La Mancha,” while Allison Reeve, also from UWM, covered “El metateatro en Don Quijote.” Joining us from Madison, Jason Doroga presented the paper: “La influencia del De Amore y El libro del buen amor en el Aricprense de Talavera.” Giannina Reyes, also from UW-Madison, presented: “Natio Infirmitatis: Cuerpo, enfermedad y heterotopias en Salón de Belleza y Poeta Ciego de Mario Bellatín.

This event was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Special thanks to Prof. Maria del Pilar Melgarejo for organizing this event.

The 3rd Colloquium is projected to take place in October 2010. More information in the next issue of Apuntes.

2009 UWM Open House

Thanks to all who staffed the Spanish and Portuguese booth on October 30th and 31st. In this picture, from left to right: Amy Olen, Michael Kavalar, and Ana Francisco.

Luna Creciente no. 1

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese is happy to report that the first number of Luna Creciente is out and available for viewing online via the Department’s website.

Luna Creciente is a creative literary journal. It is a project steered by the graduate students in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Deadline for submissions is March 1st. You may send poems and/or short stories to: luna.creciente.mag@gmail.com. Submissions can be in Spanish, Portuguese or English.

Congratulations to the new members of Sigma Delta Pi:

Kari L. Andrews
Amy Bavery
Jocelyn Mancl
Michael L. Martinez, Jr.
Amy Polenske
Molly M. Talajkowski

—Fall 2009

Initiation Ceremony—
Bilingual Poetry Reading and Poetry Translation Workshop

On October 20, 2009, poets Dolores Dorantes and Laura Solórzano, as well as translator and poet Jen Hofer were at UWM to participate in the event: Bilingual Poetry Reading and Poetry Translation Workshop.


Solórzano, from Jalisco, México, has published Un rosal para el señor K (2006), Boca perdida (2005), and Semilla de Ficus (1999).

Jen Hofer has translated works by these two authors. She teaches in the MFA Writing Program at CalArts and in Goddard College’s low-residency BFA program.

Special thanks to Prof. Brenda Cárdenas from the Department of English at UWM for organizing this event.

The Reading and Workshop were sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the Roberto Hernández Center, the Creative Writing Program, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

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For more information on CLACS-sponsored events, check their website:
http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/

Galicia Report

By Gabriel Rei-Doval

Last summer, Isabel Méndez-Santalla and Gabriel Rei-Doval led the program "Language, Culture and Business in Galicia" (July 19-August 15). In the second edition of this exciting Study Abroad summer program, students stayed again in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia’s enchanting capital in Northwestern Spain, a UNESCO heritage city and an ancient site of pilgrimage. A group of 11 students were exposed to the culture of Galicia, a Celtic bridge to understanding the past and present of the Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking world. They had the opportunity to learn about Business enterprises in Galicia as well as in the Hispanic world; to learn directly about music, anthropology, history, literature and language in the culture classes, and also to improve their Spanish skills while having some exposure to the local Galician language, which serves as an intermediate means of communication between Spanish and Portuguese speakers. As part of the program, students had the opportunity to stay in a vibrant small city, such as Santiago, where everything happens in July, and visited the larger industrial city of Vigo, enjoyed local food and festivals, admired amazing beaches such as A Lanzada or Cies, and visited the dramatic views of the "Costa da Morte" or the oldest functioning lighthouse at A Coruña’s northern coast. And of course everyone enjoyed the "Festas do Apóstolo" at Santiago de Compostela while learning both from locals and visitors from around the world on the unique culture of Galicia and its differences from other Hispanic cultures both in the Peninsula and Latin America. In July 10 the program will be open again for students interested in traveling and learning language, culture and business in this vibrant area of the Spanish-speaking world.

Camino de Santiago:
Prof. Gabriel Rei-Doval and
Prof. Christopher Davis-Benavides
(Dept. of Visual Arts)
Faculty and Teaching Staff News


She has also published the articles: “Recovering the Self: The Unnamed Character’s of Luisa Capetillo’s How Poor Women Prostitute Themselves” in *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage VII* (2009): 45-56; and “The (Un)Making of the Woman as Sinner in Ana Calderón’s ‘Selena vestida de pena de Myra Santos Febres.’”

César Ferreira has presented: “José Saramago, el memorioso: Notas a Las pequeñas memorias” at the 66th Annual Meeting, South Central Modern Language Association, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (October 2009), and “La realidad trastocada: Voces y sombras en los relatos de Clarice Lispector” at the 62nd Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky (April 2009).

R. John McCaw presented “A Poetics Sacralized: Luis de Góngora’s ‘Soledades’ as Religious Rhetoric in Colonial Spanish America” at a symposium (Sacred and Profane in the Early Modern Hispanic World). The University Museum of Art (Indianapolis) and Indiana University (Bloomington) on October 16-17, 2009. This paper is part of a monograph he is writing on Góngora’s influence in Colonial Spanish America.

Maria del Pilar Melgarejo has received a Junior Faculty Research Award for this academic year. She was invited to present: “Arte y política de la melancolía en El luto humano de Revueltas” at the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature at the University of Pittsburgh, November 2009.

Amy Olen has received a CLACS Travel Grant to interview Edgardo Rivera Martínez in Lima, Perú.


M. Estrella Sotomayor attended the FLACSO/AILCFH in Quito, and also spent time interviewing health professionals as part of her on-going research for her Spanish for Health Professionals courses.

Alumni Reports

“I landed a job in a non-profit organization in San Francisco called The Pachamama Alliance. We work with an indigenous group called the Achuar, who are on the border between Ecuador and Peru. We have assisted them in developing eco-tourism so they don’t have to drill for the oil under their land, and also assist them in health and education programs. We have a sister organization called Fundacion Pachamama and work closely with the Nacionalidad Achuar de Ecuador. The organization assisted in Ecuador’s Plan Verde and has done some other public policy work with indigenous groups in the region. The Pachamama Alliance also has half-day workshops in the US and abroad where people discuss global issues such as climate change and social justice. I work in the fund raising department. When people donate money to us I enter it into our database, generate various reports from the database as needed and assist in organizing fund raising events. Here is a link to Pachamama’s website: [www.pachamama.org](http://www.pachamama.org).”

-Dan Carney

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“I will be attending University of South Florida and have already moved to Tampa.”

-Duska Stanic, who is now pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Health.

Katie Ginsbach, MAFLL-Spanish graduate in 2007, started her PhD studies in Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, fall 2009.
Dear Alumni and/or Friend of the Department:

2009 is quickly winding down, and it seems it only began yesterday. As you can tell from this edition of the Department newsletter, faculty, staff, students and alumni have much to be proud of and are continually bringing the UWM name—and our Department—a lot of recognition.

As previously reported, the M.A. in Spanish is now officially in place, and this semester the first recruiting class of 10 new students began their graduate studies with us. We are proud to have been able to select high-caliber students and expect great things from these future alumni. In addition, the department now has 76 undergraduate majors and 124 undergraduate minors in Spanish. Hopefully, we’ll be able to soon make a hire in Portuguese as well and see that aspect of the Department grow to be a strong program as well; certainly Brazil and Portugal’s economic and political clout in the world merit an ever-increasing emphasis in Hispanic studies.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider donating to the departmental Alumni Award scholarships. Thanks to your contributions, we have been able to set up these scholarships, and it is our intent to make the first of these awards this year. In these hard, economic times, I can assure you that the recipients of this financial assistance will be extremely grateful for your generosity in helping make the scholarships a reality.

If you would like to increase even further the reach of your donation by issuing a “matching challenge,” I’d be delighted to speak to you about such and publish that information in a subsequent departmental newsletter this coming spring. Of course, larger, long-term gifts are deeply appreciated as well, and I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you concerning such.

Additionally, we would love to hear from you and certainly hope that you will stay involved with our department and learn about our news and activities by visiting our web site and reading our future on-line newsletters at <http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/spanish/>. We also have a Facebook group page, so be sure to join us there as well.

If you would like to participate in increasing our scholarships, you can do so either online at <http://www4.uwm.edu/alumni/foundation/epay.cfm>, by calling the UWM Foundation at 1-800-654-0434 or 414-906-4640, or by sending a check or money order payable to “The UWM Foundation” at 3230 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53211. Please indicate your support for Spanish and Portuguese – Alumni Scholarship (Account 67650). Your tax-deductible donation can be even more valuable if your employer matches your gift. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Oxford
Professor and Chair
oxford@uwm.edu

Congratulations to our December 2009 graduates!
¡Felicicaciones!