



THE NEWSLETTER



Department of World Languages and Literatures



If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.
- Nelson Mandela-



Number 5

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven

Summer 2014

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Dear friends of the World Languages and Literatures Department,

With many turbulent places in the modern world, the study of world languages and cultures is becoming more paramount than ever. This has been an exceptionally busy year for the Department of World Languages and Literatures, our faculty and students alike. With many events, changes, and new developments in the departmental outlook, we are happy to keep you updated and provide some details.

We welcomed the new Dean to the School of Art and Sciences at the start of the year and hope that all of you will join us in extending warm greetings to Dean Steven Breese.

As many years in the last decade, this one has been characterized by budget difficulties, program cuts and discussions of changes to the curriculum of foreign language teaching. In the process of adjusting to lower enrollments university-wide, we have offered fewer sections of all languages and have to consider whether we can continue offering all eleven languages that we have proudly taught for many years. I am certain that these hardships will lead us to creating even more attractive and effective programs in our remaining languages. We will continue offering a full array of courses in Chinese, German, French, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, and Spanish; majors and/or minors continue to be available in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Linguistics and Bilingual Education.

Our language clubs have been involved in many community activities that range from Italy Day to *Terra Madre* and *Canevale* in Italian; from multiple fundraisers, including *croque-monsieur* fundraiser to Mardi Gras celebration in French; from weekly conversational tables accompanied by delicious pastries generously baked by Professor Geibel to coat drive in German; and from great celebrations of national holidays to volunteering as interpreters at Dental Fair in Spanish.

We continue offering amazing study abroad opportunities. This year our students will once again travel to Paris with Dr. Luke Eilderts and to Salamanca with Dr. Carlos Arboleda. Our first exchange student Felisha Nunes returned from her semester-long adventure at the Universidad Jaume I in Castellion de la Plana in Spain.

Both of our Masters programs - the MA in Romance Languages and the MS in TESOL - have

successfully undergone a prioritization review by the School of Graduate Studies. We have awarded a total of 18 graduate degrees this year and accepted over 20 students in both programs.

Several of our students have been recognized with various awards. Samuel Hylwa is a recipient F.J. Zilli Award that is generously given by the daughter of the first chair of the Foreign Languages Department Frederick Zilli. Annie Tullo is honored with Mastrianni Memorial Scholarship and Rita and Ubaldo Tamburi Scholarship for her achievements in Italian. This year's WLL Reitiree Award goes to Samantha Vargo. Terese C. Petto Sholarship is awarded to Laura Brunetti. Our newest Douglas I. and Mary L. Relyea Scholarship is presented to Victoria Cataloni. Five students of German: Nicholas Devito, Vasana Francois, Maxwell Dunn, Aliaksandr Bialiauski, and Robin Stanley have received German Book Award presented by the German government. Many congratulations to our outstanding students!!!

I would like to share some faculty news as well. Dr. Erin Larkin and Dr. Lisa Vitale have been granted tenure and promotion. We congratulate them on this achievement!

Dr. Ruben Pelayo was awarded the Diploma of Distinguished Visitor by the City of Oaxaca, Mexico where he presented his work in memory of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Congratulations to Dr. Pelayo!

Dr. Sosa-Velasco has announced his resignation and will be moving to new challenges. We are delighted to welcome our newest colleague Dr. Jesse Gleason who is hired to teach in both the TESOL and Spanish programs! She is starting her tenure at Southern this August. Dr. Nichole Gleissner will join our French section as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the fall semester to replace Dr. Linda Olson.

Dr. Olson has retired this year after 30 years of service to the university. Dr. Olson has left a lasting mark on Southern - she was the first co-director the Honor's College, the first coordinator of the Foreign Language certification program and the first director and founder of the office of International Education. We wish Dr. Linda Olson a happy and healthful retirement!

Our faculty members organized significant events for students and faculty of the Department and the university at large. We were privileged to be a part of the Medieval Studies Conference revived by professor Pina Palma. This year's speaker was Michael J.B. Allen, Distinguished Professor of Humanities at UCLA. He presented a fascinating lecture on "Pythagoras in Early Renaissance." Dr. Larkin organized a lecture entitled "From Literature to Film" delivered by Dr. Bernardo Piciché (Virginia Commonwealth University). We were also fortunate to hear an autobiographical essay presented by Levi Romero, a Chicano poet and scholar at the University of New Mexico. This event was organized by Dr. Rafael Hernandez. The M.S. in TESOL faculty brought two distinguished international scholars. Dr. Maria Brisk gave a presentation on bilingualism and bilingual literacy. Dr. Michael Byram discussed formation of intercultural citizenship within a foreign language teaching curriculum.

As always, we invite you to all of our lectures and celebrations! We are delighted to see all of our students, faculty, alumnae, and all the other friends at the Department!

Elena Schmitt, Chairperson
Department of World Languages and Literatures

DR. LINDA OLSON'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

After many years of dedicated and outstanding teaching and service to the department and the university, Dr. Linda Olson officially retired in May 2014.

Colleagues and friends gathered in EN D149 on May 2 to celebrate Linda's retirement, and to wish her all the best in her retirement years!

The party was full of joy, friendship, laughter, and gifts. People enjoyed good food and the valuable time with Linda. Speeches given by colleagues and friends brought old memories and new wishes!

Our beloved Linda Olson and her smiles will be dearly missed!



NEW FACULTY PROFILE



**Assistant Professor,
TESOL and Spanish**

Jesse Gleason (Ph.D. Applied Linguistics and Technology) comes to the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Southern Connecticut State University from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Florida, where she was working on curriculum development issues in Spanish that flowed from her experience and training in TESL. Her teaching and research interests include ethnography, classroom discourse analysis, content-based instruction, and systemic functional approaches to language and literacy. She is particularly interested how technology can be harnessed to facilitate language-and-content learning.

FRENCH SECTION NEWS:

The French section was very busy this academic year, with French club events, a sabbatical leave, new course creations, a multi-volume book publication, and finally a hale and farewell to our dear colleague, Dr. Linda Olson.

In the fall semester, Dr. Olson made excellent use of her sabbatical by continuing research on her book-length project titled “Purgatory in Medieval and Renaissance French Literature.” This book will fill gaps in both French literary studies as well as in the larger field of medieval and Renaissance *mentalités*. For spring 2014, Dr. Olson returned to the French section for her last semester at Southern. During her many years of service, she has contributed in numerous ways not only to the department, but to the University as well. The Office of International Education in essence grew out of one of her desk’s filing cabinets, and has now become one of the most important parts of the University’s mission for globalization success. Furthermore, Dr. Olson headed the Honor’s College for many years, an experience she looks back on very fondly. To celebrate Dr. Olson’s retirement, WLL organized an afternoon gathering on May 2 with food,

refreshments, and lively discussions. One of the highlights was the heartfelt speeches that friends and colleagues gave in her honor. We here in the French Section will deeply miss Dr. Olson’s friendship, guidance, and vision, and we wish her the very best for this new chapter in her life.

Dr. Constance Cryer Ecklund, professor emeritus, edited and oversaw the 2014 publication of John E. Ecklund’s *The Origins of Western Law from Aristotle to the Code Napoleon* (Clark, NJ: Talbot Publishing). A testament to her tireless energy and skill, we congratulate Dr. Ecklund on the expertise this project required and congratulate her on its completion.

Dr. Luke Eilderts continued his mission to build and diversify the French program here at Southern by revising and creating new courses that will not only fulfill LEP requirements, but also align the program with current trends in French & Francophone Studies worldwide. Students are reacting positively to these changes, and the section has seen the number of minors and majors grow significantly. Dr. Eilderts also maintained an active research agenda by presenting his work at three major conferences and submitting a book chapter titled “Violence,

the City, and Public Displays of Difference” that is scheduled to appear in the upcoming edited volume *Visualizing Violence in Francophone Cultures*.

For the month of July 2013, Dr. Eilderts accompanied Dr. Camille Serchuk (Art) and Professor Thaun Vu (Art) on the Southern in Paris program. A total of 16 students went on the trip, with six taking French courses. Students were asked to perform a variety of tasks while in Paris, such as interacting with local residents in ethnographic-style activities, as well as choosing and studying the history, geography, and social make-up of a Parisian *arrondissement*. As the culmination of this project, students became the leaders by guiding their fellow travellers on a walk through their respective neighborhoods, pointing out important locations and monuments. And all of this *en français, bien sûr* ! For July 2014, Dr. Eilderts will join Dr. Serchuk as co-director of the Southern in Paris program. This year there are a total of 11 students on the program, of which nine are enrolled in French. Six of those

students were awarded scholarships from the Student Government Association, and one student was awarded one of the two prestigious Cubeta Memorial Scholarships. Dr. Eilderts is very much looking forward to fine-tuning the program to make it an even greater success for his students.



The French Club was very active this year. In addition to weekly meetings, they also planned several events ranging from a *croque-monsieur* sale to game nights to a Mardi Gras celebration. Next year plans to be even better as students' interest in French club grows and plans to start a chapter of the French National Honor Society come to

fruition.

Interested in staying abreast of events in the French section here at Southern? You can like our page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/southernctfrench>), or contact Dr. Luke Eilderts (Eilderts@SouthernCT.edu).

Dr. Luke Eilderts, assistant professor of French





In Dr Olson's FRE 210 class, students did an activity concerning body parts and comparisons. They put together body parts of two extra-terrestrials (who had crashed on SCSU campus!), then described them and compared their body parts. Each extra-terrestrial was named and the students generated the comparisons: "Ralph a autant de nez que Fernand." They did a great job and really seemed to like the exercise!

FRENCH

GERMAN SECTION NEWS:

This academic year was one of growth and success for the German program. The program welcomed a new full-time assistant professor as coordinator of the program, offered several 300- and 400-level German courses, added several new majors and minors, presented five of the best students in German with the annual German Book Award, officially reinstated the SCSU German Club, and conducted a Winter Coat Drive.

In the fall Dr. Christine Rapp Dombrowski joined the SCSU World Language faculty as both the Foreign Language Certification coordinator and professor of German. With a full-time faculty member in German, the program was able to offer several 300- and 400-level courses for the first time in many years. Due to these new course offerings students completed studies in German Communication, German Grammar Analysis, German Literature Survey and German Film of the 20th Century. The availability of these courses allowed several

students to complete their German majors and brought several new majors and minors into the German program. In one year the German program nearly doubled in size!

As a highlight, each year the German program awards five German Book Awards in the spring semester to those students who show the most promise and dedication to learning about the German language and culture. The German Information Center as part of the German Consulate generously provides these book awards for our program. This year the following students were recognized for their achievements in German:

Maxwell E. Dunn
Aliaksandr Bialiauski
Nicholas Devito
Vasana Francois
Robin Stanley

These same students and many more participated in the weekly German Club meetings organized and led by the German

adjunct faculty, Professor Annemarie Geibel, Professor Gillian Fox, and Professor Dombrowski. In the fall the German Club applied for official club status at SCSU and will be recognized as an official SCSU Student Club in the upcoming academic year. Each week the meetings were filled to capacity and allowed students the opportunity to explore aspects of German culture of interest to them. A sample student presentation topics included: the German National Fussball league, travel throughout Germany and Austria, an introduction to Indo-European history and Germanic



languages, a cultural Jeopardy game, how to make Apfelstrudel, and searching through German family genealogy. A highlight of the year was a community outreach event when the SCSU German Club organized a Winter Coat Drive to benefit New Haven's Columbus House.

The upcoming year promises to be just as exciting. In the fall Dr. Dombrowski will be teaching a cross-listed course LIT374W German Fairy Tales and Legends with GER310 Modern German Culture. The SCSU German Club will become an official student organization on

campus. In addition, Dr. Dombrowski has been awarded an SCSU Curriculum Development grant to revise and update the German curriculum. The project's title "German for the Professions" highlights the main focus of these revisions on the practical applications of German with various career options and will directly tie German studies to other disciplines at SCSU. New courses to be developed include *Business German I and II* and *German for Reading Knowledge*.

If you are interested in learning more about German studies at SCSU, feel free to contact Dr. Christine Dombrowski at dombrowski1@southernct.edu.

Mit freundlichem Gruss,

Christine Dombrowski
Assistant Professor of German and
Foreign Language Certification

German

ITALIAN SECTION NEWS:

Things are bubbling in Italian! During the past academic year, the section sponsored many exciting activities. In the fall, Prof. Michael J.B. Allen (Distinguished Professor of Humanities, UCLA) delivered the lecture “Shaman of Reincarnation: Pythagora in the Early Renaissance.” In November, students celebrated “Terra Madre Day”, presenting their class work on Italian Culture and interacting with guest speaker, Connecticut philanthropist Enzo de Dominicis. “Terra Madre Day” concluded with a faculty research forum on food and wine in Italian literature and the visual arts, featuring presentations by Professor John Varriano (Mount Holyoke College) and SCSU’s own Professor Pina Palma. In December, students of all levels of Italian celebrated Boccaccio Day, in honor of the great writer’s birth, by doing ‘flashmob’ skits based on novelle from the Decameron around the SCSU campus. In the spring, the Italian section hosted guest Professor Bernardo Picichè (Virginia Commonwealth University) who spoke on Italian cinema and literary adaptation. Finally, the Italian section also hosted a workshop series on teaching and technology, which featured SCSU faculty as well as invited guest and expert Professor Elda Buonanno (Iona College); workshop leaders brainstormed with Italian instructors on ways to use technology to engage students with Italian culture.



Boccaccio Day 2013

The Italian section is also very pleased to announce that the SCSU Italian Club was reconstituted in the spring of 2013 with a brand new name and executive board! Under the guidance of president Annie Tullo and vice president Max De Musis, “Italianissimi” organized events like Scopa Night, an Italian movie night, a Carnevale party, and an Italian Jeopardy competition. The club participated in SCSU’s Cultural Expo (see photos of Annie and Max



SCSU Cultural Expo, left and Carnevale party, right

interviewed by SCSU TV below!) on April 21st, and had their first membership drive on Italy Day at SCSU, which celebrated Italian national holiday la Festa dell'Indipendenza on April 25th.

We are most excited about the accomplishments our undergraduate and graduate students have achieved. We congratulate Sarah Jane Compton and Jacquelyn Clarke Roper on completing the

MA in Romance Languages (Italian). Italian majors Delanie Cook (Cum Laude), Paul Gramolini and Gabriela Russo (Magna Cum Laude) graduate this May 2014. What is more, Delanie is returning to the US after a year abroad completing coursework in Italian and business at the Università di Trieste! *Brava!* Italian minor Patty Ovalles is also graduating, and will begin a two year commitment with the Teach for America program this summer. Italian minor Samantha Varga is the recipient of the Italian American Historical Association Annual Scholarship; the scholarship was awarded at the Italian section's end of the semester party, which was also the occasion to congratulate our graduating students--both MA and undergraduate--and wish them well on future endeavors!



Jeopardy night, Feb 2014



Italy Day at SCSU, 2014

italian
life

SPANISH SECTION NEWS:

The Spanish section has continued to evolve. Not only the demand for Spanish classes at Southern has remained constant, but the number of Spanish minors and major has grown slowly but steadily. We also have continued to make every effort to offer our students as many classes as possible and at different days and times so it could be easier for them to find the classes they need to complete their education. Last year we were given the opportunity to hire two temporary full-time faculty members to assist us with the program and in the fall of 2014 we hope to have again two full-time professors who will be helping out while three of our tenured professors are on sabbatical leave. We are particularly pleased to inform that Professor Luisa Piemontese will return as the coordinator of the language program. We are very excited about the changes and implementations she will propose in the coming months. If you need more info about our language offerings, please contact her at piemontesel1@southernct.edu. Professor Rafael Hernandez will continue as the coordinator of the Spanish Program for another two years. He also can be contacted at hernandezr3@southernct.edu.

We are proud to report that in the past year, we organized several events that reflect the vitality and intellectual ambition of our program and that attest to our dynamic role in the Department of World Languages and the University at large.

On November 7th, 2014 Professor Maria Theresa Pao from Illinois State University presented a lecture titled "Letter from a Young Contrarian: Belén Gopegui's *Deseo de ser punk*." This lecture focused on the work of Spanish writer Belén Gopegui; in particular it centered on her controversial novel *Deseo de ser punk* (2009), in which its adolescent narrator, Martina, rejects her parent's generation and music presenting an interesting view of contemporary Spanish



society. After Professor Pao's lecture there was a conversation with students and faculty in attendance.

On December 6th, 2014 Professor Resha Cardone and Professor Miaowei Weng organized the initiation of several graduate and undergraduate students into *Sigma Delta Pi*, an exclusive national collegiate honor society devoted to maintain academic excellence in Hispanic studies and support the Hispanic community and its culture. The students were inducted in a very moving ceremony full of symbolism and tradition. This is the third year we have had this initiation ceremony and we would like to continue. Juniors and seniors who are majoring in Spanish are invited to contact the chapter advisor, Professor Miaowei Weng (wengm1@southernct.edu) to learn more about *Sigma Delta Pi*.

On February 27th, the Spanish section organized the first Latin Taste, a celebration of the diversity and the flavors of Latin America and Spain. The event was a collaborative effort of all full- and part-time faculty as well as some students, who generously brought different foods from Latin America and Spain as well as cultural artifacts to represent their countries and culture. Thanks to Mario Yépez, we enjoyed the colorful performance of a traditional folk dance group from Ecuador.

This year once again several members of the Spanish section (full- and part-time faculty) participated in the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, CT chapter (AATSP-CT), which was held at Fairfield University on April 26th. This year's topic was "Las Obras



Poet Levi Romero Speaking at SCSU

Maestras en la Clase de Español y Portugués." The conference was co-sponsored by Quinnipiac University, Fairfield University, Southern Connecticut State University, and REDIPE (Red Iberoamericana de Pedagogía).

On April 28th, the Spanish section had the opportunity and privilege to present a lecture by Centennial Poet of New Mexico, Levi Romero. Levi Romero is a former poet laureate of New Mexico and professor at the University of New Mexico. His poetry accurately expresses the condition of many Hispanics in the nation who are truly bilingual and bicultural and yet are American for

generations. Widely published and recognized for his achievements as a poet, Levi Romero was a revelation and an inspiration for many of our students and faculty. After Professor Romero's presentation, there

was a very exciting session of Q&A followed by a reception for our Spanish majors and minors. In the reception, Spanish students graduating this year were recognized for their dedication to our program and offered a certificate of appreciation.



This summer, like it has been the case for almost twenty-five years, Professor Carlos Arboleda took a group of twenty students to Salamanca, Spain for the summer. The Summer Program in Salamanca is perhaps the most established and popular program at Southern for students who want to go abroad and experience another language and culture first-hand. True to our conviction that experiencing a foreign culture is one of the most rewarding and educational experiences in college, we want to encourage all of our Spanish students to participate in the Summer Program in Salamanca. For more information, please contact Professor Carlos Arboleda (arboledac1@southernct.edu).



Traditional Dance Group from Ecuador

Finally we want to report that the Hispanic Cultural Society, a Spanish club for our students majoring, minoring or just interested in the language, has been reinstated after years of being inactive. This Spanish club has the mission of providing students interested in the language and culture of Latin America and Spain the opportunity to come together and enhance their college experience by organizing events related to the richness and the diversity of the Hispanic societies. For

more information about the Hispanic Cultural Society, please contact Professor Rafael Hernandez (hernandezr3@southernct.edu).

In addition to all these events, it is worth mentioning that our faculty has remained active participating in regional, national, and international conferences and publishing their research. This academic year Professor Resha Cardone, Sobeira Latorre, and Rafael Hernandez will be on sabbatical leave working on research project on South American, Caribbean, and Portuguese literature. Congratulations!

The Spanish Program is an active, vital, intellectually and pedagogically oriented program that has already made its presence evident in the University at large. We are committed to continue our mission of excellence. Please visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Spanish-at-SCSU/357583511053451>

Professor Rafael Hernandez
Spanish Section Coordinator

Spanish



Students Attended Poet Romero's Lecture



Students Talking to Poet Levi Romero

LATINO COMMUNITIES IN CONNECTICUT:

Volunteer Translators

In an ongoing effort to connect our students to Spanish-speaking communities in Connecticut, Professor Luisa Piemontese organized a group of SCSU students and instructors of Spanish as volunteer translators for the CT MOM Free Dental Clinic at the Hartford Civic Center on April 26th, 2014. Student volunteers were from the Medical Spanish course Prof. Piemontese has been teaching, as well as from other courses in the Spanish program.

The free dental clinic is an annual event sponsored by CT Mission of Mercy. Every year since 2008, the clinic has been held in a different major city in Connecticut. This year in Hartford, there were 2,295 patients, over \$1,500,000 in donated care, and hundreds of sponsors and volunteer translators and medical personnel.

Professor Piemontese recruited student volunteers and organized a workshop specific to oral health, which was held at SCSU on Saturday, April 12, 2014. During the workshop, student and instructor volunteers participated in skits to practice interpreting in English and Spanish. Diane Grube, a SCSU alumna and dental hygienist, was present for the workshop and collaborated with Prof. Piemontese and the volunteers. All volunteers received a button (funded by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences), to identify them as Spanish speakers and members of the SCSU community. Prof. Piemontese also prepared a set of cards with useful vocabulary and expressions in Spanish and English for each volunteer to wear on a lanyard (funded by the WLL department) and to use for reference during this event.



On the day of the event, all volunteers met at 4:00am in front of Lyman Auditorium. They carpooled to the Hartford Civic Center and arrived at 5:15, in time for an orientation for all volunteers. Each volunteer was then assigned to a station; the doors of the clinic were open from 6am-5pm. These are some of the comments from our student volunteers:

*There was one patient who really made my day. Her name was Maria, and she was very elderly and frail, afraid of what was around her, not only because she had to use a walker, but because she didn't speak English, she spoke Spanish. I introduced myself to her, and decided that I would stay with her until checkout...I believe that I made a HUGE difference in her visit to CTMOM, and I told her I would try very hard to make it there next year and see her again...CTMOM was a very successful event. I am so incredibly proud to be a part of the event, and so happy to be part of a school who has the interests of other people in our community in their mind. I would do this again in a heartbeat, and I'm so proud of all the volunteers who were there. Thank you so much for this experience, and I will definitely participate next year. **Laura Azzara***

*I had such a wonderful time at the CT MOM dental clinic! I definitely had my apprehensions before attending the clinic. Waking up at 3 am and attempting to translate important medical information in another language did not seem like an optimal combination...I was flagged down by a triage volunteer to translate another consultation. There were three patients: a mother and her two little niños. I didn't know it at the time, but I would end up spending the next 2 hours with this family on their journey through this free clinic. We were running all over. Triage, radiology, restoration, surgery, pediatrics. As we went from station to station, my confidence as a translator grew exponentially. I utilized every tactic at my disposal. When I didn't know a particular piece of dental vocabulary, I looked at the handy flashcards hanging around my neck (a gift from Profesora Piemontese). In a bind, I used the universal language of pantomime. The mother was grateful for my help and for those two hours, I became a part of the family. Our time together was filled with laughter, smiles, and at moments, tears. I put myself in their shoes. I knew that going to the dentist could be a scary affair. Now imagine going to a crowded dental clinic with two children tied to your hip, finding out you need surgery to remove a decaying tooth, and not being able to understand what anyone is saying. As a volunteer translator, I was able to assuage fear and make an uncomfortable experience as comfortable as possible. Every patient deserves to be understood and to understand what is going on with regards to their care. **David Kowall***

This volunteer effort is one of several that Professor Piemontese has helped organize for our students. In Summer 2013, a group of SCSU students volunteered as translators for the CT Migrant Farmer Clinics, sponsored by UConn, and held in different farms around Connecticut. In Fall 2013, several SCSU students volunteered in the Latino Fest, sponsored by the Peabody Museum at Yale and JUNTA for Progressive Action, a Latino community based organization in New Haven.

SCSU volunteers for CT MOM Dental Clinic: Laura Azzara, Alexa Davis, Danielle Greenough, David Kowal, Kira Lawrence, Kelly Lindberg, Kevin Menescardi, Delmi Palma, Jacqueline Piscitelli, Mario Yopez, Alina Zúñiga, Luisa Piemontese.





Dr. Pelayo is awarded the Diploma of Distinguished Visitor by the City of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Behind him is the XVI-century ratable of the ex convent of San Pablo, now a cultural center, where the parchment was awarded



One Sunday in early April, Dr. Cardone and her students from her Latin American Theater and Performance course traveled to Brown University to see *El Grito del Bronx*, a play by Nuyorican playwright, Migdalia Cruz. They arrived with enough time before the show to enjoy lunch near the campus. After the performance, the students met Cruz, who had traveled from New York City to see the show

and to speak with the audience about her career in dramaturgy. The field trip, which was funded by Dean Breese, was a powerful experience for students as it was the first time they had ever seen a play they had studied in class. Spanish major, Haley Knies, summed up the sentiment of her classmates in saying that: "Reading a play is one thing, but seeing it come to life with all the drama that a stage brings to theater was a really amazing experience."



Latin American Theater and Performance students at the Brown University theater, waiting for the show to begin

MA in Romance Language

M.A. IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES PROGRAM NEWS:

The school year 2013-2014 was of much activity for our MA in Romance Languages and Literatures. The number of credits required for completion of the MA was reduced from 37 to 31, and the rationale for the comprehensive exam as capstone was changed from Comprehensive Exam Seminar to *Research Colloquium*. The two courses for the comprehensive exam as capstone now read:

WLL 594-Research Colloquium I

WLL 595 –Research Colloquium II

Other than the two changes mentioned above, we underwent the extraneous, time-consuming, and rigorous drafting, editing, and polishing of the prioritization report. On a smaller scale, we reviewed and edited the course listings for the Graduate Catalogue, and redesigned the planned programs to showcase the changes made. These new planned programs now show both the

course numbering and the course title.

For the May Graduate Ceremony, four of our students walked: two in Italian and two in Spanish.

During the summer of 2014 we offered a graduate course in Spanish; ten students attended. For the fall semester we are offering a course in each language: French, Italian, and Spanish; plus the core course WLL581 -- Introduction to Graduate Studies in Romance Languages. For the fall semester of 2014, we have 6 graduate applicants whose files are now complete, and 4 others whose files are not.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the fine work the Chair and the members of the Department's Graduate Committee provided me while all the labor above-mentioned was undergoing.

R.Pelayo,
Graduate Program Coordinator

TESOL and TAT

SCSU's TESOL and TAT Program in the K-12 School Districts:

This year, our TESOL program's students and alumni have been making considerable contributions to K-12 educators throughout the state of CT in several ways:

- TAT EL Curriculum Library: Each student who takes TSL 518: "Content-based Instruction for ELs" must complete an instructional unit. This unit originates as a mainstream class unit, but is modified throughout the semester to make the content comprehensible for English Learners (ELs) and to create abundant opportunities to engage, interact and produce oral and written output about the content. Successful units are added to our Training for All Teachers EL Curriculum library. This spring, 2014, the library went virtual, with over 220 instructional units available for teachers to use. In the first six months close to 3,000 units have been downloaded. The EL Curriculum library can be accessed at: <http://southernct.edu/tat>

- **EL Curriculum Institutes:** With the financial support of our Training for All Teachers program, practicing K-12 teachers who have completed the MS/TESOL program have taken part in a unique curriculum development and professional development opportunity. During last summer, TESOL alumni created curriculum teams, by bringing together teachers from their school and discipline, who have not had the TESOL training that they have had. For one week, as a team, they modified curriculum materials that they planned to use in school this past academic year. While they had the luxury of time to modify curricula, their fellow teaching colleagues were learning best instructional strategies for teaching content to ELs. These revised curricular units are available to all CT teachers in TAT's EL virtual curriculum library.
- **Stamford Summer EL Lab Initiative:** This summer, trained and supervised by Professor Verplaetse and TAT's program manager (and TESOL alum) Marisa Ferraro, a cohort of our MS/TESOL graduate students and alumni were trained to deliver a 6-week Summer Lab Institute for Stamford Public Schools on Sheltered Instruction for ELs. Our TESOL student/alumni trainers include: Heather Alvarez, Cynthia Bealer, Suzanne Botta Sullivan, Monica Bunton, Katie DeStefano, Sophia Diamantis, Maggie Stevens Lopez, and Rachel Wojciechowski. Three of our MS in TESOL students, Jessica Somerville, Christina Brewer, and Nicole Simonson, presented their research "The role of interaction in producing target-like output and promoting SLA" at ConnTESOL conference that took place in October, 2013 at Sacred Heart University.

SCSU – SALAMANCA, SPAIN PROGRAM

25TH ANNIVERSARY (1990-2015)

Carlos Arboleda



Upon being hired as a SCSU full-time Professor in 1988, I accepted the invitation to rebuild and run a new program in Spain. Since then, we have successfully fulfilled this mission in Salamanca, also known as the Golden City of Spain. We will celebrate the 25th anniversary of our program to Salamanca, Spain next year of 2015.

Since 1990, the SCSU program has worked with the University of Salamanca (1990-1994) and later with the prestigious Colegio de España. We have taken an average of 25 students every summer and have also helped and advised a good number of students who have chosen to study in Spain for a semester and/or a year. We have identified around 600 students from 1990- we would like to connect with to give this event some momentum. We would like to host an event in Salamanca at the city hall, and another here on campus in the new library after he and his 2015 students return from Spain.

Our program of celebratory events will take place in 2015 (the exact date is yet To Be Determined). During these events, we will feature a gala ceremony and the presentation of our colorful publication, which is in the process of being compiled. We are hoping that you will be featured in this publication.

We are asking students who have participated in our program to send written reflections to be included in our 25th Anniversary Commemorative Publication that is presently in the process of being compiled and written.

The 2014 Summer Study Abroad Program Travel Award Ceremony

Last **April 30th** the Office of International Education, under the direction of Dr. Erin Heidkamp, hosted its annual celebration for all summer program scholarship winners and all those who get to share in the unique privilege of traveling abroad. Recipients of an SGA-Student Government Association Travel Award were invited to attend an awards reception in their honor. Spend an afternoon with your fellow study abroad students, administrators, and faculty trip leaders. A total of six students traveling to Spain this Summer 2014 received a travel award from the Student Government Association to use towards your SCSU 2014 Summer Program Abroad. **The award recipients were chosen by a competitive selection process based on a demonstrated good GPA in their undergraduate studies.** This 2014 year, each of the six award recipients is eligible to receive a total award of **\$690.00**, and a certificate was presented to them.

AWARDEES and GPA:

1. Badillo, Antoinette J. (3.38)
2. John, Adisa L. (3.37)
3. Judkins, Danielle A. (3.68)
4. Wester, Megan (3.88)
5. Cota, Catherine (3.90)
6. Vollero, Morgan E. (3.44)

Congratulations!

Some students' expectations:

"One of my favorite idiomatic expressions in Spanish is "el sueño dorado", "the golden dream", or biggest goal. Currently, my "sueño dorado" is to become completely fluent in the Spanish language. I am progressing to satisfy my goal, but I know that it requires much more work; I must consistently practice my language skills at every given opportunity. More specifically, this study trip is the ideal experience to enhance my Spanish speaking skills."

Michelle Martino

"...so my biggest challenge is going to be stepping out of my box and my comfort zone, it's going to be very scary, but I want to immerse myself in a world that I can barely comprehend at the moment; something I have only read about. I am branching out of my little world that I have created and exploring a new one. I want to experience some else's world, learn what it's about and. By doing so, I hope that my experience will change the perspectives in my box."

Megan Wester



"Overall, this trip will allow me to enrich my appreciation for diversity and enhance my ability to communicate and personally connect with individuals of different backgrounds, a skill that I know will help me achieve my goal of becoming an adept social worker." *Catherine Cota*

"I am convinced that the skills to be obtained in studying abroad in Spain will become of great use in my future career as a Social Worker...It is the accomplishment of a goal I hope to cherish for the rest of my life." *Adisa John*

"Currently Spanish is my minor and I believe studying abroad will help me become a better

bilingual speaker...It will leave me with a great appreciation for my Hispanic roots, and better understanding of my people...I'm a social worker who aspires to work with children in the public school system...Also, this opportunity will give me a lifetime of memories I will cherish and share with family and friends for as long as I live."

Antoinette Badillo



* For the last four (4) consecutive years, Carlos Arboleda has been co-chairing the AATSP-CT (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese-CT Chapter) Annual Conference. He has also been editing and publishing the proceedings in the REDIPE'S BOLETIN (Red Iberoamericana de Pedagogía). This is the information for this year's conference:

**CONFERENCE AATSP-CT
(AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SPANISH AND
PORTUGUESE-CT CHAPTER)**



SPONSORED BY:
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY
RED IBEROAMERICANA DE PEDAGOGÍA- REDIPE

**LAS OBRAS MAESTRAS EN LA CLASE DE ESPAÑOL Y
PORTUGUÉS**

**FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY
APRIL 26, 2014**



SCSU PRESENTERS:

- Prof. Rubén Pelayo: “Claves para entender *Cien años de soledad*”.
- Prof. Viviana Rigo de Alonso (SCSU), Prof. Lourdes Casas, (CCSU) Prof. Covadonga Arango-Martín (Fairfield University)
“Contando con el arte”
- Prof. Luisa Piemontese “¿Qué es un juego?
Actividades para leer el *Libro de Acedrex de Dados y Tablas*”.
- Prof. Carlos Arboleda: “Diálogos y re-conocimientos de identidades y otredades en El Quijote”.

Carlos Arboleda participated in the “Simposio Internacional de Educación: Pedagogía de la Alteridad” at the University of Murcia, Spain on April 2-3, 2014. He presented a paper on “Elementos para Pedagogía de la Educación en el Quijote”.



Carlos Arboleda at the “Simposio Internacional de Educación: Pedagogía de la Alteridad”, in Murcia, Spain.



LANGUAGE LAB NEWS:

In the past year, a lot has happened in the lab and with the use of technology for language learning and teaching. One of the most exciting things is the use of the green screen technology. Over the summer of 2013, a green screen kit was purchased and installed in EN D151. A software program called Camtasia Studio was also purchased and installed on some lab computers. With a few magic clicks on Camtasia studio, any video or photo taken in front of the green screen can adopt a new background, such as a hospital setting, Paris, or Rome, etc., basically anything you can imagine. Professor Luisa Piemontese did a Green Screen project in her medical Spanish class. In her class, students were playing skits in front of the green screen, pretending that they were in a hospital, acting in different roles, such as a patient, a nurse or a doctor. After some editing in Camtasia Studio, the final videos showed students in an authentic

hospital setting. Professor Erin used the green screen in her Italian class as part of final student presentations. Students who posed in front the green screen were excited to find themselves later on in various Italian clothes stores, buying and selling clothes! Professor Luke Eilderts did a similar activity in his summer French class. With the help of the green screen technology, students were able to project photos of their own visiting various places in France while doing their final presentations in the classroom! All these activities definitely added fun and engagement to the language classes.

In the past year, we piloted SchoolShape, a new language lab program that can be used in both a regular computer lab and an iPad lab, in some classes. In the next year, we will continue to try out the program and expand its use to more classes. Currently, the Spanish section has a plan to convert all the TestFabrik tests into SchoolShape activities that will allow additional functions and features.

We continued to use our iPad labs in some classes in the past year. A brief survey was conducted among students and instructors at the end of Spring Semester. The result of the survey shows that the majority of the students had a positive attitude towards and favorable experiences with the use of the iPad lab in their language classes, while instructors were more divided in their views and experiences of the iPad lab and mobile technology. A detailed analysis of the survey shows that the major problems students and teachers had with the iPad lab are related to such issues as inconvenience in typing, unreliable Internet connection, unreliable saving and sending student work, not being able to print, etc. The analysis also shows that the programs that were used the most in the iPad lab are still those commonly used on desktop computers, such as web browsers, MySpanishLab, and Word Pro Free. Apparently, applications that can take advantage of the mobile and group features of the iPad lab should be promoted and used more in the future. Pedagogy for using mobile technology in language learning and teaching should also be developed and adopted.

In the past year, we conducted three technology workshops and forums.

The technology Workshop on Glogster was conducted on 12/3/2013. The technology workshop on Green Screen was conducted 3/26/2014. The Spring Technology Forum was conducted on 5/1/2014. This forum showcased some programs and apps used for group and crowd-sourced learning in foreign language classes, including Twitter, Telly, ScreenChomp, and Memrise.

The new lab equipment purchased in the past year includes two Plustek OpticBook 3800 book scanners, one Jensen JTA-460 3-Speed Turntable with mp3 encoding, one AGPTeck Ccassette to mp3 converter, one Canon Vixia HF R40 Camcorder and two Cannon PowerShot A2400 cameras. The Plustek OpticBook scanners make book scanning much easier and more efficient. One is installed in the Open Lab and the other in the Lab Assistant Office. If you have any old records you would like convert to mp3 files to be used in your language class, then the Jensen turntable would be a good tool to use.

Jian Wu, Foreign Language Lab Director



Plustek OpticBook 3800 Book Scanners



Green Screen Kit Installed in
EN D151

For questions or comments, please contact Dr. Miaowei Weng at wengm2@southernct.edu or Dr. Jian Wu at wuj4@southernct.edu