The Chinese Culture Club has had another year of accomplishments. Its membership has grown to over 200 over the course of two years. Dr. Kylie Hsu, the Faculty Advisor to the Club, has launched an award program to recognize members with outstanding contributions to the Club. She presented an Outstanding Leadership Award to the Club President, Andrew McKinn, and an Outstanding Service Award to the Club Vice President, Matthew Winter, at the International Symposium on Using Eastern Wisdom to Nurture the Body and Mind in the 21st Century, April 14, 2008. Additionally, Dr. Matsunaga, Department Chair, presented the Kylie Hsu Endowed Scholarship to Chris Ballancee for his academic achievement in Chinese. The symposium was co-organized by the Chinese Program and the Chinese Culture Club, in
collaboration with two international humanitarian organizations—Tai Ji Men Qigong Academy and the Federation of World Peace and Love—which also co-sponsored the event. The proceedings were reported in Sing Tao Metro News, April 16, 2008. Additional activities organized by the Chinese Culture Club include Chinese “table talk”, peer tutoring, and a cultural performance on May 1, 2008 to celebrate the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Kickoff.

Student Research

Under the mentorship of Dr. Kylie Hsu, Matthew Winter, a Chinese major, presented a refereed paper, “In Search of an Effective Romanized Transcription System for Learning Chinese Pronunciation,” at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), November 17, 2007. Participants include faculty and students from Brown University, Caltech, Penn State, Purdue University, USC, and the UC System. One of the reviewers noted: “This is a terrific abstract for a fascinating and original project; I foresee a bright future for you as a linguist!” Encouraged by the positive review, Matthew Winter stated: “I have been studying Chinese since 2003, and one of the first things you learn in class is Hanyu Pinyin, the official system used to transliterate Chinese characters to Latin letters. Immediately, I noticed that native English speakers had some problems learning the spelling rules and correct pronunciations in Hanyu Pinyin, which sparked my interest in the subject of phonetic scripts of Chinese. I knew that there were other phonetic scripts for Chinese that have been created in the past, but I did not know how they were different or why they were important. I finally got the chance to research the topic in an introductory Chinese linguistics class in Winter 2007 under the direction of Dr. Kylie Hsu. I had 100 native English speakers read five different Chinese phonetic scripts aloud. I took notes on where there were strong and weak points within the scripts in order to fabricate my own ‘Winter Script’ in hopes of solving the problems of native English speakers learning Chinese. I had the honor of presenting my topic at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, and I received exciting responses from the panel of judges. I continued my research in my Chinese phonetics class with Dr. Hsu in Winter 2008 and found my ‘Winter Script’ to be very effective. I hope to continue research into my graduate studies on this interesting subject.”

Matthew Winter, Second Prize Winner. 2008 Chinese Poetry Recital
2007-2008 Chinese Studies Center Report

The Chinese Studies Center participated in the Modern Language Week event by co-sponsoring a guest lecture, “Environmental and Ethnic Diversity in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Region,” by Dr. Ted Crovello on November 13, 2007 in Salazar Hall C98-99. Dr. Crovello’s PowerPoint presentation attracted a large audience. Thanks to donations from Mr. Major Tsai and Monique Wu, the Center awarded two scholarships: Chinese B.A. Scholarship to Kathy Luong and Major Tsai Scholarship to Xiaoping Wei.

Although the Center was unable to award the past first prize winners on the advanced level: Richard Chen and Dan Guo, they again surprised the audience with their first-class performance. Miss Dan Guo’s acting reached the professional theatre level.

Dr. Minjun’s famous laughing faces.

“One of Beijing-based artist Yue Minjun’s famous laughing faces.”

The 16th Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest was held on May 8, 2008 in King Hall Lecture Hall 2. The event started with an inspiring welcome speech from Dean Terry Allison and followed by Chair Matsunaga’s speech of support. More than 40 contestants from Cal State L.A. and other universities, such as UC Irvine and Santa Monica College performed in high spirit with fantastic imagination. Reporters from major Chinese newspapers came to cover the event. Winners included:

Advanced Level:
1st Chantry Davis UCI
2nd Michelle Liu CSULA (Special)
2nd Li W (Lily) Huang CSULA
3rd Yang Guo CSULA

Intermediate Level:
1st Helen Chou UCI
2nd Chun Hsien Chang (Claire)
2nd Katie Chen UCI (Special)
3rd Lychu Taing CSULA

Elementary Level:
1st Jennifer Chemel CSULA
2nd Ebony Adagun CSULA

Although most native Chinese have great difficulties in mastering the tones. And Chicano students have a hard time in aspirated phonetics. Although most native English speakers manage sounds with the curling tongue pretty well, they have problem of pronouncing “j, q, x”. The Poetry recitation contest has been an excellent way to correct their pronunciations and tones.”

FRENCH

The French section pursued its collaborative efforts with other teachers and campuses, participating in February in the MCLASC/CSULA Immersion Day for teachers of French and Spanish, organized by Professor Gretchen Angelo. French faculty attended a spring meeting of the CSU French quarter campus consortium to plan our joint offerings over the next few years. We have also announced our Fall 2008 online French linguistics course to all the CSU campuses, and campuses as far-ranging as Chico and Fresno have signaled that several of their students will be enrolling.

Our M.A. program also continues to reach out in new directions. Two of our M.A. students, Elyse Ritchey and Kelly Tutko, served as Teaching Assistants this year, each teaching a first-year French course. This summer, the French department will be offering its first summer M.A. classes, a Historical Linguistics class, and the other a seminar on the Nineteenth-Century French novel. We hope to develop the M.A. program in future summers to attract more high school teachers.
SPANISH

New online academic journal launched by Spanish faculty

Revista KARPA (Interdisciplinary Journal on Dissident Theatricalities, Visual Arts and Culture) was launched by Professors Paola Marín and Gastón Alzate (General Editors) on January 31, 2008. KARPA is a free online academic journal publishing articles in three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese). It has a prestigious Advisory Board composed by well-known scholars from Latin America, Spain, and the US. It may be found at the Modern Languages and Literatures website: http://karpa1/Site/KARPA.html. The next issue will be available on July 31, 2008. We invite you to check it out.

Visit by Author Elsa Drucaroff

Last November 8th, 2007, Argentine novelist Elsa Drucaroff gave a lecture on campus and presented her latest novel "El infierno prometido". This lecture, introduced by professor Pablo Baler was part of the Modern Languages and Literatures week, and it was sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Cross Cultural Centers. Overwhelmed by the warm reception and fruitful exchange of ideas Drucaroff said: “I was gladly surprised by the unusual mix of intellectual inquisitiveness and affection that I have found among Cal State L.A. students.”

Author Elsa Drucaroff

ΣΔΠ— Sigma Delta Pi

Our Gamma Psi Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi held its initiation ceremony on May 2, 2008 at El Cid, a Spanish restaurant in Los Angeles. The ten new inductees are: Moisés Albarrán, Pearl Alvarez, Aline Escudero, Samantha López, María Muñoz, Thania Muñoz, Melina Sánchez, Verónica Vázquez, Ana Sotelo, and Maurice Williams. The ceremony was intimate, yet festive. It followed a Spanish meal and a lively flamenco show at the restaurant. The new members are very excited and motivated for the coming year. They note an increased interest in Sigma Delta Pi among their peers, and expect many more new inductees in the near future.

Elated inductees

Left to Right, top to Bottom: Maria Muñoz, Mauricio Williams, Moisés Albarrán, Thania Muñoz, Verónica Vázquez, Samantha López, Ana Sotelo, Pearl Alvarez, Aline Escudero

New Creative writing option under development

For those students who have a passion for writing, the Spanish section of the department of Modern Languages and Literatures is developing a new Option for Creative Writing in Spanish with three new courses currently being proposed. These are: Fiction writing in Spanish (SPAN 455), Poetry (SPAN ) and Script Writing in Spanish (SPAN ). Stay tune as these ideas grow from wishful thinking to curricular offering.

A message from Professor Paola Marín (Faculty Advisor to AEE/Asociación de Estudiantes de Español):

Over the Winter and Spring Quarters of 2008 AEE has been very active in recruiting members, creating a blog (http://ciudaduniversitaria.csula.blogspot.com), and organizing events such as a Spanish Writing Workshop (Taller de Gramática), fund-raising activities, and various informational meetings. Student officers Thania Muñoz, Samantha López, Melina Sánchez, Ana Sotelo, and Eloisa López have worked hard so that AEE truly becomes a vehicle for the academic and personal advancement of students of Spanish at CSULA. As an example, in May 2008 Samantha López won the award given by ASI to Outstanding Student Organization Officers at CSULA. We invite all students to take advantage of this unique opportunity to enhance their educational experience. For further information please contact Melina Sánchez (Public Relations) at melina_aeepr@yahoo.com.

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**IMPOSTURAS**

(Los Angeles, March 4 P.A.) The long awaited reading of prose and poetry by four Latin-American authors took place on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at the Cal State L.A. Music Hall in front of a heart pounding, foot stomping audience. The guest of honor, Alicia Kozameh, author of the acclaimed novel *Pasos bajo el agua*, read a short story "Vientos de rotación perpendicular." Towering novelist and master impostor Pablo Baler read an excerpt from his work in progress *Tierra despierta*. Producing spasms and aftershocks of lyrical excitement, Paola Marin read a series of minimalist poems from her collection *Poemas a la orilla*. To close the event, Gaston Alzate did not only read part of his novel *Erraticus* but also revealed his deeply and hairyly rooted connections to the Colombian Cartel. Thanks to this positive reception, the authors, three of whom proudly belong to the instructional force of our venerated institution, have pledged to make plans for the next installment (IMPOSTURAS 2), which will bring in the exclusive participation and ineffable works of four unparalleled Latin-American poets. Special thanks are due to the in-depth introduction sublimely delivered by Cuban Professor Esther Hernandez.

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**Alumni News**

Iliana Alcántar (BA, ’96; MA, ’97 Spanish) received her Ph.D. from UCLA in September of 2006 in Mexican Theater and Film. She was a Faculty Fellow at UCLA from July 2006 to June 2007 and since September 2007 she has been a Visiting Assistant Professor at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She sends greetings to all her professors in the Department.

Brenda Pensamiento (BA, ’96 Spanish) was involved in the opening of a brand new high school, West Adams Preparatory High School, in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She began as a teacher of Spanish in Los Angeles and now she is the assistant principal of this new school.

Ramiro Rubalcaba (BA, ’98 Spanish) has many good memories of the Department. He appeared in the play *Don Juan Tenorio* and received a scholarship to attend a summer seminar for teachers at UC Santa Barbara. Ramiro is currently Dean of Students at Garfield High School where he has taught Spanish for five years and he is in his fourth year as dean of students. He is currently in the Master’s program in Educational Administration and hopes to finish by June 2008.

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**The Right Staff: Long due recognition**

Legendary figures, Mai Tran, Men Tran (no relation) and Letty Ramirez were featured on the cover of *Legion of Superheroes*. It is always heart-warming and kidney-tickling to see such prestigious, peer-reviewed publication finally recognizing the silent yet vital work of the MLL department support team.
Japanese Speech Contest

The Japanese Studies Center hosted the Eleventh Annual Japanese Speech Contest on February 23, 2008. Nineteen contestants from three high schools, three community colleges, and three universities presented their speeches in front of 70 people. The judges (Dr. Hidemi Riggs, Soka University, and Dr. Setsue Shibata, California State University, Fullerton) selected winners of the prizes. A guest of honor, Mr. Katsumi Maruoka (Director of the Japan Information & Culture Center, Consulate General of Japan at Los Angeles) selected two winners of Consulate Awards. The event was supported by the Consulate General of Japan at Los Angeles, the Japan Foundation and Kinokuniya Bookstore in Costa Mesa.

- **Grand prize winner:** Chun-Ju Chang (California State University, Los Angeles)
- **First prize winners:** Azusa Takano (Rosemead High School); Julius Verrgus (Mt. San Antonio College); Spencer Perreault (California State University, Los Angeles).
- **Second prize winners:** Jin Oh (Crossroads School); Kathryn Morris (Moorpark College); Ariel Schlager (University of California, Irvine); Ya Dan Cheng (California State University, Los Angeles).
- **Third prize winner:** Andrew Thomas (Notre Dame High School); John Espinueva (University of California, Irvine); Thuy Vy Thi Nguyen (University of California, Irvine); Brian Choi (California State University, Los Angeles)

Consulate Award winners: Anna Lin (University of California, Riverside); Norman Witkin (Santa Ana College).

Win the grand prize in the Japanese speech contest? IMPOSSIBLE!!!

When I was in Taiwan, I had never thought about participating in any Japanese event, because I had no confidence in my poor skill in Japanese. Nevertheless, I cherished a hope that one day I would be able to speak Japanese fluently.

What triggered my interest in Japanese was a trip to Japan three years ago. I still remember very vividly that at that time the only Japanese I knew was "I am not Japanese". Although, I did not know from where my courage came, I was bold enough to approach a Japanese girl, in order to ask her what to do before entering the public shower room. Not surprisingly, the conversation came to an end, right at the moment when I said, "I am not Japanese". The girl could not speak any English, while I had already exercised all of my Japanese language skill. The Japanese girl, with her big, round, beautiful pair of eyes, smiled and waited for me to say something more. To her disappointment, all that I could do was to stare back at her. I was simpering with an innocent expression; the frozen atmosphere made me feel so awkward.

Right at that moment, I was determined to learn Japanese.

However, learning Japanese was not easy at all, because in Taiwan the teacher always lectured in Chinese and seldom let students practice orally. Therefore, even though I had already studied Japanese for two years, my listening comprehension and oral abilities were still so immature, that I dared not use the language. When I accepted the opportunity to come to the United States through a student exchange program, I was constantly bothered by my fear that I might end up forgetting all of the Japanese I had learned. However, after arriving here, everything was so different from what I had previously expected.

I entered Yokota Sensei’s class.

It was really a shock to me the first day I attended the class because Yokota Sensei spoke Japanese most of the time. I was so fidgety because I had a hard time trying to figure out what was being taking place in the class. Seeing all my classmates conversing with Sensei in Japanese, I felt so overwhelmed. When Sensei spoke, I felt as though the words kept flowing past my ears, because I did not understand in the slightest. During the class, I only saw Sensei’s mouth moving and her face smiling. But thanks to my good friends, who were always so willing to help, I gradually became able to keep pace with the class. At the end of my first quarter, Yokota Sensei asked me whether I would like to take part in the speech contest. My brain felt blank, because I had never thought about being able to stand on stage in front of an audience, using Japanese to express myself.

However, I accepted immediately.

I knew that it would be an excellent opportunity for me to improve my Japanese. After consulting with my friend, I decided to speak about the topic "Japanese Compact Culture". I started to prepare for the contest very early, because I took it very seriously and hoped to succeed. My script was revised three times, and I endeavored to memorize it whenever I was walking, taking a shower or even drying my hair. Besides, I truly felt grateful to everyone for helping me, including my Japanese friend, who corrected my intonation and pronunciation, and Yokota Sensei, who was strict enough to guide and support me. Without them, I could never have had such a wonderful experience. When I was making my speech, I felt so blessed and elated, because it seemed that all of the effort paid off.

Faculty Activities

Prof. Chisato Koike presented three papers. The first one entitled "Who is the storyteller now?: An analysis of story recipients’ participation in joint or assisted storytelling" at 10th International Pragmatics Conference, held in Göteborg, Sweden in July 2007, the second one entitled "Shift in tellership in joint storytelling: An analysis of story recipients’ questions" at 6th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, held in Honolulu in January 2008, and the third one entitled "Interaction at the onset of joint storytelling" at the American Association for Applied Linguistics Annual Conference, held in Washington, D.C. in March 2008.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...
Faculty Activities

Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga
(Professor of Japanese, the Department Chair, and the Director of the Japanese Studies Center) continued to serve as the PI, Director, and Coordinator of the Strategic Language Initiative Korean Program with a subcontracted federal grant ($90,000 for Summer 2007 and $244,000 for the following four quarters). She made a presentation at the 7th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Language Sciences, Sendai, Japan, July 7 and 8, 2007, the summary of which appeared in Studies in Language and Literature, 42(2), 2008. She also served as a referee for The Modern Language Journal, and as a grant reviewer for the Japan Foundation.

Dr. Toshiko Yokota attended the 12th Japanese Education Symposium held at the University of London, September 6-9, 2007 and the report on the symposium was published for the newsletter of Teachers of Japanese in Southern California Newsletter, vol. 43, Fall 2007. A paper, “Created Images of Author Yosa Buson,” is accepted for the 5th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities held in Istanbul, Turkey, July 15-18, 2008. She was also appointed to teach a summer intensive Japanese course at International Christian University in Tokyo from July 3 until August 16, 2008.

Dr. Kylie Hsu, Chinese Program Coordinator, was reappointed for the eighth year as the World Languages Associate Editor of the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT), an international project sponsored by a consortium of higher education systems. Additionally, she was elected to serve as the Secretary of the Chinese Scholars Association (CSA) Board of Directors. In this capacity, she represented the CSA and the CSULA in various outreach activities, including the New Year Reception hosted by the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles on January 19, 2008, Charitable Contributions to China’s Snow Storm Relief on February 7, 2008, Outstanding Overseas Chinese Language Teachers Award Ceremony on February 27, 2008, and a meeting with the President of Shanghai Jiao Tong University on April 15, 2008. Dr. Hsu was the Organizing Committee Chair of the CSA’s spring gathering on February 23, 2008. She was also the organizer of a guest lecture, “Environmental and Ethnic Diversity in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Region,” by Ted Curovelo on November 13, 2007, which was part of our Department’s Modern Language Week. Additionally, she has received funds from CSULA for the Chinese Learning Partnership project for a second year. Dr. Hsu’s publications include: Volume 1 (Fourth Edition) and Volume 3 (First Edition) of Practical Chinese Exercises, Learn Perfect Publishing, Los Angeles, 2008; “Report on the U.S. Delegation’s Visit to Shanghai, China,” The Chinese American Professionals & Professionals Net, Vol. 19, July 2007; and reviews of “Rutgers Multimedia Chinese Teaching System” by Rutgers Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, October 2007, “Cultural Interviews with Chinese Speaking Professionals” by Orlando Kelm, et al., November 2007, “Chinese Character Learning System” by the Consortium for Language Learning and Composing, CSU Humboldt at Arcata, November 2007, “Basic Business Vocabulary” by the USC Chinese Program, March 2008, “Chinese Business Letters” by the USC Chinese Program, April 2008, and “Super Chinese Websites” by Jim Becker, April 2008. Dr. Hsu also made the following presentations: “Multidisciplinary Online Teaching and Learning Resources,” Chinese Scholars Association Academic Convention, Los Angeles, November 10, 2007; and “Preparing Future Teachers of Chinese in American Schools,” Chinese Language Teachers Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 16-18, 2007. Additionally, she was an invited speaker at a campus round table, “Asian Pacific American Leaders in Higher Education,” in celebrating the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, May 15, 2008. Dr. Hsu appeared in the following news reports: “U.S. Delegation Led by Professor Kylie Hsu to Visit Shanghai,” The Chinese American Professionals & Professionals Net, April 24, 2007; “Shanghai Overseas Returned Scholars Association (SORSA) Receives Taiwanese American Faculty Delegation,” Obridge E-news and SORSA E-news, July 10, 2007; “Chinese Faculty and Scholars 2007 Convention,” Chinese Today and Xinhua.net News, November 11, 2007; “Super Tuesday: Clinton and Obama in Dead Heat,” Sing Tao Daily, March 5, 2008; “Cal State L.A. Symposium: The Eastern Philosophy of Nurturing the Body and Mind,” Sing Tao Daily, April 16, 2008; and “Changing the World in One Minute,” Dahua Evening News, May 12, 2008.
Dr. Christophe Lagier

In 2007-08, Associate Professor Christophe Lagier (French) came back from his stint as 2006-07 Resident Director of CSU in France. On top of his CSULA MLL work he is still volunteering as vice-president of Alliance Française de Pasadena where he is in charge of programming and consulting for the College Board (Chair of the French AP Test Development Committee). When he is not working he can be seen «relaxing» in Vermont at Middlebury College French School where he regularly teaches two graduate seminars in the summer time. One has also learnt that his famous black leather pants and jacket are indeed matched to his dark blue «new» 1986 Honda motorcycle which he rides more and more carefully (because he is finally growing up) on nice days. Professor Lagier is also happy to report that Le Cercle Français (the student French club on campus which he is advising) under the new leadership of President Raquel Valencia was very active this year (regular meetings, lecture, movie watching, French Table and more).

Dr. Paola Marin

In August 2007 Dr. Paola Marin submitted a book review on The Woman Saint in Golden Age Drama by Christopher Gascon, to be published in Caliope (Journal of Renaissance Hispanic Literature). She is currently working on another book review for Gestos (Hispanic Theater Journal, U of Irvine) on El teatro de Cervantes (edited by Hector Brioso) to appear in the Fall 2008 issue. In 2007 she was asked to contribute with an essay on opera composer Leopoldo Novoa to a volume collecting essays related to the 2006 International Art Forum held at the State University of Mexico. (Such University Press will publish the volume next year.) Professor Marin is also writing an essay for a volume on significant Afro-Latin American Women edited by Maria Mercedes Jaramillo to be published by University of Antioquia Press (Medellin, Colombia) next year. Her piece will deal with Afro-Colombian folk singer Totó la Momposina. Along with Professor Gaston Alzate, she co-wrote an article on Mexican cabaret theater (Queering the Dramatic Text of the Culture) and a review on last year’s International Latino Theater Festival of Los Angeles, both appearing on the first issue of the academic online journal KARPA (January 2008), sponsored by the CSULA College of Arts & Letters. Her professional presentations include a paper on Cervantes’ theater delivered at the International Association of Golden Age Spanish and Colonial Theater (AITENSO) Congress at Colegio de Mexico (Mexico City, October 2007), another one on St. Teresa of Avila delivered at the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society Conference (Vancouver, BC, April 2008) and another paper on Pina Bausch’s Dance Theater at the Latin American Theater Review Congress (Virginia Tech, March 2008). Along with Professor Alzate, she will be delivering a paper on academic electronic journals at the International Institute for Ibero American Literature Congress in Puebla, Mexico (June 2008). Their presentation will deal with the recently launched electronic journal KARPA (Theater, Arts, and Visual Culture), which is edited by these two CSULA faculty members. She also organized a panel on Film as a Teaching Tool for the PCCLAS (Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies) held at Claremont McKenna in November 2007.

Dr. Pablo Baler

During the 2007-2008 academic year, Prof. Pablo Baler received an honorable mention at the literary contest “Nuevos estandartes para la literatura” organized by Ciudad Invisible magazine in Valparaíso, Chile for his short-story “El toque maestro” which also published the story online. An English version of that same story, translated by Matt Losada as “The Master Touch” was published in a special edition of the literary magazine Golden Handcuffs Review (Winter/Spring 2007-2008; Vol. 1, No. 9) dedicated to the work of South-American writers. On the same magazine, subsequent volume (Summer/Fall 2008; Vol. 1, No. 10) Baler published, in association with Matt Losada, a translation of a series of poems written by three Argentine poets: Adriana Borga, Luisa Futoransky and Concepcion Bertone. Also, a chapter on visual artist Liliana Porter has been anthologized in Conversations on Sculpture published by University of Washington Press and International Sculpture Center. Conversations on Sculpture explores the state of sculpture today from the artist’s perspective. Finally, a revised version of Pablo Baler’s doctoral dissertation bearing the humble title of Los sentidos de la distorsión: fantasías epistemológicas del Neobarroco latinoamericano is forthcoming this fall by Editorial Corregidor, colección Nueva Critica Hispanoamericana in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Faculty Activities

Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu

Domnita Dumitrescu won the 2007-2008 CSULA President’s Distinguished Professor Award, the highest recognition on our campus.


In addition, she continued publishing several book reviews in her area of expertise, for the journal Hispania, and for the Southwest Journal of Linguistics, and she just signed the contract for a book on Aspects of Spanish Pragmatics, with Peter Lang Publishing House, in New York.

Domnita Dumitrescu presented a number of papers at national and international meetings of the profession, including: “Estrategias de cortesía en la comunicación académica por ordenador: un caso concreto,” III International Colloquium of EDICE, University of Valencia, Spain, November 22-25, 2006; “‘La controversia sobre el Spanglish en los Estados Unidos,’” at the Colloquium on “Los estudios hispánicos en Rumania: 50 años de vida universitaria,” University of Bucharest, Romania, April 26-28, 2007; “Estrategias de cortesía y gestión de imagen en el habla de jóvenes caribeños,” at the XVI Congress of the International Association of Hispanists, Paris, July 9-13, 2007; “Spanglish in California: to teach or not to teach,” at the 86th AATSP Annual Meeting, August 2-5, San Diego, 2007 (where she organized a panel on the topic of Spanish in the US); “Estrategias atenuadoras en la interacción oral en español y rumano” at the 25th International Congress of Romance Linguistics and Philology, Innsbruck, (Austria), September 2-7, 2007; and “Estrategias de cortesía y gestión de imagen en entrevistas con jóvenes caribeños” at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, Denver, Colorado, September 21-23, 2007. Locally, she read a paper on politeness in online communications in academic settings at the Fall meeting of the AATSP-Southern California chapter, Cal State San Bernardino, October 20, 2007 and she presented a poster, entitled, “On Teaching an Upper-Division Spanish Language Courses in WebCT,” at the 11th CSU Regional Symposium on University Teaching, Cal Poly Pomona, April 12, 2008.

On May 6, 2008, she presented a lecture before the CSULA Academic Senate and the academic community in her capacity as 2008 CSULA President’s Distinguished Professor; her presentation was entitled: “Spanish in the United States: Lessons from the Past and Challenges for the Future.” She is preparing a lecture on a similar topic for the University of Costa Rica, in San José, where she has been invited to talk in July 2008, before the AATSP 90th Annual Meeting, to be held in the same city July 8-12, which she will also attend.

Dr. Gastón Alzate

During the 2007-2008 academic year Dr. Gastón Alzate submitted a critical anthology on contemporary Mexican cabaret theater to Latin American Theater Review (U of Kansas) to be evaluated for publication. He also got an article accepted for publication in Latin American Theater Review (U of Kansas) entitled “Dramaturgia, ciudaddanía y anti-neoliberalismo en el teatro mexicano contemporáneo,” and his book review on “The plays of Josefina Niggli” (University of Wisconsin Press) will be published on the same journal. His essay “El hábito del vicio: el cabaret de las Reinas Chulas” was selected to appear in the book “La creación escénica en Iberoamérica,” which will be published by ARTEA, Universidad de Castilla La Mancha (UCLM), Spain. In October 2007 Dr. Alzate was invited to give a public lecture on Contemporary Mexican Cabaret at CITRU (Centro de Investigación Teatral Rodolfo Usigli at the Centro Nacional de las Artes in Mexico City), the most prestigious research institution in the field of Drama Studies in Mexico. The lecture was published by Archivo Virtual Artes Escénicas from Universidad de Castilla La Mancha (UCLM), Spain. He also presented a paper on two Colombian contemporary performance artists (Rosenberg Sandoval and Doris Salcedo) at the Latin American Theater Review Congress (Virginia Tech, March 2008). He also became part of a theater research seminar directed by Juan Villegas (Editor of Gestos Theater Journal), which is being held once a month at UC Irvine. Faculty and graduate students from various institutions such as Pomona College, Chapman University, Cal State Long Beach, and UC Irvine participate in the seminar.