

Fall Semester 2007 and Our Department

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese has seen a very dynamic Fall semester with new faculty and varied activities.

María del Pilar Melgarejo Acosta comes to the Department from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on nineteenth century Latin American literature, cultural theory and political philosophy. She has various publications on the topics of nation, language, and history.

Nancy Bird-Soto comes to the Department from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on women writers in Puerto Rico around 1898, especially Luisa Capetillo. She has recently published an article about this writer and the topic of education in

Identidades.

In terms of efforts in building community and helping undergraduates practice their Spanish, **Club ñ** meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays for informal conversation. It is coordinated by Erika Almenara, Maira Davalos, Ana Francisco and Florence Thibault.

Regarding faculty promotions, **Gabriel Rei-Doval** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor as of August of 2007, and has become an ACTFL Certified tester in Portuguese this past summer.

Thanks to efforts by Prof. **César Ferreira**, renowned García Márquez scholars such as Germán Carillo and David Draper Clark were at

UWM this past October for a well-attended symposium.

Senior Lecturers **Ester Suárez-Felipe** and **M. Estrella Sotomayor** have received prestigious campus awards. Ester was the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award. Estrella was the recipient of the Outstanding Performance Award.

Congratulations to both!

As for summer 2008, there is a variety of study abroad options for students:

Perú, directed by César and Prof. Davis-Benavides;

Galicia, directed by Gabriel and Isabel Méndez-Santalla;

Madrid, with Nancy as faculty leader.

Oaxaca, with M. Estrella Sotomayor.

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Featured photo:
Waterfall
La Paz, Bolivia
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Welcome and congratulations

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese would like to welcome the new graduate students who joined us this Fall: Erika Almenara, Deanna Ewing, Alison Mishur, Angie Mohns, Wenonah Moore, Nancy Pérez-Renteria, Wendy Prostek, Pedro Rosales, and Katrina Steffes. Welcome also to the Spanish-translation students: Maria Alvaro, Maira Davalos, Ana Francisco, Laura Melbourne.

A special welcome also to our Spanish majors.

Congratulations to our May/August '07 graduates:

Heidi Backes, Katie Ginsbach, Joshua Isham, Monica Noboa, and Sarah Shanebrook. And our Spanish translation graduates: Caitlin Ackley, Selase Adzima, Ann Borre, Jennifer Flamboe, Liesl Krueger, Micah, McKay, Theresa Rasmussen, Mónica

Rodríguez, Rosa Skora, and Bethany Welch.

Best wishes to all!

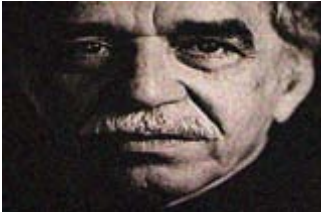
And this just in...

Valerie Mumm has successfully passed her M.A. Exams.

Congratulations!

Macondo in Milwaukee

By Nancy Bird-Soto



Gabriel García Márquez

On October 9th, 2007 the symposium entitled *A Tribute to Gabriel García Márquez* was held at the Golda Meir Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus

Cien años de soledad turned forty in 2007 and we were there to partake in the festivities.

Coming from the University of Oklahoma, David Draper Clark, who is the Editor-in-Chief of *World Literature Today*, presented about the celebrated author within the scope of his talk, "From Macondo to

Milwaukee- One Reader's Appreciation." The next speaker, Marquette professor Germán Carrillo, gave a talk highlighted by the visual component of images of or about García Márquez. The title of his presentation was: "*One Hundred Years of Solitude* Reaches 40 (1967-2007): A Milestone in World Literature."

The speakers elaborated on García Márquez as a person and his enormous appeal as a writer and intellectual. The appeal of the event catered to a wide audience. Among the numerous attendees were: undergraduate and graduate students, colleagues from

various departments and other universities, and the Spanish and Portuguese faculty. The Department is very grateful to Prof. César Ferreira for bringing Dr. David Draper Clark and Dr. Germán Carrillo to our campus and for facilitating this symposium.

Report on Tarragona Translation Seminar

By Vicki Joy

The Intercultural Studies Group (ISG) at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, which offers free seminars for training researchers in translation studies, was giving a series of lectures from 5/24-6/2, entitled "Translation Studies and the Translation Profession." Not being a researcher myself, I contacted the organizer, Anthony Pym, to inquire as

to the possibility of attending one or more lectures as a UWM student in translating and interpreting issues. He put me in contact with Alexander Perekrestenko, who welcomed me cordially. He informed me that the free lectures were a part of the university's Ph.D. training course in translation studies and was open to students and researchers from other academic

institutions as well as those directly involved with the Universitat.

Christiane Nord, retired Professor of Translation Studies and Specialized Communications at the University Of Applied Sciences Of Magdeburg/ Germany, was the guest lecturer for the session I attended.

"A lively discussion followed as to the merits of translation."

Nord distributed a short paragraph from a novel, and asked her students to evaluate the translation. A lively discussion followed as to the merits of the translation. The piece we were given had to do with the author's children, who were romping on a reddish orange swag carpet. In translating it, we were faced with a

cultural difficulty. Anyone in the United States would understand perfectly, but in a country which was not familiar with carpets, it presented a language challenge. The rest of the sentence posed a problem also because it was related to a particular type of carpet. I don't remember the specifics, but I set forth the example of a toy car being

able to roll along fairly well on a tightly woven Berber carpet, as compared to being unable to roll at all on a long-haired swag carpet, that gives an idea of the type of challenge the sentence posed.

Continued on page 3...



Tarragona...continued from page 2.

Having just finished a university course in translation from English to Spanish, for which we used the book *A Textbook of Translation* by Peter Newmark, I was extremely interested in the subject. I had learned that there are several ways of handling challenges in translating. One way is to simply explain, in the target language, whatever the word is. Another is to coin a word, approximating it into the target language. Another is to simply not translate it at all, leaving it in the source language, either with or without

an explanation.

Newmark expounded on several translation theories, and I found that the one I agreed with most closely was the one in which a translator does his very best to translate exactly as the original author has written, sometimes called "formal equivalency." The one I completely disagreed with was at the opposite end of the spectrum, in which a translator simply explains the author's ideas. This is sometimes called "paraphrasing." In between

these is the concept of "dynamic equivalency," which translates as literally as possible, but when that becomes challenging, the translator attempts to explain, within the translation, what the original author meant, keeping in mind cultural differences between the recipients of the source text and the terminal text.

(to be continued...)



Map of Tarragona, Spain.

Musas activas

Por Nancy Bird-Soto

El proyecto "Luisa Capetillo y la palabra activa: El teatro como herramienta de creación, investigación y educación" tiene como propósito disseminar la obra de esta escritora y activista puertorriqueña de principios del siglo XX. Al haber participado en el panel del jueves, 8 de noviembre del

2007 y haber sido espectadora y consultora de la obra teatral, *Capetillo: La musa activa*, dirigida por la Dra. Jessica Gaspar, puedo atestiguar que el proyecto, en su fase inicial en la UPR-Cayey, ha cumplido sus metas principales. Las mismas son: fomentar la investigación sobre Capetillo, crear diálogo e interés en su pensamiento, y usar el talento teatral, artístico y crítico

para seguimos educando sobre su vida y su legado. Hemos reservado el Bader Hall para presentar la obra teatral en UWM el 8 de mayo del 2008. Además, habrá un taller interactivo sobre el pensamiento capetillano con respecto al tema de la educación tanto personal como comunitaria. Esperamos que disfruten de la obra y del taller.

In the next issue of
Apuntes:

The next installment of
the Tarragona Report

&

Sigma Delta Pi
ceremonies

Featured photo:



Waterfall in La Paz, Bolivia. Photo courtesy of Karyn Halmstad.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is committed to providing the best instruction in the areas of language, linguistics, translation, literature and civilization. A primary goal is to foster interest in the knowledge of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian cultures.

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Apuntes

Dear Alumni and/or Friend of the Department:

I hope you've enjoyed reading this issue of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese's newsletter. Many thanks to Nancy Bird-Soto for working so diligently on this publication. As noted elsewhere, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese has been quite active and has good news to share—making a degree from this department ever more valuable. In the past year, we have hired two new faculty members in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S.-Latino literature and culture, hosted a García Márquez symposium (featuring *World Literature Today* editor David Draper Clark and Sigma Delta Pi national president Germán Carrillo) during the fall semester, and hosted lectures by Tracey Rutledge (Simpson College) and Rita Corticelli (University of Exeter) during spring 2007.

However, we would like to hear from you—and include that information in future issues of our newsletter. We 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 www.uwm.edu/Dept/Spanish.

While large, long-term campaign gifts are deeply appreciated, smaller annual gifts from friends and alumni are essential to meet the educational and operational needs of the Department. Our operational budget is simply too small to be able to acquire more state-of-the-art equipment (for instance, we would like to purchase a laptop projector for use in our classrooms and sponsored symposia), but our biggest desire is to increase our scholarship offerings.

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. 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

Conferences and Publications

Here is a list of conferences attended by our faculty in 2007, recent publications as well as pertinent endeavors.

Nancy Bird-Soto has recently presented at the LASA Congress in Montreal, the NCCLA conference at UW-Eau Claire, and at MACHL at UW-Madison. She was one of the panelists at the Luisa Capetillo Symposium at the UPR-Cayey in November. Her article about Capetillo and the topic of education was published in the Fall issue of *Identidades*.

César Ferreira has presented this Fall at the South Central Modern Language Association in Memphis, TN, at LASA in Montreal, and last Spring he presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Recent

publications include reviews of Martínez Castilla's *El despertar de las sombras*, Vargas Llosa's *Travesuras de la niña mala*, and Jorge Eduardo Benavides's *La noche de Morgana*.

R. John McCaw has a new publication entitled: *Anthology of Spanish Golden Age Poetry* (Cervantes & Co.), which he co-edited with Kathleen Spinnenweber.

María del Pilar Melgarejo has presented a paper entitled: "El rey de los malditos: Vargas Vila y su crítica a la Regeneración" at LASA in Montreal, where she also chaired the panel "Estudios del XIX hispanoamericano II." Pilar also chaired and co-organized the panel "Before the Washington Consensus."

Jeffrey Oxford has published an article in CIEHL about Andrés Trapiello's *Amigos del crimen perfecto* and has collaborated in the *Celebrations and Connections in Hispanic Literature* (Morris and Parker) book project with an article about Eduardo Mendoza. He also presented about Trapiello and the topic of the Spanish Civil War at the AATSP Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Gabriel Rei-Doval has a new book entitled: *A lingua galega na cidade no século XX*. Most recent Symposium: Participation in the roundtable "Sociology of Language and Language Planning in Galicia". Graduate Center, City University of New York, November 1, 2007. He is also serving this year as Vice President of the International Association of Galician Studies (AIEG).

M. Estrella Sotomayor has attended various conferences this year, among them: the General Education Symposium at UWM, Immigration: Many Faces/ Many Facets, What Does it Mean to Be Latino?, and the Global Health and Social Justice Center Symposium in Violence and Disease. Based on data gathered about the Latino population in Wisconsin, she will be teaching the course "Health Issues in the Hispanic World" in Spring 2008.