



Apuntes

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Bringing Brazilian Literature to UWM: Dr. Kenneth David Jackson and Contemporary Writer Lúcia Bettencourt

On 14 February 2011, Prof. Kenneth David Jackson, of Yale University, presented at UWM his talk "The Worlds of the Brazilian Short Story." Dr. Kenneth David Jackson is the author of a number of books, including the recent *Adverse Genres in Fernando Pessoa* (Oxford: Oxford UP., 2010), and the editor of the *Oxford Anthology of the Brazilian Short Story* (2006).



On 18 April 2011, the Brazilian writer Lúcia Bettencourt made a public reading at UWM of her short story "Borges's Secretary." Lúcia Bettencourt is a native of Rio de Janeiro and the author of the collections of short stories *A Secretária de Borges* (Rio de Janeiro: Record, 2006) which



won the SESC prize, and *A Linha de Sombra* (Rio de Janeiro: Record, 2008). Bettencourt's short stories have also received the Osman Lins Short Story Prize and the prestigious Josué Guimarães Prize. A number of her texts are translated into English and have been published in the USA.

The visits of Prof. Kenneth David Jackson and Lúcia Bettencourt were organized in the context of the course Portug. 380: "Short Stories of the Portuguese-speaking World," and were sponsored by UWM Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Thanks to Prof. Vasconcelos for organizing these events!

Ernesto Cardenal's Poetry Reading at UWM

This spring, UWM had the honor and privilege to once again host the internationally known Nicaraguan poet, Father Ernesto Cardenal, who read from his new book: *The Origin of Species & Other Poems*. The bilingual presentation was done by the poet himself and by Prof. César Ferreira, who read the English translation.

Father Cardenal was introduced by Johannes Britz, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The reading took place on the evening of Thursday, April 21, 2011 at the Golda

Meir Library's Conference Center. The event was free and open to the public. It was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, the Special Collections Library and UWM Libraries, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Special thanks to all who made this event possible!



Prof. Ferreira and Father Cardenal

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The new members of the UWM Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa are:

- Valerie Czebotar
- Abigail Navarro
- Erica Ramirez
- Grace Seeger
- Sean Urness
- Ann Weyers

The recipients of this year's Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarships are:

- Abigail Navarro
- Antonina Weber

The Meta Steinfort Award recipient is Jennifer Chappa.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Armando Duarte and audience



Prof. Simone Ferro, Dance

Ótimo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

The Portuguese program is pleased to announce for the semester of Fall 2011 a "Living Learning Community," a section of the course Portug. 103 that will be taught in the UWM "Cambridge" Dormitory. Be sure to reserve a spot!

In Fall 2011 the courses Portug. 103 (first semester), 203 (third semester), and 360, dedicated to "Portuguese and Brazilian Cinema" (taught in English) will be offered.

Brazil Day

By Ricardo Vasconcelos

On 5 April 2011, UWM hosted its first "Brazil Day." The event included street activities such as a performance of *capoeira* by the group "Associação Corpo e Movimento," a soccer demonstration by Brazilian Milwaukee Wave Players Marcio Leite, Jonathan Santos, Hewerton and Pablo, and 5-minute basic Portuguese classes by lecturer Marta Bosio and Prof. Ricardo Vasconcelos. The street activities were followed by a "Symposium on Brazilian Culture," which counted with panels on literature, politics, Brazilian diaspora, and dance and popular festivals, as well as with live music performances and a dance practice with UWM students. The day ended with the screening of the films "Peixe Vermelho" and "É Proibido Fumar," in the context of the 33rd Annual Latin American Film Festival .

The symposium was opened by Provost Johannes Britz, Interim Dean of the College of Letters and Science Rodney Swain, and the Consul-general of Brazil in Chicago, Ambassador João Almino.

The session dedicated to literature was constituted by Prof. Luciana Namorato (Indiana University), who discussed the works of Clarice Lispector, and by João Almino, Consul-general of Brazil and Chicago and writer, who made a public reading of his novel *The Five Seasons of Love*. The panel was moderated by Prof. Ricardo Vasconcelos and had the collaboration of students Elizabeth Crawford, Isabella Gargiulo and Maria Gleason-Maddox. Moderated by Prof. César Ferreira, the panel on Brazilian Politics and Diaspora was constituted by Prof. Natasha Borges Sugiyama, who talked about the social program "Bolsa Família," Prof. Simone Conceição, who discussed the role of online networking among the Brazilian community of Chicago, and Ph.D. candidate Cassio Muniz, who discussed aspects of political reform in Brazil.



The last panel of the symposium consisted of a presentation on "Bumba-Meu-Boi" by Professor Simone Ferro, and by a discussion on the history and tradition of samba by Prof. Armando Duarte (University of Iowa), who also led a dance practice with the audience. Live music was performed by René Izquierdo and Caen Thomason-Redus, and a book sale was hosted by Boswell Books. UWM Brazil Day was organized by the Portuguese program and an interdisciplinary committee formed by Simone Conceição, César Ferreira, Simone Ferro, Julie Kline, Kris Ruggiero, and Ricardo Vasconcelos. It was sponsored by Alterra Coffee, Associação Corpo e Movimento, the Milwaukee Wave, Boswell Books, and the Office of the Provost, the College of Letters and Science, the Peck School of the Arts, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the student organization Brazilian Cultural Club.

Alumni Reports and Next Endeavors for Spanish M.A. Students

Carlos Carrillo has been admitted to the PhD program at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Jodi Elias has been awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship to study Haitian Creole through Florida International University's summer program.

Michael Martínez has been admitted to the PhD program at Texas Tech University.

Kimberly Morris was accepted to the graduate program at the University of California-Davis.

Fabiola Sigala-Díaz has received an Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) award for fall 2011.

Faculty and Teaching Staff News

Publications, Conferences and Other Pedagogical and Research-Related Activities:

Nancy Bird-Soto has published five original poems in *Revista Cayey* (2010): 76-77, and a review of César Ferreira and Luciana Namorato's trilingual Edition on the works of Clarice Lispector. The review is entitled: "Palabra de persona/Persona de palabra: La palabra según Clarice Lispector. Aproximaciones críticas," which can be found at <<http://www.claridadpuertorico.com/content.html?news=450CDC55A13CF67CA41C421E21394E60>>. In April 2011, she presented: "Del margen al epicentro: Feminidades en la narrativa de Mayra Santos Febres" at the VIII Coloquio sobre mujeres at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. She also guest-taught a class on Tato Laviera at UW-Platteville on April 15th. She was also interviewed by Radio Universidad at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras, about Puerto Rican writer, Ana Roqué.

César Ferreira's recent publications include: "La palabra de Bryce Echenique." *Essays on Alfredo Bryce Echenique, Peruvian Literature and Culture*. Stephen M. Hart and David Wood, editors. London: Centre for César Vallejo Studies Monograph Series 3, 2010: 17-26; "Julius cumple cuarenta años" in Alfredo Bryce Echenique, *Un mundo para Julius-40 años edición conmemorativa*. Lima: Alfaguara, 2010: XXXI-XLIV; "La Lima de Edgardo Rivera Martínez: Notas a Ciudad de fuego." *Martín-Revista de Artes y Letras* 23 (2010): 37-41, and the following book reviews: Carlos Fuentes. "Adán en Edén." *World Literature Today* Vol. 84 No. 6 (2010): 60-61; Miguel Angel Rodríguez Rea. "Diccionario crítico bibliográfico de la literatura peruana." *Chasqui* Vol. 39 No. 1 (May 2010): 196-197; and: Gustavo Guerrero, ed. "Cuerpo plural: Antología de la poesía hispanoamericana contemporánea." *World Literature Today* Vol. 84 No. 5 (September-October 2010): 71-72. In March, his co-edition with Luciana Namorato: *La palabra según Clarice Lispector: aproximaciones críticas. A palavra segundo Clarice Lispector: aproximações críticas. The Word according to Clarice Lispector critical approaches* was published by the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos

Prof. Ferreira was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board for the newly created "Cátedra Mario Vargas Llosa" at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Peru.

R. John McCaw was Chair of two panels for Pre-1700 Spanish Literature at the Midwest Modern Language Association in Chicago (November 2010).

María del Pilar Melgarejo presented: "Rafael Núñez: construyendo el paisaje en su heterogeneidad excepcional" at the Symposium on 19th Century Spanish and Spanish-American Literatures, Florida International University in April 2011.

Senior Lecturer, **M. Estrella Sotomayor** has been selected as a recipient of the UW System's 2011 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Awards. The award letter notes that Estrella's "commitment to educational excellence is exemplary." The award was presented at the Annual Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award Ceremony and Reception on Saturday, March 26, 2011, on the UW-Madison campus.

Ricardo Vasconcelos presented "A Voz do Povo e a Voz de Deus na Ficção de valter hugo mãe" at the 126th convention of the Modern Language Association (Los Angeles, January 2011). He resented "Resgate Visual e Recriação Irônica do Quotidiano em 'Ex-Fotos,' de Fernando Lemos" at the 64th Kentucky Foreign Language Conference (Lexington, April 2011), and "Fugir ou Emendar a Vida? O Discurso sobre a Ética Laboral na Sociedade Escravocrata em 'Pai contra Mãe,' de Machado de Assis," at the 7th Congress of APSA – the American Portuguese Studies Association (Providence, October 2010). He also presented his book *Campo de Relâmpagos – Leituras do Excesso na Poesia de Luís Miguel Nava* at the "Festa no Chiado", organized by the Portuguese Centro Nacional de Cultura (Lisbon, October 2010).

Professor Emeritus **Oliver Tomlinson Myers Jr.**, from Newark, N.J., passed away on January 28, 2011. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

SIGMA DELTA PI Friday, April 1st, 2011



Presenting the new Sigma Delta Pi

members:

Bryce Bray

Chana S. Messerman

Christine Vázquez

Molly Cohen

Brittany Peteres

Antonina Weber

Erin McGrath

Fabiola Sigala-Díaz

Liana Kapelke-Dale

Robyn Shemwell

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Apuntes

FELICITACIONES Spring and Summer 2011 graduates!

**Evelina Avetisova
Amy Bavery
Cynthia Bavisotto
William Elwood
Mark Hanson
Brittany Pulda
Grace Seeger
Bethany Straseske
Ryan Thill
Lolita Wolle**

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Department,

As we finish the spring semester, I look back over the past five years that I have spent as Department Chair with a sense of accomplishment on the part of our students, faculty, and staff. During this time period we have:

A. implemented a revised Spanish B.A. program. This was carried out to ensure that all our students graduate with a basic body of knowledge in all of the three main areas of Hispanic culture, language, and literature. Our most recent assessment data shows that, in language acquisition, now *“approximately 80% of our students have tested at or above the Intermediate-High level in written proficiency, and over 80% test at or above the Intermediate-High level in speaking proficiency.”*

B. implemented an independent-standing Spanish M.A. degree. Since this change, our students have become more involved in presenting papers at professional conferences, and our graduates in the last three years have been admitted to PhD studies at schools such as the University of Michigan, University of Texas-Austin, Texas Tech University, and University of Illinois-Chicago,

C. two faculty members have received tenure; one lecturer has received indefinite status; one person has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor, and another tenure-track hire has been made in Portuguese,

D. we have developed first- and second-year courses in Spanish in a hybrid format,

E. we awarded the first Alumni Scholarship,

F. student enrollment in the Department has grown to 1,311 students (in fall 2010), and

G. our intended and declared majors has grown to 130 students, and our declared minors have grown to 130 (both, fall 2010).

In short, we believe that the Department is headed in the right direction!

However, in order to continue to be an institution of access and excellence, we need your help! Your consideration of donating financially to the Department is most appreciated. Please consider supporting scholarships 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.

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.

The great successes we have had can be attributed to the great support we receive from you and our community. Thank you for both your past and future support.

And, thanks to all for five great years! I look forward to much good news in the years to come.

Wishing you the best,

Jeffrey Oxford, Ph.D.
Professor of Spanish
Department Chair