

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to a new academic year!

We are happy to begin the new year by introducing Dr. Aída Martínez-Gómez Gómez, our new assistant professor of Spanish, who you can read more about on page 2, and fourteen new adjunct faculty with excellent academic qualifications (see pages 3-4). Without these new faculty the department could not provide the number of opportunities it does for students to study from a wide a variety of languages. Another important addition is the new director of the language lab, Caroline Maria O'Donovan (see page 5).

The department looks forward to a busy year, which has already begun with a workshop on task-based teaching methodology that you can read about in the column to the right. In addition to developing new curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students, one of our major goals this year is to complete the approval process for new certificate programs in translation and interpretation. Specialists in these fields are in high demand in legal, medical, business, government, and other working environments. The program is ideal for bilingual students who can use it as an entre into a career in translation and interpretation, or for those who wish to enhance their primary degree with an additional minor and certification that can give them an edge in the job market. As the proposals wind their way through the formal approval process, we will be working with people on campus and potential employers off campus to develop a marketing plan to promote the program's benefits and attract new students to the college.

Best wishes to everyone for a very successful and productive year.

Silvia Dapía

“Taking Learners to Task”

On August 15 the department was pleased to host Prof. Bill Van Patten, a noted authority on second language acquisition and second language instruction who has published six books, seven edited volumes, six language texts, and over 100 articles. He has been honored six times for his research, teaching, and mentoring.

Prof. Van Patten led “Taking Learners to Task,” a workshop for faculty on “task-based language learning” which promotes accuracy and fluency in all facets of communication. Task-based learning dramatically redefines the nature of instructional objectives and approaches to language acquisition by focusing on methods of input processing, processing and parsing more generally, the interface between input processing and acquisition, morpho-syntactic relationships, and instructed SLA (Second Language Acquisition).



Bill Van Patten leading the workshop.

Welcome Prof. Martínez-Gómez

Please join us in welcoming Aída Martínez-Gómez, our new tenure track assistant professor of Spanish. Aída earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in translation and interpretation at the University of Alicante in Spain. Her dissertation on “*La interpretación en instituciones penitenciarias. La relevancia del componente interpersonal en la calidad de la actuación de intérpretes naturales*” [Interpreting in prisons. The relevance of the interpersonal component in the quality of the performance of natural interpreters] analyzes mediated communicative events in two Spanish prisons as a means of assessing the success of the interactions and the perceptions of success on the part of the participants. In the process, the study investigates issues such as the relevance of the interpersonal/affective component in community interpreting and the potential for success of non-professional interpreters.

The recipient of both graduate and undergraduate fellowships from the Spanish Ministry of Education, she was also honored with a Spanish Award for Translation Graduates (2007). In 2009 and 2010 she completed research internships at Kings College in London, United Kingdom, working with the International Centre for Prison Studies.

She comes to John Jay College from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California where she taught intermediate and advanced level translation courses. Since 2007 she has been an editorial collaborator for the international peer-reviewed journal *MonTI – Monographs in Translation and Interpreting*. Among her own research accomplishments is co-authorship of *Las universidades del siglo XXI: Traducción y Globalización*

[Universities in the 21st century: Translation and Globalization] (2010), and chapters on “El intérprete *ad hoc* en las instituciones penitenciarias de la Comunidad Valenciana” in J. L. Cifuentes Honrubia, *et al.* (eds.) *Los caminos de la lengua. Estudios en Homenaje al Profesor Enrique Alcaraz Varó* (2011) and “Dead monkeys, beer bellies and other beauties: Idioms in monolingual and bilingual English-Spanish dictionaries” in P. Mogorrón Huerta and S. Mejri *Las construcciones verbo-nominales libres y fijas. Aproximación contrastiva y traductológica* (2008).

She has presented her research at international conferences in Spain, the Netherlands, and the United States and has practical experience in translation and interpretation with the Secretary General of the Spanish prison system, the Department of National Legal Studies at the University of Alicante in Spain, and with the law firms of Ollé & Sesé in Madrid, Spain, Peters & Peters in London, England, and Loeb & Loeb in Chicago, Illinois.



In addition to Spanish and English, Prof. Martínez-Gómez also speaks French, Catalan, and German. As an expert in translation and interpretation, she will be leading the department’s efforts to complete development and implementation of its proposed certificate programs designed to qualify students to be professionally employed as translators and interpreters in legal and other environments.

Prof. Martínez-Gómez’s office is located in the new building, seventh floor, in 7.65.07. She can be reached at amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu.

New Faces on Campus

The Department welcomes several new part-time faculty this fall. Crucial to our mission, these instructors add breadth to the experience and academic preparation available to students in the College, as well as exposing them to a variety of learning styles and opportunities. Please join us in welcoming ...

Graciela M. Báez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures at New York University. She received her B.A. from Fordham University and studied under a full scholarship at the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo in Santander, Spain. In addition to teaching experience at NYU, she has also presented her research at several international conferences.



Tarik Belhoussein holds a B.S. from the Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco, and an M.A. from the University of Arizona where he is also a doctoral student. He has taught Arabic at Columbia University, New York University, and Princeton University.



Mariana F. Graciano received her B.A. from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and an M.F.A. from New York University where she also taught Spanish. Her research has appeared in several academic journals in Argentina and the United States. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic and Lusophone-Brazilian Literatures and Languages at the Graduate Center.



Nan Ma Hartmann is a Ph.D. candidate in Japanese literature at Columbia University where she is also a teaching assistant. The recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award, she is exploring the adaptation of Chinese narratives and vernacular in early modern Japanese literature.



Zoe Meng Jiang is a Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature at The Graduate Center, CUNY. She received her B.A. at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China, and her M.A. at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. In addition to teaching, she has experience as a film producer and the development of fine arts exhibits.



Zaida Lineweaver earned a B.A. at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo and is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic language and literature at Stony Brook University. In addition to a lengthy list of publications, she has teaching experience at the City College of New York, the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Stony Brook University.



Zulema L. Luna earned her B.A. at York College, CUNY, and her M.A. in Spanish at City College, CUNY, and has taught Spanish at both institutions.

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New Faces on Campus

(continued from page 3)

Angelo Mariano earned his M.S. in literature and philosophy at the University of Bologna, Italy. In addition to teaching at Bronx Community College, City College of New York, and Fordham University, he also designed the cover for the novel *Peace Be With You* and the logo for the Arthur House in Smithtown, NY.



Pablo García Martínez holds a B.A. and M.A. from the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain. A specialist in 20th century Galician and Spanish literature, literary theory, intellectual history, and film studies, he is the author of the novel *Relato dun estalido xordo*.



Michael Ritchie earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from New York University and teaches in the Department of French at NYU. His research interests are in early modern theater and performance practice, the rebirth and evolution of the tragic form in early modern France, and the history of performance practice from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

Carmela Scala has a Ph.D. in comparative literature from The Graduate Center at CUNY, with a specialization in Italian and Spanish. She has teaching experience in the Italian Departments at St. John's University and Hunter College, and has also published and presented papers on Italian themes at academic conferences.



Peter van Suntum obtained his B.A. at the Universität Essen, Germany, his M.A. from the University of Oregon-Eugene, and his Ph.D. in German Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition to teaching, he has worked as a researcher, translator, and editor.



Mohammed Tkachmita received a B.A. from the University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah in Fez, Morocco, and completed advanced training in the teaching of Arabic at California State University. He has teaching experience with the Ministry of Education in Morocco and New York University.



Carmen Valenzuela-Cervantes is ABD in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian literatures and languages at The Graduate Center, CUNY. She has also studied at the Universidad de Jaén, the Universidad de Navarra, the Universidad de Granada and Columbia University, and has teaching experience at the Instituto Cervantes and Hunter College, CUNY.



Marlenys de la C. Villamar earned a B.A. at the Universidad de Oriente, Santiago de Cuba, and an M.A. at the Universidad de Alcalá, Spain. She has worked with the United Nations and the Cervantes Institute in New York and, in addition to a number of publications, has worked on several documentary films. Most recently she has been teaching Spanish at the United Nations and the Cervantes Institute.

Kudos

Silvia G. Dapía presented a paper on “Argentina’s Attempt to Foster Immigration from Eastern Europe in the 1990s” at the “East Central Europe in Exile” Conference in Gdańsk, Poland, where she also chaired a session on “East Central European Literary and Artistic Presence Overseas.” She attended a conference on “American Ethnicity: Rethinking Old Issues, Asking New Questions” at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland; delivered a paper on “The Discursive Construction of the ‘People’ in Laclau” at a seminar at the University of Jena, Germany; and gave a paper on “Ernesto Laclau, Slavoj Žižek y Emilio de Ipola: Tres aproximaciones al populismo” [Ernesto Laclau, Laclau, Slavoj Žižek, and Emilio de Ipola: Three Approaches to Populism] at a conference on “El pueblo y su voz en el espacio cultural europeo” at the University of Cologne in Germany.

Raúl Rubio presented a paper on “Ethnic Exoticism: Queer Stand-up Comedy, Media & Activism” at the Multi-Ethnic Studies of Europe and Americas (MESEA) International Conference held in Barcelona, June 13-15, and a paper on “Lo efímero en las crónicas de Boris Izaguirre” at the XXXIX International Conference of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana in Cadiz, Spain, in July.



Prof. Lilita Soto-Fernández and Raúl Romero at the 2012 John Jay Commencement.

Announcements

Language Lab Hires New Director



Caroline Maria O'Donovan joins John Jay College as the new director of the language lab. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and Psychology from Manhattan College and is a doctoral candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center specializing in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she has worked as an adjunct instructor and research assistant at Manhattan College.

Interested in Culture, Film, Travel, Ethnic Foods?

If you are interested in touring local places of interest, experiencing ethnic foods, watching foreign films, or participating in other cultural events, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is looking for volunteers to help create a student cultural club. If you are interested, contact any FLL faculty member of the department chair, Prof. Silvia G. Dapía at sdapia@jjay.cuny.edu.

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