

A Message from the Chair

Today more than ever, our students need to know a “second” language to better understand contemporary issues and to perform at a higher level in their chosen professions. Although, today more than ever, learning a “second” language is challenged, this challenge is an opportunity to become even more resourceful and creative. At the curricular level, one of our goals for this academic year is to develop certificate programs in translation and interpreting to provide students with an opportunity to enhance their intercultural understanding, linguistic performance, professional skills, and employability. This certificate recognizes the benefits of learning Spanish in our multicultural society.

In the area of teaching, we have recruited several new instructors with excellent academic qualifications. We are happy to welcome them; please go to page 2 for brief introductions. We are dedicated to the highest standards in teaching, research and service. Information about our faculty’s recent accomplishment appears on page 3.

In our effort to partner with groups outside John Jay College, we contacted Argentina’s cultural attachés, the doctoral program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages of the CUNY Graduate Center, and Baruch College about possible opportunities for cooperation.

Last but not least, I would like to remind you of our forthcoming symposium “EMPOWERING THE TRIBE: A Symposium on LGBTI Issues” to be held on November 3 and 4 at our college. We would like to take the opportunity to express our thanks for the special support of the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and Office for the Advancement of Research. You can read the program for our symposium on page 5.

Silvia Dapía

Anjanette Perez Novoa Awarded Soto Scholarship

The department is pleased to announce that Anjanette Perez Novoa has been awarded The Juan A. Soto Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2004 by Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in honor of her father. It is given each year to a student who excels in Spanish. Ms. Perez Novoa received the award on May 18. Ms. Perez Novoa, who graduated at the end of the spring semester, plans to study for a graduate degree in Spanish at Middlebury College in Vermont.



Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández (left) with the awardee,
Anjanette Perez Novoa.

Welcome New Faculty

Jamal Ali is currently a Distinguished Lecturer of Arabic at Hunter College. He holds a Ph.D. in Arabic from UCLA (2005). His research interests include linguistic and religious thought in the classical period, and he is the author of *Language and Heresy in Ismaili Thought: The Kitab al-Zina of Abu Hatim al-Razi* (Gorgias Press 2009), which is about 10th century Arabic linguistics, grammar, and lexicography, and which examines an unpublished glossary authored by the Ismaili preacher Abu-Hatim al-Razi. He is also the co-author of *Arabi Liblib*, a reference on idiomatic expressions in colloquial Egyptian Arabic. He has lived and studied in the Middle East extensively, including having received the CASA (Center for Arabic Study Abroad) fellowship, as well as the CASA III fellowship twice.



Alina Bengochea is a Ph.D. candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center. She holds an M.A. from Montclair State University, has published two books of poetry (*Arca Suicida*, 1992; *Excesiva Presencia*, 1996), and some of her poems have appeared in various anthologies. Her topics of interest include revisitations to the Middle Ages and the Golden Age from contemporary theories, poetic prose, poetry and micro fictions.

Abersio Núñez, a native of the Dominican Republic, earned his M.A. in Spanish from CUNY and is currently enrolled in the CUNY Graduate Center's Ph.D. program in Spanish. He has published on Fernando Pessoa and Emilia Pardo Bazán, as well as numerous reviews for *Diario Digital.com*. His research interests include Latin American and Caribbean literature. He is also an accomplished poet, singer and photographer.



Irma Romero received her Baccalaureate degree from the Gral Juan Crisotomo Bonilla in Puebla, México, and her M.S. from St. John's University in New York. She also holds a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing as a teacher of Spanish. She is an adjunct Spanish instructor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and the New York Law School. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society at St John's University and has a number of publications to her credit.

John F. Sorrentino is a Ph.D. Candidate in French Literature at the CUNY Graduate Center. His dissertation is entitled "Gide in the First Person: The 'I' of Religion and Same-Sex Sexuality." He has taught French language courses throughout CUNY as well as an online French course for the NHTI, Concord's Community College in New Hampshire. As a Macaulay Instructional Technology Fellow, John worked for three years at Brooklyn College before joining the central team in 2009.



Gaheng Zhang has research and teaching expertise in Italian language and culture at highly regarded institutions in China (Beijing Foreign Studies University), Italy (New York University in Florence, Università per Stranieri in Perugia, and Roma La Sapienza), and the United States (New York University). His Ph.D. dissertation is entitled "Travel and Italian Masculinities in Gianni Amelio's Cinema." It reflects his research interests, in travel, migration, cinema and media studies, gender and masculinity studies, rhetoric, and second language acquisition.



Kudos

Silvia G. Dapía delivered a paper on “Recepción de la cultura española en Nueva York: 1860-1960” (The Reception of Spanish Culture in New York: 1860-1960) at the “Segundo congreso internacional de literatura española contemporánea”(Second International Conference on Contemporary Spanish Literature) which was held at the University of La Plata, Argentina.

Arístides Falcón-Paradí

wrote the script for the documentary titled "El Play" directed by Pablo Medina. It has been accepted for inclusion in the “Quinto Festival de Cine Global Dominicano,” November 15-20, 2011.



Kat Méndez completed an accelerated French reading course and succeeded in her first examination for her PhD program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. She attended “Jornada de formación centrada en la dimensión afectiva en el aprendizaje de idiomas,” a workshop on pedagogical practices for heritage learners sponsored by the Cervantes Institute and completed a training program on the academic support software “Tutor Trac/Tutor Advisor” sponsored by Red Rock Software Corporation. She translated manual into Spanish for the non-profit Connecticut Fair Housing Center and hosted the first professional development day for Foreign Language Lab staff.



Uhnsook Park hosted the 7th annual JET Information Session at John Jay College. The session informs students about opportunities to spend a year in Japan.

Raúl Rubio has been invited to serve on the 2012 awards committee of the prestigious American Studies Association’s Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize. He joins a three-person multi-disciplinary committee consisting of Prof. Sean Goudie (American Liter-



ary Studies) of Penn State University and Prof. Grace Elizabeth Hale (History) of the University of Virginia. This esteemed prize is awarded for the best-published first book in American Studies that highlights the intersections of race with gender, class, sexuality and/or nation. In July, Rubio took part in the Sixth International Narratology

Symposium held at the National Library in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he presented a paper titled “Illusions of Glamour: Subjectivity and Alterity in Boris Izaguirre’s *Morir de glamour: crónica de la sociedad de fin de siglo.*” In August he presented a paper titled “Nostalgic Imaginaries: Staging Latina/o Identity, Sexuality, and Materiality” at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference in Chicago. He was also featured in a panel titled “Staging Nostalgia: Latina/o Theater, Performance, and Material Culture.”

Liliana Soto-Fernández published “Los personajes de dos cenas eucarísticas en la obra de Josefina Leyva,” in Bertha Bilbao Richter’s *El mundo ficcional de Josefina Leyva: Metáfora de la libertad.* She was the keynote speaker at the National Spanish Examination Awards Ceremony in



May, and presented three papers at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference in July: “La religión en la obra de Josefina Leyva,” “Heritage Speakers at the Senior College,” and the presidential address “Prostitución y revolución: la dualidad femenina en la novela del período especial.” She also

hosted a reception for over 500 educators from around the world at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, and introduced Diego Fernández Alberdi, Consul for Educación in the United States and Canada, at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, for a talk titled “La expansión del español en las escuelas de los EE.UU.”

EMPOWERING
THE TRIBE

SYMPOSIUM ON LGBTI ISSUES

NOV. 3/4, 2011



THE SYMPOSIUM WILL ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO **FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS** AND **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS** IN RELATION TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND **GENDER IDENTITY**, AND CURRENT DEBATES ON IMMIGRATION, GENERAL HOMOPHOBIA AND **SAME SEX MARRIAGE.**

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ORGANIZERS

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MORE INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/pages/empowering-the-tribe-a-symposium-on-lgbti-equality-justice



CU
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Department Hosts LGBTI Symposium

Save the dates! The Department, with support from the Offices of Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies and Professional Studies, and Advancement of Research, will host a symposium on November 3-4. "Empowering the Tribe" will feature prominent scholars and John Jay College students presenting their research. Selected papers will be published in the Latin American scholarly journal *Katatay*. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday, November 3

1:30-1:40 pm — Opening Session: Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College/CUNY

1:40-3:00 pm — Panel: "Doing Social Science Research with LGBTQ Populations: Power and Violence in Men who have Sex with Men." Chair: **Chitra Raghavan**, John Jay College/CUNY. Papers by John Jay College students: **Chelsea Shotwell-Tabke**, "Politics and History of Research Realities with Queer Populations in Psychology"; **Jillian Disposto**, "Abuse Dynamics and Schemes of Power"; **Rosa María Vinas**, "Males in Violent Relationships and Perception of Power."

3:10-4:30 pm — Panel (**This session is in Spanish**): "Eroticism, the Lesbian Body, and Poetry." Chair: **Liliana Soto-Fernández**, John Jay College/CUNY. Papers: The Cuban poet **Alina Galleano** will read excerpts from her poem book *Los días que ahora tengo* (forthcoming); **Elena Martínez**, Baruch College/CUNY, "La escritura del cuerpo lésbico: la poesía de Alina Galleano."

6:00-7:45 pm — Dinner, Keynote Speaker: **Pauline Park**, Chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA)

Friday, November 4

9:00-9:50 am — Keynote Speaker: **Daniel Balderston**, Mellon Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Pittsburgh, "A Man Kicked to Death' to 'Killing a Fag': Representations of Violence and Traditions of LGBT Writing in Latin America."

10:00 am-noon — Panel: "LGBTI Movements in Latin America." Chair: **Silvia G. Dapía**, John Jay College/CUNY. Papers: **Shawn Schulenberg**, Marshall University, "The Lavender Tide? LGBT Movements and Their Relationship with the Newly Resurgent Left in Latin America"; **Leonardo Raznovich**, Christ Church University, Great Britain, "Argentina: A Queer country"; **Guillermo de los Reyes Heredia**, University of Houston, "Queer Migrations: Performing Sexuality, Gender and Mexican Identity in Houston"; **Raúl Rubio**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, John Jay College/CUNY, "Queer Stand-up Comedy: Art Form, Theory, and Community Empowerment."

12:15-1:30 pm — Lunch

1:45-2:30 pm — Keynote Speaker: **Victoria Neilson**, Legal Director at the Immigration Equality/Action Fund

2:40-4:30 pm — Panel: "Law, Violence and the LGBTI Community." Chair: **Raúl Romero**, John Jay College/CUNY. Papers: **Marc R. Poirier**, J.D., LL.M., Professor and Martha Traylor Research Fellow, Seton Hall University School of Law, "Did Dharrun Ravi Commit a Bias Crime?"; **Geoffrey L. Ream**, Adelphi University, "Harm Reduction, Youth Development, and Community Building in Services to Homeless LGBT Youth"; **Rachel A. McCroy**, New York University, "Marginalized Domestic Violence Victims: Stereotypes, Sexism, Heterosexism, and Defining Appropriate Outreach."

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