

Volume 9, Issue 1

Newsletter Editor:

Nancy Bird-Soto

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APUNTES

The newsletter of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Ana María Shua visits UWM

The Short Fiction of Ana María Shua: A Bilingual reading

On Thursday, October 23rd, 2014, noted writer **Ana María Shua** visited our campus and read from her works, mainly her micro short-stories or “microrrelatos” at the Golda Meir Library Special Collections Conference Center. The event was part of the Year of the Humanities (2014-2015) series and was hosted by **Prof. César Ferreira**. The English versions of the stories were read by **Prof. Leah Leone**, from the Translation Program.

The event was well attended and was sponsored by: the UWM Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the UWM Libraries. Supported by the Jewish Latin America Collection Associates, UWM Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, UWM Center for International Education, UWM College of Letters and Science, UWM Master of Arts in Language, Literature, and Translation, the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, and Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society.

Trivia!

- a) **The author of a famous microcuento called: ‘El dinosaurio’**
 - b) **Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda’s nickname**
 - c) **Some of Antonio Machado’s famous verses (used in songs)**
- (Answers on page 2).

Faculty and Staff News

Nancy Bird-Soto published her memoir: *Put Together: A Minne-Memoir* (New York: Editorial Trance, 2014) this past summer. Two of her articles have been featured this year on *Letras Salvajes*: “Lo bueno de todas las razas: De José Marí a Jesús Colón” (14): 88-99; and “Latin-a-Theory” (15): 91-98. Her essay, “Putting Together a Personal Cartography” was published by *Centro-Voces* in October. Last April, she participated in the Latina Feminism Roundtable at John Carroll University in Cleveland. In May, she presented “Where Memory Resides: Graciela Limón’s *The Memories of Ana Calderón*” at the Latin American Studies Association Convention in Chicago. This Fall, she presented “¿No para ellas?: *El monstruo*, novela inédita de Manuel Zeno Gandía” at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature in Madison (October 2014), and “El tema de ‘la mujer’ en la obra de Luisa Capetillo y Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda” at the 4th International Congress on the Caribbean at Marquette University (November 2014). Earlier this year, she was invited to guest lecture at UW-Whitewater and also at Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. She also participated in the *Personal Cartographies* talk, alongside **Nelson López**, on November 11th. Prof. Bird-Soto continues to be an invited columnist for

Revista Cruce:
<http://revistacruce.com/columnistas/nancy-bird-soto.html>.

César Ferreira has several recent publications, among them, the article: “Sebastián Salazar Bondy: el escritor y sus desafíos.” *Martín-Revista de Artes y Letras* 27 (2014): 21-25; the book reviews: 1) Raúl Tola. “Flores amarillas.” *World Literature Today* Vol. 88 No. 6 (November-December 2014): 62-63; 2) Germán Carrillo. “Dos mundos literarios: España e Hispanoamérica, siglos XX y XXI.” *Hispania* 97.4 (2014): 489-490; and 3) Jorge Eduardo Benavides. “Un asunto sentimental.” *World Literature Today* Vol. 88 No. 3 (May-August 2014): 101-102. He also presented: “El pasado que persiste: Notas a Sol tropical de la libertad, de Ana María Machado,” 71st Annual Meeting, South Central Modern Language Association, Austin, Texas (October 2014); “Los exilios interiores en *La paz de los vencidos* de Jorge Eduardo Benavides,” Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin (October 2014), and “El discreto encanto de Julio Ramón Ribeyro: notas a su obra cuentística,” Congreso Internacional “Julio Ramón Ribeyro: por tiempo indefinido,” Academia Peruana de la Lengua, Lima, Perú (June 2014). Added to the list are his Invited presentations: 1) “Conversatorio con Edgardo Rivera Martínez”, Centro Cultural Inca Garcilaso de

la Vega, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú, Lima, Peru (June 2014); 2) “En busca de Julio Ramón Ribeyro: Apuntes a *La caza sutil*”, Casa de la Literatura Peruana, Lima, Perú (June 2014); 3) “Julio Ramón Ribeyro, cronista,” Feria Internacional del Libro de Bogotá, Bogotá, Colombia (May 2014).; and 4) “Vigencia del indigenismo: El caso de Edgardo Rivera Martínez,” Feria Internacional del Libro de Bogotá, Bogotá, Colombia (May 2014).

Gabriel Rei-Doval has been recognized for his efforts in bringing visibility to Galician Studies in the United States, as noted in *La Voz de Galicia’s* Culture section (11 August 2014). He was instrumental in the creation of a new Galician Language, Literature, and Culture Forum for the Modern Language Association. The first MLA Galician Forum will take place at the January 2016 convention in Austin, Texas. In recognition of this accomplishment, the Secretary of Language Policy in the Galician government, sent an official congratulatory letter on behalf of the Minister of Education and Culture, and several media outlets in Galicia and Spain covered the news. As of November 13, 2014 Gabriel Rei-Doval has been appointed by the Modern Language Association as a member of the Executive Committee of the Galician Language, Literature and Culture Forum.

Sandra Sousa published her book: *Ficções do ‘Outro’: Império, Raça e Subjectividade no Moçambique Colonial* [Fictions of the “Other”: Empire, Race and Subjectivity in Colonial Mozambique] in the scholarly series produced at the University of Lisbon Press by the Centro de Literaturas e Culturas Lusófonas e Europeias. She also published the book review “SJU→MSP: A Puerto Rican Woman in Minnesota” in Centro Voices. She presented the essay “João Paulo Borges Coelho e as Contradições do Pós-colonialismo: uma análise de A Crónica da Rua 513.2.” at the 9th Congress of the American Portuguese Studies Association held at University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (October 2014). Her article, “‘War is not measured by uniforms or rifles’: Resisting Portuguese colonial wars through ‘marginal’ sexual behaviors,” was accepted for publication in *Transmordernity*.

Together with **Katie Vater**, she organized the talk, “From home to exile and back: the philosophy of María Zambrano,” presented by the Portuguese researcher **Maria João Neves**.

Katie Vater’s article: "Picturing Decadence: The Female Aristocratic Subject in Manuel Machado's Ekphrastic Portrait Poems" was published in the September issue of *Hispanófila*. <http://romlpub.unc.edu/hispanofila-forthcoming/>.

Linguistics Talk:

La evolución del léxico español latinoamericano

On November 12, 2014, **Prof. Juan Sánchez Méndez** presented the lecture: *La evolución del léxico español latinoamericano* via Skype. Prof. Sánchez Mendez is the Director of the Institute for Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland). Thanks to **Prof. Gabriel Rei-Doval** for coordinating the presentation!



Trivia Answers:

- a) **Augusto Monterroso**
- b) **Tula**
- c) **Caminante, no hay camino**



Portuguese Program News

By Sandra Sousa

On 17-19 October, the Department held its third “Portuguese Weekend Immersion Experience”—a one-credit class

tailored to provide students with an impact experience with Luso-Brazilian culture by promoting intensive use of the Portuguese language. The class was taught by **Cássio Muniz** and included activities that ranged from a Luso-Brazilian lunch prepared by students and faculty, to guest talks by Sandra Sousa, who spoke about “Literature as a ‘weapon’ in the expansion of the Portuguese Colonial Empire,” and **Nelson López Rojas**, who discussed the Brazilian writer, Machado de Assis. Thanks to all involved in making this weekend and learning experience a success!

“**Bate-Papo**” continues to be organized by the wonderful student organization “Portuguese Conversation Group,” and meets every Thursday during the academic year at 7 pm, alternating between the UWM Library Grind and Café Colectivo on Prospect St. Thanks to the student’s creativity and enthusiasm, Bate-Papo now often includes a variety of activities. In the month of October, students carved pumpkins at Café Colectivo, and on December 11th there will be a contest to decide “the ugliest Christmas sweater” as our way of celebrating the end of the semester. Brazilian students at UWM participate regularly in Bate-Papo and contribute greatly to its success. A big shout out to them in thanks for their support!

Next semester students in the Portuguese Program who also have an interest in sports will



field a Portuguese language soccer team. They will participate in intramural games and futsal. **Sandra Sousa** will be the team's captain. Thanks to the students for organizing this!

Spring 2015 will also bring a new event to the Department: the Foreign Flix Series. This series will consist of a movie in Portuguese and a movie in Spanish, alternating every other Wednesday. Flyers will be distributed in January announcing the exact time, dates and location.

The **Brazilian Cultural Club** (<https://www.facebook.com/BCCatUWM>) organized on September 20th an event celebrating Brazil's Independence Day with live Brazilian music by the Handphibians. On Friday, November 21st, the BCC will organize "Tropical Nights" at the UWM Union Gasthaus, with live music by the group Samba Novistas. Thank you to the Brazilian Cultural Club for organizing events that so effectively promote the Portuguese language and Brazilian Culture.

Congratulations to **Madeline Brancel**, who is the recipient of an undergraduate Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for the academic year 2014-15. FLAS is a program coordinated by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Congratulations also to **Chelsea Ballas**, who has been selected

for a 2014-15 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship to pursue the concentrated study of Portuguese language—a program administered by the UWM Center for International Education.

For information updates on the Portuguese Program visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/UWMPortugueseProgram>

A warm welcome
to
Prof. Katie Vater,
specialist in Peninsular
Literature!

We would also like
to thank
Prof. Ricardo
Vasconcelos
for his contributions to
the Portuguese
Program.

A warm welcome too
for Prof. Sandra Sousa
(Portuguese).

SPANISH 225



The photo above is from Prof. **Ester Suárez-Felipe's** Spanish 225: *Food and Culture: Beyond Tacos and Paella* class. The course strives to develop enjoyment of other cultures' cosmogonies, curiosity about different ways of looking at life and critical thinking in confronting society's representation and use of food. In this course, students are expected to challenge themselves by eating new foods and analyzing matters pertaining to food and society in the Hispanic culture.

After three years as Department Chair and Graduate Advisor, Professor **John McCaw** passed the baton to Professor **Kathy Wheatley** this fall, and will be on sabbatical for the Spring 2015 semester year. The Department heartily thanks Professor McCaw for his leadership over the past three years, and wishes him a productive sabbatical.

Sigma Delta Pi & Award Ceremony - Spring 2014

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Andrew Aaron
- Atzín Baires Moctezuma
- Graham P. Donohoe
- Iván A. Espinosa Orozco
- Brendan Johnson
- Saúl Ocegüera
- Carolyn Milburn
- Anum Mohammad
- Iqra Mohammad
- Hannah Monthie
- Paula Rodríguez-Abruñeiras
- Ana M. Suro
- María Fernanda Valerio
- Zachary Sánchez



Congratulations to **Graham Donahue** for receiving the Meta-Steinfert Scholarship and to **Jared Blommel**, who received the Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarship!



For Spring 2015:

The newest issue of *Luna Creciente*, the creative journal of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Prof. Nancy Bird-Soto will lead the Madrid Summer Program. Feel free to contact her for more information.

***Apuntes* letter from the Chair**

In my new role as Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our faculty, academic staff, and teaching assistants for the dedication that they show to their teaching and to their students. In no small way, each of them has contributed to the development of our students' language skills, as well as their appreciation of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian cultures. In addition to the hundreds of students that take our 4-semester language sequence in Spanish or in Portuguese each semester, we are proud to have over 50 majors in Spanish, over 100 minors in Spanish, Business Spanish, or Portuguese, and a new Certificate in Spanish for Health Professionals. In addition, our MA Program in Spanish is now in its fifth year and continues to attract high-quality students from around the world.

If you have benefitted from the courses that you took in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UWM and would like to support the department and other students who are pursuing their studies in Spanish or in Portuguese, please consider making a donation to one of the funds listed on our website at <http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/spanish/gifts/>.

We would love to hear from you and learn about how your studies in Spanish or in Portuguese have enriched your life. Please email me, or one of your favorite instructors in the Department, and let us know what you are doing. We hope that you will stay involved with our department and learn about our news and activities by visiting our website and reading our future online newsletters at <http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/spanish/>. And if you are still in the Milwaukee area, please attend the lectures and other events that the Department sponsors regularly, which are publicized on our webpage and on our Facebook page, so be sure to join us there as well.

Wishing you a warm and happy holiday season,

Kathleen Wheatley

Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

