A committee of RL doctoral students is organizing the 2007 graduate conference, sponsored by the department. This year we seek to foster an exploration of the concept of fear and its representations in texts across time periods and genres.

Although fear is an instinctual emotion caused by a perceived threat, fear may also be learned or culturally constructed. Further, fear may serve as a motivating impetus for social change or be manipulated as a tool of power. The various uses and abuses of fear, then, can lead to a variety of responses including resignation and nihilism or an energized call for solidarity or action. How is fear negotiated through literature and other art forms? Are fear and power inextricably linked? Finally, how can an analysis of fear help us to more fully understand larger collective institutions, whether they be family, community or country?

The conference will be held November 8–10, 2007. Keynote speakers are Mabel Moraña (Washington University, St. Louis), whose research interests include colonial literature, cultural studies, and Latin American cultural criticism; Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyì (Stanford), who focuses on twentieth-century French literature and Francophone literature from Africa and the Caribbean, history and memory in literature, and contacts of cultures; and Lino Pertile (Harvard), whose research interests include Dante and the Latin Middle Ages, Renaissance literature in France and Italy, and the contemporary Italian novel.

The conference will also feature a reading of original poems in French, Italian, and Spanish, and a Latin American music concert.

The members of the organizing committee are Nicolino Applauso, Blanca Aranda, Sonja Burrows, Olivier Clarinval, Lisa DiGiovanni, Ramon Fonkoue, Ana Paulina Mross, Luis Portugal, Virginia Piper, and Jamie Richards.

For more information, visit uoregon.edu/~readfear or e-mail readfear@uoregon.edu.

Students, faculty members, and alumni are welcome! We are looking forward to engaging in a stimulating, vigorous, and productive dialogue with all of you.

ROMANCE LANGUAGES BY THE NUMBERS

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Letter from the Department Head
Barbara K. Altmann, Professor of French

Here’s a pop quiz: how do you spell “busy” in all three of our languages? From poetry readings to Proust, from conferences to concerts, every sector and member of the department has contributed to the rich life centered in Friendly Hall.

Some of our accomplishments this year result from innovative thinking about how we can do things better. The graduate committee has reworked our M.A. program to realize our goals more effectively and meet the needs of students even better. We are also re-structuring our undergraduate advising program. With more than 1,000 majors and minors, we need to do it well! Two of our experienced instructors—Melanie Williams and Kelley León-Howarth—are moving into new head adviser positions and Amalia Gladhart is our new director of undergraduate studies. This change in structure requires a change in office space, and on the back of the newsletter you’ll find a request for help to remodel.

On the international front, we have arranged an international joint supervision agreement for one of our Ph.D. students in French—a first in the Oregon University System—which will allow him to earn simultaneous doctoral degrees at Oregon and Université Lumière Lyon 2 under the supervision of a committee of professors from both institutions.

Other changes are the result of necessity. We had to reduce the number of instructors we employ in both Spanish and French, and that loss of personnel meant deciding where in our curriculum we could institute effective lecture sections to replace some of our small courses. Our first priority was to maintain the academic and pedagogical integrity of the new classes. After long discussion, we decided that the third-year Spanish literature surveys best lend themselves to the delivery of information in this format. The faculty has been training hard to learn to teach lecture courses, and we are providing a new opportunity for advanced GTFs to lead discussion sections and grade papers as part of a team approach to this new format. In the spirit of turning sows’ ears into silk purses, a group of faculty members in Spanish won a Williams award to undertake the planning and conversion of materials. We’ll be piloting the new version of these courses in the fall.

Our outstanding faculty continues to win awards and recognition for both teaching and research. One of our biggest satisfactions is the tenure and promotion of Fabienne Moore in French and Nathalie Hester in French and Italian, and Leonardo García-Pabón in Spanish has been promoted to full professor.

Please browse through this issue when you’re own busy lives give you a moment to see what else we’ve been up to. If you are one of our alumni and would like to share some news about what you’ve done with your degree, please send us a quick note by e-mail (baltmann@uoregon.edu or rlnews@uoregon.edu). We’ve already profiled a few of you in these pages.

RL Students Win Distinction and Scholarships

Our congratulations to the three outstanding RL graduating seniors who were selected to be part of this year’s Oregon Six. The new members of Phi Beta Kappa are

- Jennifer Lee, a triple major in French, philosophy, and political science
- Alexander McCullough (honors college), a double major in French and computer and information science, with a minor in environmental studies
- Sarah Piazza (honors college), a double major in French and English

Tiffany Speer and Sarah Tate received the 2007–8 Dorothy Jane and William Joseph Green Foreign Languages Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences. It carries an award of $2,000.

Robert Zenk received the 2007–8 Hildegard Kurz Foreign Languages Scholarship, which carries an award of $5,000.

Romance Languages Scholarships, 2007–8

Thanks to our generous donors, we have been able to recognize some of our best students for academic merit. Below are the recipients of our 2007–8 awards:

- Beall Doctoral Fellowship
  Lisa DiGiovanni
  Ramon Fonkoue
- Françoise Calin Scholarship
  Anastasia Brainich
  Patrick Moneyang
  Robert Zenk
- Graduate School Research Awards
  Antoine Bargel
  Vania Díaz Romero Paz
  Patrick Moneyang
  Marco Purpura
- Emmanuelle Hatzantonis Scholarship
  Erin Grund
  Katharine Self
- Helen Fe Jones Scholarship
  Vania Díaz Romero Paz
  Claire LaPoma
  David Weinstein
- Perry J. Powers Scholarship
  Adrianna Delgadillo
  Monica Sellers
  Clair Clark
  Julia Mueller
- Charles H. Stickels Scholarship
  Blanca Aranda
  Lisa DiGiovanni
  Quena Keis
  Paige Ridinger
  Yossa Vidal-Collados
- James T. Wetzel Scholarship
  Ramon Fonkoue
  Luis Portugal
Meet Our Romance Languages Scholarship Winners

Blanca Aranda, originally from Bolivia, received her B.S. from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés in La Paz. Her doctoral research and teaching interests are orality in twentieth-century Mesoamerican, Caribbean, and Andean textual production.

A French national who was born in Spain and lived in Italy, Antoine Bargel holds a licence in modern literature from Université Paris X Nanterre and a master’s in French language and literature from Université Lumiè re Lyon 2. He is now working on a dual Ph.D. in Romance languages at Oregon and Lyon 2. His research interests include French and Spanish twentieth-century literature with a special focus on post-Communist literature and Spanish writer Jorge Semprún.

Lisa Di Giovanni: “I received a B.A. in Spanish in 2000 from Northern Arizona University, then went on to pursue a master’s degree in Madrid, Spain, through Middlebury College. Currently, I am a doctoral candidate and graduate teaching fellow offering first-, second-, and third-year Spanish language courses, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Spanish peninsular literature, and Spanish for reading knowledge. My work’s primary focus is literature, politics, and culture in postdictatorial Spain and Chile. In my dissertation, entitled “Confrontations with Totalitarian Pasts: The New Historical Novel in Spain and Chile,” I focus on a type of historical novel that examines the intrigues of memory and crimes produced by the dictators during the twentieth century.”

Vania Díaz Romero, who is currently pursuing an M.A. in Spanish literature, was born in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She received her B.S. in social communication from the Universidad Católica Boliviana and studied literature in the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés. She taught at the Universidad Católica Boliviana and Normal Simon Bolivar. She completed a research project, “Alteridades de la feminidad en las discursividades de recoveras, locas, y artistas.” Her interests include border literature, testimony, Andean women writers, and feminist theory.

Ramon A. Fonkoue: “I come from Cameroon, and I am currently a doctorate candidate in the Department of Romance Languages. I hold an M.A. in arts and letters as well as a diplôme d’études approfondies in French literature, both obtained at the University of Yaoundé I. I enrolled at the University of Oregon in fall 2002. I spent the year 2004–5 in France as the Lyon Program assistant director. While there, I also attended the Institut d’Etudes Politiques and received a certificate in political sciences. My fields of interest and research include contemporary French and Francophone literatures of Africa, the French Caribbean, and Quebec. I focus on the crossings of aesthetics and ethics in relation to minorities’ issues and identity formation. I am currently working on my dissertation, entitled “The Aesthetics and Ethics of Agency in the French Caribbean Novel.”

Born in the coastal region of his native Cameroon, Patrick Moneyang holds a B.A. in teaching French as a second language and in bilingual studies (French and English). Hired by the Cameroon Ministry for Education, he taught French in secondary schools for three years. “In a desire to further my training, I stopped teaching in 2002 and entered two graduate programs. In 2005, I earned a joint M.A. in the School of Education and the African Literature Program, where I became fascinated with postcolonial studies and cultures. As a Ph.D. candidate in the RL department, I seek to pursue a career in research and teaching of Francophone literatures, and I’m particularly interested in addressing the challenging problems of the African experience in modernity as well as the needs of postcolonial society in a globalized world.”

Luis Gonzalo Portugal Tarifa, originally from Bolivia, is currently pursuing his M.A. at the Department of Romance Languages. He received his B.S. from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés in La Paz. His research and teaching interests are twentieth-century baroque and transatlantic poetry.

Erin Grund, from Hillsboro, Oregon, is preparing a B.A. in Italian with a minor in Spanish. She is considering graduate studies in linguistics as well as earning the second-language acquisition and teaching certificate. “I have an avid interest in language, especially the history and evolution of language, paralleled by a strong interest in culture and travel, which I will be indulging next year while studying at the Università di Pavia in Italy.”

Marco Purpura is currently a master’s student in Italian. Originally from Palermo, he completed his laurea in lettere moderne in 2004 from the Università di Bologna, where he wrote a thesis on African immigrant writers in Italy, “L’immaginario africano-italiano negli scrittori migranti”. He is still working in this area, while also pursuing the ethical implications of representation in bearing witness.

Kate Self comes from a small town in northern California called Arcata. “I love Eugene, but I miss the redwoods and the ocean from home!” She is working on a degree in biology with an Italian minor.

Continued on page 4
Moving Up, Moving On

Leonardo García-Pabón was promoted to full professor.

Nathalie Hester and Fabienne Moore were promoted to the rank of associate professor.

Juanita Devereaux was promoted to senior instructor of Spanish.


Asked about his coming retirement, Luis Verano had this to say: “After thirty-five years, it will not be practical to disengage completely overnight. There will be many things that I will have to do to for a while. Reviewing thousands of papers, moving books away, answering messages from people who have left here long ago, and writing letters of recommendation for students are just a few. Retirement therefore is not going to be a major change for me, at least not at the beginning. When July 1 comes up, it will be just another piece of paper and another day. Once summer teaching and advising are over, there will be changes in the actual hours of the day when I am around, but that is all for a while. In other words, I’ll be around. Why say goodbye when one is not leaving?”

Scholarship Winners

Continued from page 3

Her family is from Lucca, Italy, where many relatives still reside. Because of this, she has chosen to study abroad in Siena, Italy, for fall 2007.

Monica Sellers is a Eugene native and sophomore at the University of Oregon. She is working towards a B.A. in journalism: advertising with minors in French and theater arts. Her interests include photography, theater, and “laughing until she cries.”

Award Recipients

Another outstanding year of awards in recognition of the dedication and professionalism of our faculty members.

Cecilia Enjuto-Rangel received an Oregon Humanities Center fellowship in fall 2007 to work on her Cities in Ruins in Modern Poetry. She was also the recipient of the Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship in Literary Studies.

Leonardo García-Pabón won a Research Innovation Award from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

Massimo Lollini and Gina Psaki were two of the twenty winners of the UO Faculty Excellence Award, “designed to support the University of Oregon’s strategic commitment to improve its overall academic quality and reputation by recruiting, supporting, recognizing, and retaining world-class faculty [members]” (dixit Provost Linda Brady). The award provides professors Lollini and Psaki with a renewable salary supplement for five years.

Karen McPherson received a research fellowship from the Center for the Study of Women in Society for spring 2008.

UO president Dave Frohnmayer presented a crystal apple, symbol of teaching excellence, to Leah Middlebrook, a specialist in early-modern Spanish literature, who won the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching. Only three faculty members are chosen to receive this award each year.

Amalia Gladhart, Gina Herrmann, Cecilia Enjuto-Rangel, Amanda Powell, and Analisa Taylor were awarded a generous grant from the Williams Fund to reconfigure the Spanish and Latin American literature survey courses (SPAN 316, 317, 318, and 319) in a large-lecture format. “We look forward to collaborating on course design and on the acquisition of new audiovisual materials to enrich our presentations as we take this opportunity to offer our students a thorough grounding in the diverse cultural contexts of the literatures we will be studying. The new courses will also offer a new graduate teaching fellowship opportunity, as advanced graduate students will work with us to conduct weekly discussion sections for each class.”

David Wacks received the Norman H. Brown Faculty Fellowship Award from the College of Arts and Sciences.
A ccompanied by faculty director Robert Davis, associate professor of Spanish, fourteen UO students of Spanish spent five months in Granada, Spain, in this year’s spring study-abroad program. Located in the southern region of Andalucía, Granada is one of Spain’s most beautiful and historically interesting cities and has a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Alhambra and Generalife palaces and the entire Albayzín neighborhood.

RL students take courses at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas, a unit of the Universidad de Granada, in subjects ranging from Spanish literature and Islamic culture in Spain to the politics of the European Union.

Homestays offered students an up-close look at the way Spanish people live in the twenty-first century. Students supplemented excursions organized by site director María Ortega Titos with numerous trips of their own all over Spain and Europe. Our students also were able to participate in a number of extracurricular activities, such as flamenco and cultural visits, and volunteer activities, such as teaching English in local elementary or middle schools.

While in Spain, Davis was invited to give three workshops this winter: Reading and Content-Based Instruction, a twelve-hour workshop for the máster en docencia universitaria, Universidad de Huelva; Nuevas perspectivas teóricas y prácticas en la enseñanza de lenguas L2, a six-hour workshop for the doctorado en enseñanza de lenguas y canon literario occidental (bienio 2006–8), Universidad de Huelva; and La enseñanza del léxico español para nivel avanzado de L2: Retos y soluciones, a three-hour workshop for the master de formación de profesores de español como L2, Sevilla, Universidad Pablo de Olavide.

Leonardo García-Pabón was in Oviedo as the Northwest faculty representative of the program. He taught a class for the AHA International study-abroad program and gave three talks at the Universidad de Oviedo. As he is working on an edited edition of the religious poetry of Luis de Ribera (a seventeenth-century Andalusian poet who wrote his poetry in Potosí—now part of Bolivia), he researched at the Biblioteca Nacional de España (Madrid), and at the library of the Universidad de Oviedo.

Tania Triana: “I traveled to Havana, Cuba, in March 2007 to carry out research toward my book project, Blackness Unmoored: Narratives of Reracialization in Cuba. The purpose of my trip was to investigate how Cuban artists have narrated the ‘Special Period’—the last seventeen years since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. I had not traveled to Cuba since 2003, and much has changed. During the worst years of the Special Period, 1991–98, the average Cuban lost ten pounds of body weight. When I traveled there in 1997, 2000, and 2003, tourism and remittances were keeping the economy afloat. Since then, tourism has certainly expanded, as well as joint ventures with European and Canadian corporations in other industries on the island. As a result, the economy is stabilizing and the standard of living for the average Cuban has improved. Tourism has brought a new set of problems, however, and my trip to Cuba involved researching cultural and intellectual production on today’s social transformations. To this end, I met with scholars and artists from Universidad de La Habana, Centro de Estudios Martianos, Unión de Artistas y Escritores Cubanos,
Instituto Cubano del Arte e Industria Cinematográficos, Biblioteca Nacional José Martí, Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística, Revista Temas, Revista Revolución y Cultura, and others.

“During my visit, I learned how to plan a two-week seminar for graduate students at the University of Havana, which I hope to organize for RL students some time in the future. I also had the marvelous opportunity to lead a discussion on a Cuban short story about hustling, “La causa que refresca” ("The Refreshing Cause") by Yoss, to a group of students from the U.S. (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and American University in Washington, D.C.). What a wonderful opportunity! I have taught the story before to students in Oregon, but here was a group of American students in Cuba who were grappling with adjusting to a completely new society and were approached by hustlers almost daily. Let’s just say it was an animated conversation!

“Since my last trip in 2003, the United States has tightened embargo and travel restrictions, and drafted a transitional government plan (Plan Bush) for a post-Castro Cuba. One of the new restrictions in the U.S. embargo is to prohibit U.S. academic journals from publishing work by Cuban scholars. Therefore, in order to access materials by Cuban scholars, I have to either go through publishers in another country or travel to Cuba ([the standard] media [organs] are the only materials U.S. scholars are permitted to bring back from the island). A major part of the research trip therefore involved obtaining books, journals, documentaries, films, and music for research and teaching. I am happy to present to the Department of Romance Languages a digital version of José Martí’s collected works (all twenty-seven volumes!) produced by Centro de Estudios Martianos. I am also pleased to donate a digital version of Patria, the Spanish-language newspaper Martí published in New York. Faculty and graduate students can borrow the CD-ROMs from Linda Leon in the RL office.

“Havana is one of the most unique and marvelous cities in the world. My time there enriched my scholarship and revitalized my spirit. I can write volumes about how this trip has been useful for my work, but I’ll end by giving an impressionistic account of some of my favorite moments: sitting on the Malecón one steamy evening, . . . catching up with friends; eating fruta bomba, pineapple, guava, and banana for breakfast every morning; watching and listening to huge waves crashing over the Malecón because of a frente frío; listening to children recite ‘Seremos como el Che’ in school; dancing to salsa and hip-hop at an outdoor concert in the José Martí Anti-Imperialist Plaza in front of the U.S. Interests Section; seeing a room full of elderly women belting out boleros at a community center; seeing Cuban and international films at the cinema for two pesos (that’s eight cents); riding a classic Chevy peso taxi and almost falling into the huge hole in the back seat; smoking a cigar in the lobby of the Habana Libre hotel (a peso cigar, not a Cohiba); listening to the pregones of vendors as they hawk their wares down the city streets in horse carts. . . .”

Pedro García-Caro was the resident director of the summer Spanish program in Querétaro during June and July. “The Querétaro summer program offers a very intense course of study in a vibrant historical city; more than a hundred students from Oregon take classes here every year on Mexican civilization and colonial literature in one of the places where it all happened. The Interamerican University Studies Institute organizes classes in both the seventeenth-century Universidad Autónoma and the more modern Instituto Tecnológico de Querétaro (founded in 1967). Querétaro—the name of both the major colonial city as well as the state—has been a strategic site for trade and industry since the discovery of silver in Zacatecas to the north in the late sixteenth century. A living testimony of the power of the church and, in particular, the various monastic orders as well as the complex processes of acculturation and mestizaje that formed Mexico during the three hundred years of Spanish colonization, Querétaro has been the capital of the country on three occasions since its independence. It was here that the Declaration of Independence was plotted in 1810, where the French-backed emperor Maximilian was executed by the nationalist Juarista troops, and also where the modern constitution of 1917 was finally approved after the revolution. While its colonial quarter is one of the largest and most...
castizo of the Mexican provincial capitals, offering a wide range of cultural experiences (theater, concerts, street mimes, restaurants and bars, bookshops and museums), Querétaro is also a modern city. Students reside in the surrounding neighborhoods close to the malls and other modern amenities. During my time there I contributed to organizing cultural activities for students as well as coordinating their program of studies and caring for their welfare. I organized movie nights, city tours, language exchanges, volunteering, and field trips to nearby Bernal, Michoacán, Guanajuato, Sierra Gorda, and Mexico City. I researched on the literature of mining in these northern states, making use of the rich collections of the state archives—dating back to the 1540s—and the university libraries. I also took hundreds of pictures during my visits to archeological and historical sites as well as the silver and obsidian mines in the area. I participated in the summer workshop in literary translation organized by Amanda Powell, and, for a little while, the whole of Friendly Hall seemed to have moved to the Mexican colonial heartland—quite an experience.”

Amanda Powell directed a summer workshop in literary translation, Mundo a Mundo/World to World, in Querétaro, Mexico, in July 2007, cosponsored by the Interamerican University Studies Institute, the RL department, and the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro. She was assisted by Shelley Merello, who received a Romance languages instructor’s scholarship, and Pedro García-Caro was an invited speaker on translation. The workshop draws poets, writers, translators, critics, students, and scholars from all over the United States, Mexico, and other countries to work collaboratively on translation projects.

For fall term 2007, Gina Psaki is taking part in the UO–AHA International program in Macerata, Italy. The course she is teaching, Dante and His Italy: The Divine Comedy, explores this literary work as a gateway to Italian culture, history, and language, and explores Italy as the perfect gateway to the Comedy.

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**Oaxaca Week**

By Analisa Taylor

As co-coordinator with Stephanie Wood of the Americas Research Interest Group sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Society, I traveled with five other researchers to Oaxaca, Mexico, in summer 2006 to conduct a collaborative interdisciplinary research project on gender and power in Mexico, past and present.

Our visit was well-timed, as we arrived during a no-holds-barred popular revolt to oust the governor and democratize the state. Women figured prominently in this movement, taking to the streets and taking over the state-run radio and TV station to broadcast their message of deep social reform and organize the retaking of public spaces.

During spring term, our group hosted Oaxaca Week on campus, holding three major events featuring scholar-activists Concepción Nuñez, Julia Barco, and Margarita Dalton. These versatile and committed creators wowed huge crowds of students and community members with their media projects on gender, sexuality, race, and feminism, analyzing how they intersect with political processes, power structures, and cultural narratives in Mexico.

In summer 2007, I will return to Oaxaca with the same group of researchers to strengthen our ties with sister institutions and scholars and continue my research on social movements, identity, and literature in Mexico.
Great Romances: Le Monde de Proust

This yearlong Proust extravaganza was made possible by a 2006–7 teaching fellowship and a 2006–7 Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities from the Oregon Humanities Center.

Based on the simple idea that we need to read more together, Evlyn Gould and Karen McPherson launched a new kind of course in Romance languages that hosted a core group of undergraduate and graduate students (as well as a couple of faculty colleagues) in the exciting and daunting effort to read Proust’s magnificent fin-de-siècle masterwork *A la recherche du temps perdu* (*In Search of Lost Time*). In fall, we jumped in head first! In winter, visiting speakers from other departments around campus helped provide us with a broader cultural canvas for our readings. These visiting lecturers were Richard Stein (English) on Proust and Ruskin, George Sheridan (history) on the Third Republic, Marian Smith (music) on a Wagnerian Proust, and Sherwin Simmons (art history) on Proust and the visual arts.

We concluded our winter term course with a gala costume soirée (with period costumes provided by the Department of Theater Arts—see enclosed pictures) in Gerlinger Hall’s Alumni Lounge and with live four-hand piano music (including a short musicological talk about the historical context of such performances in the salons of Proust’s time) by Winnie Kerner, of the School of Music and Dance, and Eugene Yu.

Spring term, the ongoing Proust reading course intersected with the yearly Romance Languages Colloquium (RL 623), a course designed to bring together our graduate students in the three Romance languages to consider a common topic of interdisciplinary relevance. Featuring a seminar and a speaker series open to the public, the focus of this year’s colloquium was on two intersecting lines of inquiry in their relationship to Proust’s oeuvre: Jewish studies (with attention to Proust’s Marrano culture and his progressive Jewish coming out) and queer studies (with attention to Proust as a theorist of both male and female homosexual desire). These two perspectives served to highlight the significance of internal and external identity polarities that speak both to issues of modern cultural identity and to the shaping of literary modernism.

We were thrilled to bring to campus Leo Bersani, professor emeritus of French and comparative literature at the University of California at Berkeley, one of the foremost literary and cultural theorists of our time, to talk on psychoanalytic subjectivity, knowledge, and spirituality in Proust; Lawrence R. Schehr, professor of French at the University of Illinois, for a talk entitled “Astonishments and Reversals: Queering the Recherche”; Elisabeth Ladenson, associate professor of French and comparative literature at Columbia University, who held a seminar and gave a talk on “Proust for Adults Only”; Brigitte Mahuzier, associate professor of French at Bryn Mawr College, who conducted a website discussion on war and sex in Proust; and André Benhaïm, assistant professor of French at Princeton University, who gave a talk entitled...
“Swann’s (Sephardic) Synagogue: On the Oriental Jewishness of Marcel Proust.”

Students had this to say:

“Here is a quote from Maurice Merleau-Ponty that perfectly describes my sentiments of the yearlong experience of our Proust community: «Alors l’oeuvre d’art aura joint ces vies séparées, elle n’existera plus seulement en l’une d’elles comme un rêve tenace ou un délire persistant, ou dans l’espace comme une toile coloriée; elle habitera indivise dans plusieurs esprits, présomptivement dans tout esprit possible, comme une acquisition pour toujours.»

—Mandee Bish

“I came into the Proust class in the spring, and I was totally amazed and thrilled to discover this amazing new way of writing and of thinking about the world that we find in this amazing author. It was also great to come from my studies in Spanish literature and discover important connections with what twentieth-century writers were saying in that language. The amazing Proust scholars that have come to campus have just been icing on the cake.”

—Michael Gray

“My Proust experience has thrust me into a time period rich with decadence and modernism; into a world of aesthetic reflection. Proust’s writing is filled with self-referential curiosity and anxiety. His seven-volume novel has proven difficult to read in a yearlong program, though the professors have managed to miraculously move through the books allowing for ample discussion amongst the students.”

—Andrew Porter

“I set two goals for myself this year: read Proust’s A la recherche in its entirety and run a full-length marathon. I ran the Eugene Marathon . . . and it was my greatest physical feat. I am just beginning Volume VII [of the Proust] and it has been my greatest mental challenge. In the future, when I think back on this year, these two events will stand out in my memory because they are what challenged me most and therefore brought the highest reward.”

—Kelly French

“Proust is a strange cookie. Imagine steeping this cookie in hot tea, biting into it, and seeing a few hundred years of artistic, literary, and political history materialize out of the steam. Imagine putting the next bit in your mouth: this whole world starts speaking through you. You see there is a group of people eating cookies, too. They’ve got soldiers, socialites, painters, and writers falling out of their mouths. You’re all talking and the little people are dribbling out of your mouths. They start spilling onto the paper in front of you and look like works, but really they are cookies. You realize you are in a classroom and that you have actually read a 3,000-page novel. But, you swear the whole thing was a cookie.”

—Chad Canter

We are grateful for the generous support of the Oregon Humanities Center, the Romance languages, English, and history departments, and the programs in comparative literature and Judaic studies. But now, as Proust goes, we’ll all have to start over again!
Professional Activities


Barbara Altmann has been invited to lecture in July 2007 at the Centre d’études supérieures de civilisation médiévale at the Université de Poitiers, France. She was one of the speakers in their Medieval Studies Week, a two-week summer graduate program. Her lecture on late-medieval poetics is entitled “La fraternité de poètes français au Moyen Age finissant: l’intertextualité et la collaboration.”

This year, Robert Davis published “MOSAIC: Content-Based Instruction in Spanish” in NETS•S Curriculum Series: Second Language Units for Grades 9–12 (C. Falsgraf, ed.) (Eugene, Oregon: International Society for Technology in Education).

In June 2007, the Société des Amis de Mongo Beti invited André Djiffack to give a talk in Yaoundé, Cameroon, at the famous Librairie des Peuples Noirs de Mongo Beti. He also spoke at the French Cultural Center of Douala. The second volume of Mongo Beti: Le Rebelle is scheduled to appear in fall 2007 with Gallimard.

Cecilia Enjuto-Rangel’s article “Broken Presents: The Modern City in Ruins in Baudelaire, Cernuda, and Paz” appeared in Comparative Literature (Spring 2007).

In 2006, Juan Armando Epple was appointed as reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Faculty Humanities Workshops, Division of Education Programs. He gave a keynote address, Orígenes de la Minificción, at the IV International Congress of Minificción held at the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland, on November 2006. His essay “La minificción en Chile” will be published in a forthcoming issue of Hostos Review.

Pedro García-Caro attended several conferences this year. He presented a paper, “Undermining Empire: Murrieta and the Gold Rush,” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in Puebla, México, tracing his current research on the literature of mining across the Americas, in particular on texts from California and the U.S.-Mexican border.


Gina Herrmann has an article on using oral testimony in the classroom in the Modern Language Association’s publication, Teaching Representations of the Spanish Civil War (2007).

Nathalie Hester was promoted to associate professor with tenure. She is currently serving as a delegate for the Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature Division of the Modern Language Association.

Monica Lara received an instructor materials and curriculum development award for the purchase of materials for SPAN 301, including a DVD on Hispanic identities now available at the Yamada Language Center’s virtual language lab. She received a grant from the Office of Academic Affairs’ Instructional Technology Initiative to attend a summer 2006 workshop on the use of multimedia for teaching and research. In October 2006, she attended the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers–Confederation in Oregon for Language Teaching conference, where she gave a presentation, “Poesía negra en español: What Is Living Language?”

Massimo Lollini coedited with Norma Bouchard Reading and Writing the Mediterranean: Essays by Vincenzo Consolo (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2006). He is presently working on a monographic volume and collection of essays devoted to studying the evolution of humanism from early modernity up to the recent emergence of so-called post-humanism. He received an Instructional Technology Resident Faculty Fellowship and a Proof of Concept award from the Northwest Academic Computing Consortium for developing a digital project, “Petrarch and the Worlds of Poetry: A Web-Based Resource.”

In April 2007, Karen McPherson delivered an invited lecture, “Canadian Women Writers’ Reflective Journeys across the Millennial Threshold,” at the Center for International Studies at the University of Southern California.


Gina Psaki’s current research and teaching projects include an article on English translations of The Divine Comedy entitled “Nineteen Ways of Looking at Francesca” and an article on Boccaccio’s engagement with Petrarch entitled “Boccaccio’s Corbaccio as a Secret Admirer.” This year, she published an article entitled “Un coup de foudre: la recherche anglo-saxonne sur Le roman de silence” in Cahiers de recherches médiévales, 13 (2006). A longer research project in progress is The Traffic in Talk about Women: Misogyny and Philogyny in the Middle
Ages, a study of the nonfiction writings in praise and blame of women from the French and Italian Middle Ages.

Analisa Taylor’s article “Malinche and Matriarchal Utopia: Gendered Visions of Indigeneity” was published in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society. Her book Thresholds of Belonging: Indigeneity in the Mexican Cultural Imagination has been accepted for publication by the University of Arizona Press.

Tania Triana published “Sombras de pueblo negro: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Memory in 1930s Cuba” in Afro-Hispanic Review, 25:2 (Fall 2006).

David Wacks is proud to announce the publication of Framing Iberia: Maqamat and Frametale Narratives in Medieval Spain from Brill Academic Publishers (April 2007).

A recipient of a 2006 Instructional Technology Resident Faculty Fellowship, Catherine Wiebe worked on developing an online multimedia library and a series of interactive language exercises. While she piloted several lessons already, Wiebe’s goal is to create a complete online curriculum and workbook designed for second-year students of French.

César Vallejo by Efrain Diaz-Horna

Translating Vallejo: A Talk and Bilingual Poetry Reading by Clayton Eshleman

On February 8, 2007, Cecilia Enjuto-Rangel hosted National Book Award–winner Clayton Eshleman, who over the last fifty years has translated all the poetic works of renowned Peruvian poet César Vallejo, and has recently published the first translation of The Complete Poetry of César Vallejo: A Bilingual Edition (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2007.) Handsomely presented in facing-page Spanish and English, this volume includes the groundbreaking collections The Black Heralds (1918), Trilce (1922), Human Poems (1939), and Spain, Take This Cup from Me (1939). The book has a foreword by Mario Vargas Llosa, an introduction by Efrain Kristal, and a chronology by Stephen M. Hart.

The event drew a large crowd of poetry aficionados, who were treated to an insider’s perspective on the art and practice of translation, followed by an inspired reading of Vallejo’s poems, first in Spanish from Enjuto-Rangel, then in English by Eshleman.
In February 2007, Max Parra, professor of Spanish at UC San Diego, visited RL to lecture on the role of intellectuals during the Mexican revolution (1910–17) and their appropriation of revolutionary fighters such as Pancho Villa. This lecture was part of the graduate seminar on the Mexican revolution organized by Pedro García-Caro during winter 2007. Parra’s seminal Writing Pancho Villa’s Revolution (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005) was one of the secondary readings discussed in the course.

In April 2007, Tania Triana welcomed to the UO Gregory Lobo, associate professor, Department of Language and Sociocultural Studies at Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. His talk employed a cultural studies framework to analyze contemporary Colombian nationalist discourses from popular, official, and paraofficial sources. The talk challenged the idea of Colombia as a nation, and the idea of nation itself.

The Italian sector hosted three distinguished lecturers this year: Vita Fortunati, from the Università di Bologna, gave a talk in October entitled “Gender Studies in Italian Academia: Still an Unresolved Problem.” In April, Albert Ascoli presented “Worthy of Faith? Authors and Readers in Early Modernity.” He has a new book coming out this year from Cambridge University Press, Dante and the Making of a Modern Author. In May, Meredith Ray (University of Delaware), a specialist of Italian women’s epistolary literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries gave a lecture entitled “Gender and the Epistolary Genre in Early Modern Italy.” She recently edited the letters of Arcangela Tarabotti (1604–52), a protofeminist Venetian nun. Her book, Writing Gender in Women’s Letter Collections of the Italian Renaissance, is forthcoming from University of Toronto Press.

In June 2007, Priscilla Meléndez, a senior lecturer in Spanish from Yale University, gave a lecture entitled “(De) Humanizing Humor: The Anthill of Life and Politics in the Theater of Sabina Berman.” Berman has written a novel, La bobe, and three plays, El suplicio del placer, eXtras, and Entre villa y una mujer desnuda. Meléndez’s most recent book is The Politics of Farce in Contemporary Spanish American Theater (2006).
The highlight of fall 2006 was our Romance Languages Colloquium, with a rich program involving more than one hundred speakers and presenters, graduate students, and instructors, some coming from as far away as Australia, Great Britain, and South Korea. We were also delighted to welcome back RL doctoral alumni Philippe Chavasse (Rochester Institute of Technology), Jean-Luc Robin (Texas Tech University), Carmen Mayer-Robin (University of Alabama), and Florence Ramond Jurney (Gettysburg College), who gave presentations on their works in progress.

We heard thought-provoking panels on fascisms; indigenismos; universalities; and East-West encounters. Other well-attended panels echoed the title of the conference: “Teaching Matters,” “Translation Matters,” “Mesoamerican Culture Matters,” even “Libido Matters”! Several sessions addressed the related themes of memorial and testimonial writing, autobiography, and constructing memory, while others focused on the national literatures and cultures of Italy, Cuba, Latin America, France, Francophone Africa, and Spain. Christine de Pizan and Don Quijote shared the privilege of having a panel devoted to them.

Three keynote speakers shared their innovative research in the fields of Latin American, French, and Italian studies respectively: Doris Sommer (Harvard), Deborah Elise White (Emory University), and Barbara Spackman (University of California at Berkeley)

Thanks to the organizing committee, chaired by Evlyn Gould, participants were treated to a host of artistic events at the end of each day: a multilingual poetry reading organized by Jesús Sepúlveda; a banquet dinner with a dance performance by Elena Villa, followed by a salsa dance concert with Lo Nuestro; the premiere of a choreography by Bonnie Simoa at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art; and a delightful baroque music concert in Beall Hall.

Selected papers will appear in the international peer-reviewed journal Romance Studies.
Literature Matters Conference  continued

Salsa dance concert by Lo Nuestro (former RL doctoral graduate Freddy Vilches, center).

The premier of an original choreography by Bonnie Simoa, Ode to Book II, at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.
Alumni News

Kenda L. Cook ’83 moved back to Eugene after twenty-three years spent, first, in the California Bay Area, then in the Washington Puget Sound area. She graduated in 1983 with a double major in Romance languages and political science. Kenda reports that her Spanish “has been in great demand in social services. The Spanish-speaking population in the Northwest has grown dramatically in the past twenty years.” She became a certified life skills coach in 2006, contracted by the State of Washington to help injured workers, specifically Spanish-speaking clients. “As a side venture, I have recently developed a new program for Puyallup Parks and Recreation, teaching adult, grade school, and pre-school Spanish classes through the city’s after-school and adult education programs. Between teaching and developing curriculum for those courses, and working daily with Spanish-speaking clients on their industrial injury claims, I use my Spanish degree constantly now.”

A monograph by Javier Domínguez, Ph.D. ’05, De apóstol matamoros a yllapa mataindios: dogmas e ideologías medievales en el (des)cubrimiento de América, based on his Ph.D. dissertation, will be published by the prestigious Ediciones de la Universidad deSalamanca.

Alan Earhart, M.A.’04, has accepted a ten-month position, beginning June 1, with the Stanford University overseas study program in Florence, Italy, as the academic and student services coordinator. He writes, “My wife and I will be moving to Italy at the beginning of May. I am very excited about this opportunity. There is a possibility that it could become a permanent position, but the experience will be invaluable for a future job search in Italy as well.”

Lakisha Grant, M.A.’05, will be starting graduate work in Latin American studies at Vanderbilt University this fall.

Courtney Healy ’74: “When I first started at the UO, I was thirty years old, had worked for about five years in a job, then was told that, unless I had a degree, I would go no further in that company. I had no idea what degree I wanted, but I had lived in France for about three years between the ages of nineteen and twenty-two. I had learned to speak French, visited a number of cities, and seen a lot of things most tourists would never see. So becoming a French major seems the natural course to take. I started at the UO about the time the Calins came to work there. I had many classes from both of them, and I enjoyed what they taught and how they structured their courses.

“Upon graduation I applied for a job at, and was hired by, United States Plywood as a lumber buyer and salesman. In that job I had the opportunity to buy lumber from eastern Canadian lumber mills. Since I spoke French, I was a natural for that particular job because those to whom I talked in Canada only spoke French. During my career I had other jobs that allowed me to be the French speaker for the company, and take any calls that were from Francophone speakers.

“I spent thirty years in the Army Reserve. The last five years of that reserve time was spent in a linguistic unit: I was in charge of fourteen other soldiers who spoke many different languages. We did a lot of translation work.

“I raised five sons, and three of them spend time in Quebec and France. Those three are fluent in French also, and we enjoy time together speaking French. When they were younger, I took all of the boys to Paris for a week or two at a time, so we all have this in common. I retired this year, and am looking forward to many visits to France. I appreciate the University of Oregon, and I will never forget how much fun it was to be a part of the Romance languages department and the many hours spent at Friendly Hall!”

Anna Rocca, M.A. ’99, received a doctorate in French and Francophone studies from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and is currently teaching at Pace University in New York. Her book, Assia Djebar, le corps invisible: Voir sans être vue, came out in 2007 (L’Harmattan).


Good news from Enrico Vettore, M.A. ’02, Ph.D. ’05: After teaching Italian for two years at Kenyon College, he accepted a tenure-track position at California State University, Long Beach, to teach Italian language, literature, and culture. He is happy to be back to the West Coast and sends his regards to all in the Department of Romance Languages.
Can you help? It’s for our new advising center!

Picture this: students and backpacks strewn across a hallway floor, lined up outside a professor’s office. Sound familiar? Well, we’re doing something about it.

We are pleased to announce the creation of an undergraduate advising center, dedicated in honor of retiring senior instructor of Spanish Luis Verano, to serve our more than 1,000 majors and minors. The dedication is a salute to Luis’s many years of tireless devotion to the advising needs of our undergrads. Many former students will no doubt remember him fondly. We have a good space for the new center, too—a lovely, south-facing room on the second floor of Friendly with a waiting area and an office for our two new head advisers to share. But that space needs renovation, and the graduate computer lab that was housed there needs to be reinstalled in another room. Estimates to redesign both spaces came in at $18,000.

This is a project that will directly benefit a great many students at all levels. Please help if you can. Checks can be made out to Romance Languages Gift Fund, which is our general account, or designated specifically for the Luis Verano Advising Center or the Graduate Computer Laboratory.

 Needless to say, we are always grateful as well for contributions to our scholarships and other unspecified gifts! Questions? Please call department head Barbara Altmann at (541) 346-0950.

Merci, Grazie, and Gracias!