

Department of Spanish and Portuguese Fall 2005 Newsletter

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The last two years have witnessed dramatic changes at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The recruitment of Professors Jeffrey Oxford, specializing in modern Spanish literature, and Gabriel Rei-Doval, specializing in Hispanic sociolinguistics, has strengthened our instructional staff and contributed to the consolidation of the program. Major accomplishments contributing to departmental stabilization were Kathy Wheatley's promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure, John McCaw's promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure, the permanent appointment of Senior Lecturer Isabel Méndez-Santalla, and the promotion to Senior Lecturer status of Estrella Sotomayor and Ester Suárez-Felipe. Given the growth in demand for Spanish language education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the Department is anticipating the need of additional faculty in the coming years and a request has been forwarded to the Administration for a new line in Mexican and U.S. Latino/a literatures and culture, to be followed later by a specialist in Spanish Caribbean and Afro-Caribbean literatures and culture.

We have also seen tremendous growth in the Portuguese program. Under the direction of Bryan Kennedy, Portuguese language coordinator, we now offer a minor in Portuguese and 6 students have already graduated with the minor. During the 2004-2005 academic year we offered 9 courses in Portuguese language and Luso-Brazilian culture with a total of over 200 students enrolled. The translation and interpreting program has seen remarkable growth in the numbers of students in all undergraduate and graduate courses. The program has been greatly improved by the appointment of Susan Rascón as the advisor for students in Spanish translation.

In August of 2004, the Department embarked on a thorough review of the Spanish undergraduate major in order to determine how to enhance the program and make it more responsive to current students needs. A Curriculum Review Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Oxford, has almost completed its analysis of the program and will report on its findings and recommendations by the beginning of the 2005 Fall semester.

With the purpose of providing more efficient and timely advising to our undergraduate students, the function of Undergraduate Advisor was created within the Department. Lecturer M. Estrella Sotomayor accepted this position in 2004 and, starting this fall, Lecturer Stellia Jordán has taken over from Estrella.

At the request of the Dean of Letters and Science, an ad-hoc committee has been formed, of which the departmental Chair is part, to study and plan the implementation of an interdisciplinary Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino/a Studies undergraduate major. This is an exciting new development as this major would be housed in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The committee presented its findings and recommendations to the Dean in May.

Our faculty have received numerous grants and awards and published scholarly and creative works in prestigious outlets. Some examples of these faculty achievements are chronicled below. Many of the faculty have also been active collaborators in Title VI United States Department of

Education programs on campus: the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Center for International Education, and the Overseas Programs and Partnerships Office. As a result of our interaction with the latter, the number of students studying in Spain and Latin America has increased substantially. We were particularly proud of our three graduate students who received travel grants from CLACS to study in Latin America this past summer: Brook Goralski, Jessica Martin, and Michael Rogers.

During the 2004-2005 academic year the Department produced and submitted its Information and Self-Evaluation Report for the undergraduate review for Bachelor of Arts in Spanish to the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee. The full faculty met with the APCC Review Committee in March 2005; the Review Committee's report was transmitted to the Department by the end of the 2005 Spring semester.

The Department was the recipient last year of a very generous, private donation earmarked for scholarships for outstanding Spanish undergraduate majors, to be awarded yearly on a competitive basis. The Scholarship Committee, chaired by John McCaw, established and implemented the selection criteria, and awarded two newly-created Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The recipients were Yvonne Puerner and Clark Rendall. The Meta Steinfort Scholarship was awarded to Libby Dempsey.

We are proud of the many fine students who have passed through the Department. We are always happy to hear of the accomplishments of our alumni and ask you to keep us updated about yours.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all members of the Department for their invaluable effort and commitment to the enhancement of the program and to the mission of providing the best possible education to our students. All, without exception, have shown remarkable professional and personal qualities that are contributing to making this one of the most respected departments in the University.

¡Mil gracias a todos!

Ismael P. Márquez, Chair

New Faculty Members in Spanish and Portuguese



Ismael P. Márquez has been Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UWM since 2003. Born in Lima, Peru, he has the Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature from the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught at Clemson University and at the University of Oklahoma, where he was Director of the International and Area Studies Program and Head of the Spanish section in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics for several years. At the University of Oklahoma he was named a Presidential Professor in recognition of his teaching and research record. His teaching and research areas are Latin American literature, Peruvian contemporary narrative, Andean narrative, and *indigenista* literature. Dr. Márquez's most recent publications include *Los mundos de Alfredo Bryce Echenique: Nuevos textos críticos*, published by Fondo Editorial Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in 2004 and an essay entitled "The Andean Novel," appearing in *The Cambridge Companion to the Latin American Novel* (2005), and also the essay "Los cuentos de Mario Vargas Llosa" (Generación del 50), which will appear in *La narrativa peruana del siglo XX (1900-2000). Novela y cuento en el Perú contemporáneo*, published by Institut Français d'Etudes Andines/ Fondo Editorial Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

Dr. Márquez serves on many committees at UWM:

Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School

General Education Outcomes Assessment Task Force

Division of Arts and Humanities Executive Committee

Center for International Education Advisory Committee; Bachelor in Arts in Global Studies Advisory Board

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Advisory Committee

Teachers for a New Era Humanities Design Team

General Education Outcomes Assessment Task Force

Ad hoc Committee for Latino/a Studies Major

School of Continuing Education Arts, Humanities, and Science Advisory Board

Jeffrey Oxford, Associate Professor of Spanish, researches and teaches classes on 19th- and 20th-century Spanish (Peninsular) literature and culture. He was born in Nashville, TN, did his undergraduate work in Spanish and French at Austin Peay State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. After receiving his degree, he taught in Louisiana for three years and in Texas for an additional nine years before arriving at UWM in 2004.

Oxford is author of two books (*Conversar para aprender* [Stipes Publishing, 1999] and *Vicente Blasco Ibáñez: Color Symbolism in Selected Novels* [Peter Lang, 1997]), editor of a student edition of two Spanish novels (Blasco Ibáñez's *La barraca* [Juan de la Cuesta, 2003] and Valera's *Pepita Jiménez* [Cervantes and Company, 2005]), co-editor of four book-length studies on Virginia Woolf, Eduardo

Mendoza and addiction, as well as author of over two dozen scholarly articles. His current research project includes studying aspects of social justice in the life and works of Vicente Blasco Ibáñez.

In 2005 Oxford taught a class on the 20th-century novel of Spain, a course on the post-Franco literature and film of Spain, Spanish 508: The 19th-Century Spanish Novel, as well as Spanish 305 and 350.

When school is not in session, Oxford enjoys traveling (Spain is a favorite destination) and exploring the outdoors.

Gabriel Rei-Doval, Assistant Professor of Spanish Sociolinguistics, researches on Galician Sociolinguistics, Translation and the History of Galician and Hispanic Sociolinguistics. His teaching interests are Hispanic Sociolinguistics, Translation English-Spanish, Spanish Syntax and Phonetics, Spanish Advanced Grammar and Composition and Portuguese Linguistics. He was born in Mugardos, Galicia (Spain), did his undergraduate work in Hispanic Philology (specialised in Galician and Portuguese) at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia) and received his Ph.D in Galician Philology from the same university. He taught Galician Language and Culture first at The University of Birmingham, UK (2000-02) and then at The Queen's College, University of Oxford, UK (2002-04), before arriving at UWM in Fall 2004.

Rei-Doval is co-author of six books:

1. *Estudio sociolingüístico da comarca ferrolá*. Real Academia Galega, A Coruña 1993.
2. *Lingua inicial e competencia lingüística en Galicia*. RAG, A Coruña 1994.
3. *Usos lingüísticos en Galicia*. RAG, A Coruña 1995.
4. *Publicidade e lingua galega*. Consello da Cultura Galega, Santiago 1995.
5. *Actitudes lingüísticas en Galicia*. RAG, A Coruña 1996.
6. *Vender en galego*. Consello da Cultura Galega, Santiago 1997.

He also co-edited (in collaboration with Fernando F. Ramallo and Xoán Paulo Rodríguez Yáñez) a General Linguistics textbook, *Manual de Ciencias da Linguaxe*. Vigo: Edicións Xerais de Galicia, 2000, and he is author of numerous articles. His monographic study *A lingua galega na cidade (século XX). Unha aproximación sociolingüística*. Xerais, Vigo is due to appear in Fall 2005.

Rei-Doval is also a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association for Galician Studies (2003-) and co-director of the Galician Studies e-mail discussion list (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/Galician-studies.html>).

In 2004-2005, Rei-Doval taught Hispanic Sociolinguistics, Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition, Spanish Syntax, and Advanced English-Spanish Translation.

Furthermore, Gabriel likes traveling (of course, Galicia is his favorite destination in the world), and he also enjoys exploring the heart and the spirit.

Study Abroad:

Culture, Nature and Justice in Brazil earned students 6 credits in Portuguese or Environmental Science. Led by Assistant Professor of Portuguese Bryan Kennedy, this program examined Brazil's natural riches and its urban social culture. Students spent several weeks traveling in the Amazon Basin, going deep into the jungles to see the plant and animal life. The group spent a week in the Atlantic Forest, visited an indigenous village in Bahia, and spent time in Rio de Janeiro studying the natural environment and the living conditions of the poor. Lastly, they visited Iguassu Falls.

Mexico: Service Learning in Oaxaca and Milwaukee earned students 6 undergraduate credits in Spanish. Led by Lecturer M. Estrella Sotomayor, this unique program offered the chance to experience globalization in rural and urban areas in the developing country of Mexico. Students traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, where they were immersed in a service-learning experience. After Oaxaca, students returned to Milwaukee, where they worked with local Latino community organizations.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is pleased to announce that, thanks to an anonymous bequest, the Department is offering up to two scholarships of \$1000 each year for the next several years. These Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarships will be awarded to applicants of high academic standing. As noted above, 2005 scholarship recipients were Yvonne Puerner and Clark Rendall. Congratulations!

Also, the Department continues to offer the prestigious Meta M. Steinfort Scholarship. This scholarship in the amount of \$300 is awarded yearly to a Spanish major who has been nominated by at least one faculty member in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Though academic excellence is an important criterion in selecting the award recipient, preference is given to applicants who plan a career in teaching Spanish. Recipient of the 2005 Meta Steinfort Scholarship was Libby Dempsey. Congratulations!

Sigma Delta Pi

The initiation ceremony for Spanish Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi was held on December 3, 2004. New members are Jill Strohbush, Andrew Thomas, Clark Rendall, Brook Goralski, and Aurora Sambolín. The ceremony was conducted by: President Nelson López-Anderson and Vice President Yvonne Montero Puerner, and included readings by: Teaching Assistant Michael Rogers, Assistant Professor Gabriel Rei-Doval, and Lecturer Cassio Muniz.

The chapter also elected new officers. They are President Yvonne Montero Puerner, Vice President Brook M. Goralski, and Secretary Aurora Sambolin Santiago. Faculty adviser to Sigma Delta Pi is Margaret Crosby.

Faculty News and Accomplishments:



Margaret Crosby gave a paper on "Women, Hospitalization and Resistance in *El país bajo mi piel* by Gioconda Belli" at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference in Chicago in November 2003.

She presented a paper entitled, "Conceptualizing Illness: The Voyage of Pain in *Paula* by Isabel Allende" at the 2nd Global conference: "Making Sense of Illness, Health and Disease" in Oxford, England in July of 2003.

In April of 2003 she read a paper, "Mistranslating Pain: Frida Kahlo and her U.S. Doctors" at the 56th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

In addition to her conference presentations, Professor Crosby served on the National Fulbright Screening Committee that reviewed applications for study in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.

The UWM chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, Epsilon Iota, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2003. To celebrate the event, Dr. Margaret Crosby, Faculty Advisor to Sigma Delta Pi, organized a gala reception on November 14, 2003. The program included a talk on "Arqueological Research in Coastal Peru" by Dr. Jean Hudson from the UWM department of Archaeology, a demonstration of Argentine tango by Misha and Sarah from Chicago, and several important speeches given by Dr. Ismael Marquez, Dr. Pierre Ullman and Dr. German Carrillo, National President of Sigma Delta Pi. Spanish tapas, cake and non-alcoholic sangria were served. The tapas were catered by Don Quixote restaurant in Milwaukee and included pinchos, pimientos al ajillo, champinones and pesto manchego. A beautifully framed certificate commemorating the event hangs in the Conference room of the Spanish and Portuguese department.



Bryan Kennedy, Assistant Professor of Portuguese, contributed three entries in the Encyclopedia of Latin American Women Writers, currently on-line at www.hope.edu/latinamerican and to be published in book form in 2006. Entries are for Brazilian playwright Isis Baião, short story and novelist Edla Van Steen, and novelist Lya Luft. He serves as Managing Editor of *Ellipsis*, the refereed academic journal of the American Portuguese Studies Association and sits on the review board of *Luso-Brazilian Review*. Professor Kennedy received a 2004-2005 Graduate School Research Award in the amount of \$9,600 to conduct research in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro for my book, a cultural study of the favelas. The cultural study approaches the examination of life in Rio's favelas from a sociological and anthropological perspective. It is an examination of everyday life in the favela—work, housing, religion, pastimes, celebrations, drugs and violence, race, et al.



John McCaw, now in his fourth year with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, has been engaged in a wide variety of teaching, research, and service projects. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2005. His critical edition of Tirso de Molina's *El burlador de Sevilla* was published by Juan de la Cuesta in 2003, and in 2006 his *Anthology of Golden Age Spanish Poetry* (co-edited with Kathleen Spinnenweber of Franciscan University) will be published by the same press. In addition, John has been writing and presenting on Garcilaso de la Vega, Miguel de Cervantes, Luis de Góngora, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

John has been teaching a variety of new and old courses, including courses on Cervantes in Spring and Fall of 2005 in celebration of the quadricentennial of the First Volume of *Don Quijote de la Mancha* (1605). Last summer, John taught a course in Madrid as he served as Faculty Director of UWM's month-long study-abroad program in Spain's capital. The course explored the themes of travel and tourism in Spanish literature and culture. Affiliates of UWM as well as community members were eligible to participate in this program, as all levels of Spanish-speaking ability were accommodated. Also this summer, John participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar in Chicago at the Newberry Library. The theme of the seminar was travel writing, skepticism, and religious belief in the Renaissance.

As the webpage liaison for the Department, John invites all Newsletter readers to check us out on the web: www.uwm.edu/Spanish.

Stellia Jordán is the new undergraduate adviser for the department for the coming academic year.

Isabel Méndez-Santalla was granted a permanent appointment and is now Senior Lecturer in the department. Congratulations Isabel!



Susan Rascón's translation of Mario Bencastro's *Viaje a la tierra del abuelo*, entitled *A Promise to Keep*, was published by Arte Público Press in 2005. Due to increased enrollments in translation and interpreting courses, Susan has taught exclusively in these areas the last few semesters. Susan is a federally certified court interpreter and does occasional work in state and federal courts. She also participates as a trainer in the state court interpreter training program.

Ester Suárez-Felipe has been promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer. Congratulations Ester! Ester completed the four-day ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Tester Workshop in Chicago in November 2004, and is now pursuing certification as an ACTFL OPI Tester. She also participated in the CIPD Winterim Classroom Assessment Program, and has developed two assessment tools to address the following questions during the spring semester: How do students value the usefulness of different studying activities in relation to learning Spanish? Is there any correlation between students' understanding of Spanish structures and their ability to produce such structures spontaneously in an authentic context?



Estrella Sotomayor served as the Department's undergraduate advisor from 2003 to the present. Estrella has been promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer. Congratulations Estrella!

Estrella received a grant of \$8,000.00 from the Center for Instructional and Professional Development at UWM to research different teaching methodologies in Second Language Acquisition. The name of the project is Writing in a Foreign Language and the research assistant is Pablo Muirhead a graduate student from the School of Education.

In the summer of 2004, she attended a four-day ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview training at the University of California at Berkeley. Throughout the year, she has attended several workshops and trainings on teaching and professional development. In addition, she attended ACTFL's annual conference in Chicago.

In Summer 2005, Estrella led an overseas program to Oaxaca, Mexico. The uniqueness of this program is that it has a service learning component. Students participating in this program have had the opportunity to put their language and "professional" skills into practice in a real setting.

Estrella also translated several documents for TALC (Teaching Assistance & Leadership Center), which is one of the agencies working in collaboration with Milwaukee Public Schools in restructuring the academic curriculum for the schools in Milwaukee county.

She was also hired by the School of Continuing Education to teach Spanish for Healthcare Professionals.



Kathy Wheatley, Associate Professor of Spanish, was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2004. She is on sabbatical for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Wheatley's Syntax and Morphology textbook is due for publication by Prentice Hall in 2005. This text, designed for use in advanced courses, includes an historical and dialect perspective on the structure of the language and the ways in which it has evolved and diverged over time.

Wheatley accompanied the Whitefish Bay Orchestra to Argentina in Spring 2004, serving as interpreter for the group. She also organized educational and cultural experiences before the trip to help prepare students for their experience.

Wheatley participated in the planning of a Spanish Summit to be held in Madison in April 2005, with representatives from all UW campuses, to discuss curricular issues that affect all campuses.

She also continues her work on the University of Wisconsin Spanish Placement Exam Committee and co-presented on this at WAFLT in November 2003.



(Above) Kathy Wheatley receives recognition and appreciation from TAs Mari Pares, Ferney Sánchez, Michael Rogers, Brook Goralski, Angela Lebakken and Jessica Martin.

Special Recognition



(Above) Professor and Chair Ismael Márquez recognizes Kris Ruggiero and Cheryle Darmek of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies for their support of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. These presentations took place at the department's May 13, 2005 awards ceremony.



(left) Professor Márquez recognizes graduate students Leah Leone, Jessica Martin, Mari Pares, Michael Rogers and Ferney Sánchez at the May 13, 2005 awards ceremony.

Final Note:

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the newsletter. Please drop us a note and share your news with us! Our address is still the same:

Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Curtin Hall 733
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee WI 53201

E-mail: spanport@uwm.edu

Web page: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Spanish/>

We look forward to hearing from you!