García Márquez and the Sacred

Prof. Aníbal González-Pérez's visit to UWM

On April 13th, 2013, Dr. Aníbal González-Pérez was recognized with the Order of Don Quijote, the highest honor conferred by Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. The Order of Don Quijote recognizes exceptional and meritorious service in the fields of Hispanic scholarship, the teaching of Spanish, and the promotion of good relations between the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking worlds.

A prolific and distinguished critic, Dr. González-Pérez is currently Professor of Modern Latin American Literature at Yale University. On April 13th at the Golda Meir Library, he presented the talk: "In Search of the Sacred Book: Religion and the Novel in Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude", a lecture honoring the great Colombian author one year after his passing.
El Profesor Ferreira reconocido como Miembro Correspondiente de la Academia Peruana de la Lengua

Nancy Bird-Soto

El Profesor César Ferreira ha recibido el honor de ser elegido Miembro Correspondiente de la Academia Peruana de la Lengua en noviembre 2014. El presidente de dicha entidad, el erudito Ricardo Silva-Santisteban, postuló a Ferreira a la nominación.

La Academia Peruana de la Lengua fue fundada en 1887 por Ricardo Palma. Su misión es preservar la lengua, estudiarla en sus contextos históricos, como también lo es divulgar la literatura peruana. Consiste de cerca de cincuenta académicos y se presentan las nominaciones de membresía a la misma cuando hay candidatos viables.

Conversé con el Profesor Ferreira al respecto y le pregunté sobre sus afinidades por la literatura latinoamericana. Cuenta el académico que desde pequeño siempre le gustó leer y escribir, lo que le sirvió de inspiración para cursar estudios en letras y periodismo en Estados Unidos. Más tarde, se doctoró en Letras Hispanoamericanos por la Universidad de Texas en Austin, uno de los programas más grandes en el país. Allí tuvo la suerte de ser alumno del catedrático Aníbal González-Pérez como uno de sus profesores.

En cuanto a sus autores favoritos, Ferreira dice que se siente afortunado de haber coincidido generacionalmente con los grandes escritores del Boom. Exalta además la presencia de Mario Vargas Llosa como modelo de escritor y como figura pública en el Perú. Ferreira también disfruta de enseñar obras del Boom, así como de transmitir su entusiasmo por el conocimiento de la narrativa latinoamericana en general. Una de sus obras favoritas, tanto para leer como para enseñar, es Cien años de soledad.

Más adelante este año, la Academia Peruana de la Lengua le otorgará un diploma y una medalla por la distinción recibida. ¡Enhorabuena!
FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Dr. Nancy Bird-Soto published “Felinidad concordante: Breve vistazo al gato en la literatura y otras artes” in the Felina anthology (San Juan: Editorial La Tuerca), and the article: “Una noble amistad: Luz y sombra de Ana Roqué” in Cuadrivium (Primavera 2015): 103-108. She presented “Una revolución íntima en Feminist and Abolitionist: The Story of Emilia Casanova” at the V Congreso Internacional Escritura, Individuo y Sociedad at the University of Puerto Rico in Arecibo in March. In April, she guest lectured at UW-Whitewater. In May, she participated at the 46th Annual NeMLA Convention in Toronto, Canada, where she presented at two panels. One was a paper with the title: “Lucas Guevara and the failure of the flâneur” and the other was a talk about her “Minne-memoir” Put Together. Bird-Soto also made her debut as a member of the UW Placement Exam Committee at the two-day meeting at UW-Madison in April. She continues to be a guest columnist for Revista Cruce (online).

Dr. César Ferreira presented the paper “Alvaro Mutis, hijo de la lluvia: notas a su poesía,” at the 68th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky (April 2015). He was also a guest lecturer at the Mundo Mondays Lecture Series sponsored by the Center for International Education of Berea College in Kentucky in March 2015 where he presented the talk “On Reading Autobiographical Writing in Latin America: The Case of Mario Vargas Llosa and Gabriel García Márquez”. Ferreira also published a book review on the anthology titled “Beings: Contemporary Peruvian Short Stories.” World Literature Today Vol. 89 No. 1 (January-February 2015): 62.


Ester Suárez-Felipe, Kathleen Wheatley, and Magaly Zeise presented “Lesson Study-Acquisition of the written accent mark by Heritage Speakers of Spanish” at the 2015 OPID Spring Conference.

Graduate students

Mario Sánchez Gumiel presented "El orientalismo español en el cine estadounidense: el caso de Pandora and the Flying Dutchman (Albert Lewin, 1951)” at the 20th Annual Students’ Conference, Department of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages - CUNY The Graduate Center. April 24th-25th, 2015.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: NANCY BIRD-SOTO
Portuguese Program at UWM

Report by Sandra Sousa

“Bate-Papo” continues to be organized by the wonderful student organization, “Portuguese Conversation Group,” and meets every Thursday during Spring 2015 at 7 pm at Colectivo on Prospect St. Thanks to the students’ creativity and enthusiasm, Bate-Papo now often includes a variety of activities. During the month of February, students made Valentine’s cards at Colectivo, and on April 2 they celebrated Easter with chocolate eggs. Brazilian students at UWM participate regularly in Bate-Papo and contribute greatly to its success. A big shout out to them in recognition of and thanks for their support!

This semester students in the Portuguese Program participated in the Portuguese-language soccer team alongside a couple of talented Brazilian players. The activity was a great success, not only in terms of building student camaraderie and speaking Portuguese, but also because “Os Revolucionários” won the soccer championship in the coed division! High-fives to all the fantastic soccer players who made this a truly fun learning experience (despite the bruises!). The Foreign Flix Series was also a success, drawing significant student attendance at screenings and valuable student involvement in movie discussions. The Brazilian Cultural Club (https://www.facebook.com/BCCatUWM) hosted an event on March 28 celebrating Brazil’s Carnaval. Thank you to the Brazilian Cultural Club for organizing events such as this one, which so effectively promote the Portuguese language and Brazilian Culture.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the Language Fair and who helped to promote the Portuguese program during the semester. Two students, Brandon Berthiaume and Bryan Rogers, worked as research assistants under the auspices of a National Undergraduate Research Project in the LRC. Their jobs consisted of creating and developing learning materials for the Portuguese language. Because of their efforts the Portuguese Program now has a wider variety of materials that students can use to learn the language. Seven students of Portuguese were awarded scholarships and will be traveling to Portugal, Brazil and Mozambique to study Portuguese and to develop their knowledge of the Lusophone world. For updates on the Portuguese Program visit: https://www.facebook.com/UWMPortugueseProgram.

A Big Thank You of Farewell

It has only been a year, or more accurately, two semesters, that I had the pleasure of working at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. I said many times, to many different people, that it felt like I had been here my entire life. This comment was made not because of that tired feeling that we get when we’ve spent too much time in a place, but rather because of the way colleagues, staff and students made me feel at home. UWM, and Milwaukee the city, I feel, will always be my home—one of many, but nonetheless my Midwest home. Without mentioning any names, since the list would be too long, I would like to thank all of you who made my experience at UWM a unique and unforgettable one. To my students—the number one reason why I have cherished this job—a big thank you for making my days special: for your trust, your friendship, your love of learning, and your belief that we can make this a better world.

—Sandra Sousa
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MEMBERS:

Brenda Andrade, Brandon Berthiaume, Hannah Blanchard, Gina Bulman, Amanda Domer, Bárbara Gasquet Carrera, Karen Margarita Henao Carbonell, Aric Kasel, Kameron D. Knapp-Harris, Sergio López Ramos, Patrick McCue, Ruth Otero Carballa, Verónica Pérez-Gómez, Elizabeth Spektor, Kate Young, Jeynee Zavala

Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarship: Geena Fendt

Meta M. Steinfort Scholarship: Brandon Berthiaume