



Carmen Moran Rodríguez visits UWM

By Nancy Bird-Soto

On March 10, 2008, Dr. Carmen Morán Rodríguez visited UWM to give a presentation entitled *Close (Non) Friends: Views of the US in the 20th Century Hispanic Literature*. Currently, Morán Rodríguez is a Fulbright scholar who, later this year, will be a faculty member at the Universitat de les Illes Balears. Given the interesting approaches announced in the title of her talk, as well as her background on Spanish women writers, the bases for an insightful conversation were well established.

I began asking Carmen about her background and her studies. Just like Julián Marías and Rosa Chacel, the authors she highlighted during her presentation, Morán Rodríguez is a native of Valladolid, Spain. She did all her studies in that city. For Carmen, earning both her *licenciatura* and her doctoral degree at the same institution is a positive decision, provided the

student has a clear vocation from the start.

Before concentrating on Marías and Chacel proper, Carmen wrote a short thesis on playwright and memoir-writer María Martínez Sierra. She noted Martínez Sierra's *Una mujer por caminos de España* and *Gregorio y yo* as works that present this writer's public and political presence and, especially in the latter, her literary life.

Commenting about her talk that day, Carmen established how both Marías and Chacel were disciples of Ortega. But indeed, both authors address the topic of their time in New York (and in the US) in different ways. As Carmen explains, Chacel does not openly write about her years in New York (1959-1961). However, she writes about the hippies, about the Age of Aquarius, especially in *Saturnal* (1972), without any direct mention of the city. According to Morán Rodríguez, Rosa Chacel

"remains emotionally linked to the city of New York."

Julián Marías, on the other hand, lived and taught extensively in the United States, and dedicated various books to his impressions about the country. In his 1956 work, *Los Estados Unidos en escorzo*, Marías depicts aspects of daily life in the US. Later on, in 1968, *Análisis de los Estados Unidos* is published, in which he comments on how the country had been in a process of change. Other writings by Marías are inspired by his experiences in the United States.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese would like to thank Dr. Morán Rodríguez for her insights into the life and works of Chacel and Marías and for granting us this informal interview.

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Sigma Delta Pi and Other Special Recognitions

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese would like to congratulate the new members of Sigma Delta Pi inducted in the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 ceremonies of the UWM Epsilon Iota Chapter.

The Fall 2007 inductees are: Sara Bachleitner, Vicki Bermúdez, Colleen Casey, Christal Davidson, Deana Ewing, Kristin Fredricks, Alison Mishur, Travis B. Morales, Nick Risic, Stephanie Rivera and Pedro Rosales.

The Spring 2008 inductees are: Erika Almenara, Alejandra Alvaro, JoAnn Bouikidis, Maira Dávalos-Tinajero, Ben Feiner, Ana Francisco, Elena García-Oliveros, Jordan Gindt, Briccio Guillermo, Amy Jeness, Marcela

David Petro, Nancy Pérez-Rentería, and Jamie Kathryn Vogt.

Special congratulations also go to Christal Davidson and Vicki Joy Bermúdez for receiving the Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award; to Kimberly Jane Morrison for having been awarded the Meta Steinfort Scholarship; and to the Phi Beta Kappa inductees: Christal Davidson, Travis Morales, Jodi Elias, and Bridget Finnegan.

Also, Ian Arzeni, a Global Studies and Spanish major, has received a Martin Klotsche Scholarship.

Special thanks to Dr. César Ferreira, Faculty Advisor for Sigma Delta Pi.



Sigma Delta Pi - Epsilon Iota Chapter, UWM, Spring 2008

Symposium on Latin American Indigenous Languages



Dr. Anna María Escobar

As part of the Symposium on Latin American Indigenous Languages held on March 27th, 2008, Prof. Anna María Escobar gave a talk entitled: *Vitality of Andean Languages in the Peruvian Context*.

Her presentation focused on the current state of the quechua language in Perú within the context of the evolution of the situation of indigenous languages. In regards to the use of Quechua in Perú, Prof. Escobar highlighted that a new urban Andean bilingual identity has emerged. As noted in the presentation, social attitudes

are changing. Quechua has an important role in cultural aspects such as music and radio. Some debates still remain, especially the issue of standard Quechua versus the many variations of this language.

In a conversation with Prof. Rei-Doval and Prof. Bird-Soto, Anna María Escobar stressed the fact that when speaking about linguistic issues it is important to note that everything is in constant change: people, society, and language itself.

Currently, Prof. Escobar is working on a book

project on Andean Spanish. We thank her for her insightful presentation, and we also thank Prof. Rei-Doval for organizing the Symposium. Dr. Escobar is a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Report on Tarragona Translation Seminar -continued from last issue

By Vicki Joy Bermúdez

“The medium by which the message is transmitted is also important, and will therefore influence the tone used.”

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 put this in terms of interpreting, it would roughly be the difference between interpreting in the first person, (akin to formal equivalency) as contrasted with explaining what the person means (akin to paraphrasing). Somewhere in the middle of these would be the use of the third person, i.e. “So and So says...” (akin to dynamic equivalency).

I surmised that Nord held to a belief in dynamic equivalency. In doing further research, I found that I was correct, and that she believes chiefly in three elements of this translation theory. In her book, *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*, 1991, she sets forth these elements.

Very briefly, she says that, first, the translator must be aware of extra-textual elements, that is, s/he should have knowledge of such factors as who the original author is, and what his or her intention is, in writing their message.

Second, the translator must know who the recipient of the message will be. This knowledge will enable him or her to be sensitive to the cultural context. Since words themselves are related to context, a word may not mean the same thing in both languages. She gives the example of the word “tabloid,” as used in England and in Italy. Denotatively, both mean a publication that is half the size of a traditional newspaper. In England, however, the connotative meaning is pejorative and sensationalist. In Italy, no such meaning is attached. By implication the writer of the English tabloid has in mind an audience of a more limited cultural context than his or her Italian counterpart. In both cases the journalists must keep in mind the age, sex, education level, social

background, geographic origin, social status, and role in relation to the sender. The English writer, however, can use a lower level of language than the Italian journalist, based on their knowledge of their readers. If the original writer knows this, and chooses his words accordingly, the translator should be aware of it as well.

Third, the medium by which the message is transmitted is also important, and will therefore influence the tone used. Technical writing for a tool manual, for example, differs greatly from the tone a colloquial newspaper columnist would use. The translator must know, therefore, from what vantage point the messenger is writing.

Given all these elements, then, Nord professed a belief that a translator must, of necessity, translate not only the words, but have an understanding of the original author’s intent and of the audience’s cultural context.



Faculty and Teaching Staff News

Erika Almenara's work "El cuerpo como metáfora del barrio en *Por la Patria* de Diamela Eltit" for publication in the spring 2008 edition of *El Cid*.

Nancy Bird-Soto presented the paper: "Incorporating Women: Luisa Capetillo and Nuestra América" at the Latino Studies Conference at the U of Kansas in February. She also received a Roberto Hernández Center Grant for Applied Latino Research in 2008. She will be leading the Madrid program this summer.

María del Pilar Melgarejo has two new publications: "Trazando las huellas del lenguaje político de La Regeneración: La nación colombiana y el problema de su heterogeneidad excepcional" (*Genealogías del a colombianidad*), and "Miles de indios infelices: José Asunción Silva and the Language of Regeneration". (*Celebrations and Connections: Selected Proceedings from the 25th Anniversary Edition of the Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures*).

Jeffrey Oxford has published the following articles: "Revising

the Spanish Major to Maximize Learning Outcomes and Curricular Objectives."

(*Hispania*); "Toward a Postfeminist Aesthetic: Carme Riera's *El verano del inglés*."

(*Monographic Review/Revista Monográfica*); and "Sleeping Beauty Wakes Up and Franco is Dead: What Now?" (*Letras Hispanas*). He also participated as a presenter of the following papers: "Riera's Debt to Cela: The Adaptation of Tremendismo within Contemporary Spanish Society" – 26th Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures (Baton Rouge, LA – March, 2008), and "Rats and Other 'Unedibles': Survival in 20th-Century Spain" - 5th Interdisciplinary and Multicultural Conference on Food Representation in Literature, Film and the Other Arts (San Antonio, TX – February, 2008).

M. Estrella Sotomayor has received a grant from CLACS and funding from the CIE, the College of Nursing, and L&S to develop the course: Spanish for Health Professionals, which will be offered in Spring of 2009. Also, she has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. She will be leading the Oaxaca program this summer.

Tamara Wagner, Ester Suárez-Felipe, Kathy Wheatley and Magaly Zeise participated in the UW System Lesson Study Project in 2007 and received a grant to investigate how English speakers acquire difficult grammatical structures in Spanish. The focus of their study was on how students learn to use object pronouns in Spanish, but the methods used in the study and the findings are applicable to the study of language acquisition in general. The complete report, including the lesson plan, materials, study and results are published online at the UW Lesson Study Project website: <http://www.uwlax.edu/sotl/lsp/gallery.htm>.

Poetry Corner

These are reactions from Spanish 371 students to Tato Laviera's poetry collection *Mainstream Ethics*:

—
celebrate friends and their confident handshake
rejoice when a child graces your life
teach tolerance and integrity
elevate it to understanding and respect
we are all different
but we are all the same

—Karen Kuschewski

—
Mañana rosa, cervezas rubias, y las estrellas
las cuales pensaban que no pudieran tocarme.
Pensamientos confusos, todo ver curvado,
objetos disuelve, pérdida de la conexión.
«Todo es un nivel más alto-- Sea lo que sea» dice el camarón.

—Adam Rigg

—
Tu latero story me hizo carcajear.
A satire like no other con tu twentieth century welfare recipient moonlighting as a latero.

The concept of it all!

Tato Laviera...

the poet
chronologician
el aventurero.

It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword
y válgame dios si está filosa
la "ética corriente".

--Heydee Villafuerte

Musas activas

On Thursday, May 8th, 2008, "Luisa Capetillo: La musa activa" was performed at Bader Hall at the Zelazo Center of the Peck School of the Arts. Staging the play, directed by Dr. Jessica Gaspar (UPR-Cayey), was a collective and inter-institutional effort to recover the legacy of this Puerto Rican writer and to promote further research on her life and works. It was also staged at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on Tuesday, May 6th. After both performances a talk-back session followed so that the audience could ask about Capetillo, her context, and especially the challenging process of developing the performance piece. Both at UWV and at UWM, Nancy Bird-Soto gave a talk entitled: "Incorporating Women: Luisa Capetillo and Nuestra América" to add background information about Capetillo's legacy and how it maintains an enriching dialogue with authors like José Martí and other Latin American and Latino writers. This endeavor was made possible thanks to the support of the Roberto Hernández Center, the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Sigma Delta Pi, the UPR-Cayey, and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. It was a rewarding opportunity to work as a collective and to foster dynamic inter-institutional dialogue.



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Apuntes

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.

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. This semester we have hosted a talk on views of the U.S. by Spanish writers (featuring Dr. Carmen Morán Rodríguez of the Universitat de les Illes Balears) and co-hosted the UWM Carnival, the 30th Annual Latin American Film Series, and a linguistics symposium (featuring University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign professor Anna María Escobar), among other activities.

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

In the next issue of Apuntes:
-Ernesto Cardenal's visit to Milwaukee in Sept. 2008

Congratulations and best wishes to our May 2008 graduating students:

Fabiola Colunga
Sarah Cooper
Christal Davidson
Elena García-Oliveros
Briccio Guillermo
Jayme Hollow
Marcela Lagos-Englund
David Petro
Amanda Plochocki

Audrey Raemisich
Nicholas Risic
Ryan Simmons
Heydee Villafuerte
Velinka Vulic
Melissa Whalen
Danielle Weyers

M.A. in Foreign Languages and
Literatures-Spanish:

Brenda Fiegel
Stephanie Rivera
Karyn Halmstad
Florence Thibault