FROM THE CHAIR

It has been affirmed that building a great tradition is more rewarding than simply having one. The activities and accomplishments of the students and faculty chronicled in The Language Mirror speak eloquently to the vitality of that enterprise in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. A French film series, Japanese speech contest, Chinese poetry reading contest, and the staging of García Lorca’s Bodas de sangre offered the campus and the Los Angeles community rich academic and cultural experiences during the past year. The Department takes great pride in the professional contributions of its faculty, the numerous distinctions awarded both graduate and undergraduate students, and the successes of its alumni. Those wishing to learn more about the Department’s programs and services are invited to access its home page at: http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/mld/mainpa1.htm

Joseph Chrzanowski, Ph.D., Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

LINGUISTIC AREA NEWS

ASIAN LANGUAGES

CHINESE

On September 26, 1999, students, faculty, and leaders from the local Chinese community gathered around the Confucius statue on the Cal State L.A. campus to celebrate the birthday of this ancient Chinese philosopher and teacher. The ceremony concluded with a choir performance by students from a local Chinese school.

The Chinese Studies Center

With the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Major Tsai, the Chinese Studies Center sponsored its Eighth Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest on November 30, 1999. The event took place in the Maxwell Theatre in the University-Student Union. Fifty contestants from California universities and colleges participated. Cal State L.A. winners were Sandra Ang (First Prize, Intermediate Group), Joyce Cheng, Cathy Wu, and Situ Lixian (Advanced Group), Hang Chang and Maggie Chen (Elementary Group), and Ginger Fuentes (Native-English Group). Santa Monica Community College student Dan Weiss summarized his feelings about what he heard that day, “It surprised me how the same poem could be read and acted out in so many different ways. Some made me laugh but, in all, it made me think how deep Chinese poetry is.”

Student Highlights-Chinese

Linh Tran and Sandra Ang are this year’s recipients of a Major Tsai Scholarship for Chinese studies. The Scholarship is awarded to outstanding students of Chinese.

1998-99 Faculty Activities

• Dr. Qingyun Wu, Chinese Coordinator, was invited to give a talk on “How to Forward Chinese Culture in America” on Satellite TV (Hua Mei Dianshi) on June 11, 1999. She also delivered papers at two professional conferences in San Diego and Chicago.

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Dr. Kylie Hsu was appointed Associate Director of the Cal State L.A. Chinese Studies Center. Professor Hsu is also on the UCLA Seminar Committee of the Southern California China Colloquium, and acts as a liaison between UCLA and Cal State L.A. faculty interested in Chinese studies. Professor Hsu's recent professional activities include presentation of six papers on heritage language pedagogy, cultural transmission, classroom discourse, and computer-aided language learning at national and international conferences.


The Japan Club

On February 20, 1999, 21 students from one local high school, one Japanese school, and four universities in Southern California participated in the second Japanese speech contest. Cal State L.A. student Keita Kadono won the first prize. Judges were Professors Yasuko Koshiyama (CSU, Long Beach) and Tami Orsborn (CSU, Long Beach/Orange Coast College).

On November 18, 1999, The Japan Club sponsored a Japanese flower arrangement workshop (ikebana) by Yoko Okuizumi, an intern from the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies. The Japan Club’s Web site may be accessed at: http://www.calstatela.edu/orgs/japan/

Student Highlights-Japanese

Emi Motokawa was awarded the 1999 Alumni Certificate of Honor for outstanding work as an undergraduate student.

Yueh-Chu Chen and George Lu participated in the Kagoshima Internship Program in September 1999. George Lu described the experience in a letter to faculty and administrators associated with the program: “. . . my four-week internship in Kagoshima Harada Gakuen is finally over. In this short period, I acquired more than just the experience of an internship, for I gained a whole new experience on life: I was able to teach in a foreign country, I was able to learn the Japanese culture in person, I was able to sightsee many famous landmarks in Kagoshima, where I also made a lot of great friends. This enterprise was a great stepping stone for my future, and a really wonderful experience that I will never forget. I will definitely recommend this program to all the students at Cal State L.A. Thank you so much for everything. . .”

Nagoya University of Foreign Studies Exchange Program

In March 1999, the Department welcomed Ms. Yoko Okuizumi to the Cal State L.A. campus. Ms. Okuizumi is the first participant in a newly-created Exchange Program with the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies. Originally from Kanazawa, Japan, Ms. Okuizumi obtained her B.A. in English and American Literature from the Kanazawa Gakuin University, and her M.A. in Teaching Japanese from the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies. She has been teaching Japanese 100A at Cal State L.A. since fall 1999.

1998-99 Faculty Activities

Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga published an article, “The role of kanji knowledge transfer in acquisition of Japanese as a foreign language,” Japanese-Language Education Around the Globe 9 (1999): 87-100, as well as two articles in conference proceedings and two book reviews. In 1999, she made three presentations about reading Japanese kanji in Beijing and Tokyo. She served as a board member of the Teachers of Japanese in Southern California, and as a task force member to develop the California Standards of Japanese Language and Communication. She received grants to update the computers in the language lab, to conduct a web-folio project in Japanese, and to host the third Cal State L.A. Japanese speech contest.

―Words are the voice of the heart.―
—Confucius
Lorca’s play was presented at the Cal State L.A. State Playhouse on April 8-11, 1999 with five sold-out performances. The play was directed by Alejandra Flores, with the choreography under the direction of Gema Sandoval, and with musical arrangements by Cal State L.A. Professor René Aravena. Art work for T-shirts and posters was done by Los Angeles artist George Yepes.

Conference

On October 28-30, 1999, Cal State L.A. hosted the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies Conference titled “Latin America on the Brink of the Millennium: Retrospect and Prospect.” More than 100 participants delivered papers. Mr. Kevin Danaher, from Global Exchange, delivered the keynote speech entitled “Democratizing the Global Economy: The Case Against the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization.” The conference was organized by Cal State L.A. Professors Peter Sigal (History), Ignacio López-Calvo (Modern Languages and Literatures), and Enrique Ochoa (History).

Sigma Delta Pi

For the seventh time, the Cal State L.A. Chapter of the Hispanic Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi was awarded a national Certificate of Honor in recognition of its excellence. It was one of only ten chapters so recognized in the United States. The Chapter’s annual initiation ceremony and dinner took place March 4, 1999. With Chapter President Edith Rincón presiding, 18 students and one faculty member, Dr. Maquela Brizuela, were initiated. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Professors Alfredo Morales, Hildebrando Villarreal, and Felipe Díaz. Chilean author Dr. Lucia Guerra, UC Irvine, was keynote speaker, and the evening ended with a stirring performance by professional Flamenco dancers. The Chapter also organized a panel on Study Abroad opportunities that featured representatives of the Education Office of the Spanish Consulate in Los Angeles and Cal State L.A. Spanish majors who studied in Madrid and Granada with the CSU International Programs.

Teatro Universitario en Español

Under the supervision of Dr. Roberto Cantú, and with the assistance of Dr. Jeanine Gaucher-Morales, Teatro Universitario en Español achieved wide acclaim for its 1998-1999 production of Federico García Lorca’s Bodas de sangre. Set in a mythical Latin American region,

Visiting Lecturer

On November 1, 1999, Dr. Alberto Acereida (Arizona State University) presented a talk entitled “Rubén Darío y la poética del Modernismo.”

Student Highlights-Spanish

John Evenhuis received the Alumni Certificate of Honor Award for undergraduates, and Pilar Asensio, for graduate students.

In 1999, the master’s degree in Spanish was awarded to Claude Stevenson, Teresa Lira, Pilar Asensio, and Gabriela Portilla.

Estrella Zumaeta and Mirella Gutiérrez were selected to participate in the California State University/California Language Teachers Association Summer Workshop for future teachers held on the campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Their participation was made possible by scholarships awarded by the California Language Teachers Association and by Dr. James M. Rosser, president of California State University, Los Angeles.

Graduate student Miriam Boada received a Sigma Delta Pi Summer Scholarship to study at the Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

“Social criticism begins with grammar and the reestablishing of meanings.”

— Octavio Paz
Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu served 1998-99 Faculty Activities

Dr. Joseph Chrzanowski served as president of the CSU Foreign Language Council, member of the Executive Board, California Language Teachers Association, member of the Selection Committee, CLTA/CSU Summer Workshop for Prospective Teachers of Languages other than English, and question leader for Spanish Literature at the Advanced Placement Reading conducted at Clemson University, June 13-19, 1999. Professor Chrzanowski was recently elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages, and was appointed by the Educational Testing Service to serve on the Scholastic Achievement Test II Committee for Spanish.

Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu published a 50-page invited contribution, “Subordinación y recursividad en la conversación: Las secuencias integradas por intercambios ecocicos,” in volume 22 of the University of Amsterdam series Diálogos Hispánicos, entitled: La pragmática lingüística del español: Recientes desarrollos (eds. Henk Haverkate, Gijs Mulder, and Carolina Fraile Maldonado. Amsterdam-Atlanta: Rodopi, 1998). She also published “A personal,’ duplicación clítica y marcadex: Español porteño vs. español madrileño.” Actas del XII Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas, 21-26 de agosto, 1995, Birmingham, ed. Aengus M. Ward. Vol.1. Birmingham (U.K.): The University of Birmingham, 1998. 140-52; “Fenómenos paralelos de contacto con inglés en el español y el rumano de Estados Unidos,” Atti del XXI Congresso Internazionale di Linguistica e Filologia Romana, Centro di Studi Filologici e Linguistici Siciliani, Università di Palermo, 18-24 settembre 1995, ed. Giovanni Ruffino, Vol.5, Tübingen: Max Niemer Verlag, 1998. 275-83. She read a joint paper with Dr. Mario Saltarelli (University of Southern California) in Madrid, Spain, and had two other papers published with the same co-author included in the electronic Proceedings of the 16th International Congress of Linguists (Paris, France), and in the selected proceedings of the 26th Linguistics Symposium on Romance Languages, Mexico City. She also read a paper in San Antonio, Texas, and made a poster presentation in Long Beach. Professor Dumitrescu continues to prepare the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian section of Hispania, the journal of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and to serve as vice-president for the West of Sigma Delta Pi. She also serves on the Executive Committees of the Language Theory Division of the Modern Language Association of America, and of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest. In recognition of her scholarly contributions to the profession, she has been included in 2000 Outstanding Scholars of the 20th Century, and she has been selected International Woman of the Year 2000-2001 by the editorial board of the International Biographical Center, Cambridge, UK.


Dr. Jeanine Gaucher-Morales was granted a Sabbatical Leave of Absence in order to continue work on a two-volume edition entitled Miguel N. Lira: novelas y cuentos. Dr. Alfredo O. Morales, Cal State L.A. Emeritus Professor of Spanish, is co-author of this project, one of a series of collections of works by the Mexican author published by the University of Tlaxcala Press. While conducting research in Mexico, Professor Gaucher-Morales was invited to read papers at the University of Tlaxcala, the Universidad de las Américas, and the Universidad Metropolitana in Mexico City. She also participated in a theater festival in Grand Caynary, Spain, where she took part in daily one-hour panel discussions on the productions presented by 18 theater companies from Latin America, Africa, and Europe. She also read a paper and directed a panel during a two-day symposium held during the Festival.


Juan Orlando Ramos, an active member of Sigma Delta Pi, received the Society’s Gabriela Mistral Prize for his outstanding record as an undergraduate student.

1998-99 Faculty Activities

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Four Modern Languages and Literatures students participated in the CSU International Program: Tania Vásquez (Madrid, Spain), Duran Taylor (Paris, France), Tux Yug Wei (Tokyo, Japan), and James Shumate (Aix-en-Provence, France).

**FRENCH**

Le Cercle français, advised by Professor Christophe Lagier, elected a new president, Sarai Novak, and a new vice-president, Liudmila García. In addition to participating in regular meetings, club members visited the Norton Simon Museum, attended performances of Cyrano de Bergerac by A Noise Within at the Cal State L.A. Luckman Theatre, and a Jean Tardieu play at Whittier College. On November 23, Le Cercle français was honored to host an hour-long conference by Armand Gatti, a major figure in political and social theater in France. The interaction was lively and interesting since the students in attendance had previously watched a video of one of Mr. Gatti’s projects, L’université des exilus. Armand Gatti’s visit to Cal State L.A. culminated in a campus-wide lecture on November 30. Attendees included Antoine Chatellet, the new Deputy Cultural Attaché for the French Consulate in Los Angeles, Dr. Carl Selkin, dean of the School of Arts and Letters, and students from Cal State L.A. and Mountain View High School in El Monte. Gatti passionately commented on his work with the help of translator Emmanuel Deléage, from Los Angeles Poverty Department, a skid row theater company.

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1998-99 Faculty Activities

- Dr. Christophe Lagier attended the 17th Annual EMU Conference on Language and Communication for World Business and the Professions, and a CSU Strategic Languages technology workshop at CSU San Bernardino. He received an Innovative Instruction Award for his proposal “Commercial French Course Website.” Professor Lagier read a paper on French literature at West Virginia University, and gave lectures at Whittier College and at the Alliance Française de Los Angeles. His book: “Le théâtre de la parole-spectacle: Jacques Audiberti, René de Obaldia et Jean Tardieu,” will be published by Summa Publishing Inc. in 2000.

- Dr. Leon Schwartz (Emeritus) was one of sixty-seven international Diderot specialists who were invited to contribute entries for the new Dictionnaire de Diderot, Honoré Champion, Paris, 1999. Having written the definitive study of Diderot’s writings on the Jews (Diderot and the Jews, Fairleigh Dickinson and Associated University Presses, 1981), Dr. Schwartz was selected to write a three-page entry entitled “Juifs” (“Jews”). Dr. Schwartz is currently serving as President of the Cal State L.A. Emeriti Association. In his function as Emeriti president, he regularly writes a column for its newsletter, The Emeritimes.

- Dr. Gretchen Angelo was re-elected Vice-President of the CSU Foreign Language Council.

**Student Highlights - French**

Cuong Nguyen received the Alumni Certificate of Honor award for his outstanding undergraduate record in French.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

Department Secretary Tracy Iwamoto has “retired” from Cal State L.A. and is now the full-time mother of twin boys, Evan and Tyler.

After many years of dedicated service to the Department as an adjunct professor of Spanish, Dr. Mirta Caccavale retired from Cal State L.A. in spring, 1999. Dr. and Mrs. Lagier hosted a party in her honor.

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Congratulations to Dr. Gretchen Angelo, assistant professor of French, and her husband, Ben Crowell, on the birth of their daughter, Irene Sophia Crowell, Dec. 18, 1999.

Dr. Eduardo Cabrera, (M.A. Spanish, Cal State L.A., Ph.D., UC Irvine), Assistant Professor of Spanish at Texas Tech University, directed the staging of El premio flaco, by the Cuban writer Hector Quintero. He also directed a play at Clemson University in which Faculty Consultants at the Advanced Placement Spanish Reading performed.


Patricia Rush (B.A., M.A. Spanish, Cal State L.A.) teaches Spanish at Ventura College. She collaborated with Dr. Matilde Castells (Cal State L.A. Emerita Professor of Spanish) on the second edition of Mosaicos, and co-authored Trato hecho, now in its second edition.

Froylán Cabuto (M.A. Spanish, Cal State L.A.) appeared in several plays staged at the Los Angeles Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, including Guantanamera, an adaptation of a screenplay by three contemporary Cuban writers.

Dr. Jorge Marí (M.A. Spanish, Cal State L.A., Ph.D., Cornell University), assistant professor of Spanish at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, will present a paper “Narraciones mudas, lectores analfabetos y espectadores ciegos: reflexiones sobre la voz y la mirada filmico-literaria” at the Cine-Lit 2000 Conference, Portland State University. He will also speak on “La transición al desnudo: crónica erótico-política del ‘Destape’” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.

Dr. Elvira Vilches (M.A. Spanish, Cal State L.A., Ph.D., Cornell University), assistant professor of Spanish at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, was invited to participate in the International Seminar of Atlantic History at Harvard University (summer 1999), and has been named a “Fellow” at the Center for Twentieth Century Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Alumni Accepted into Doctoral Programs

- Iliana Alcántar, University of California, Los Angeles
- Pilar Asensio, University of California, Los Angeles

Alumni Currently Enrolled in Doctoral Programs in Spanish

- Gloria Arjona, University of Southern California
- Marguerite Cattán, Georgetown University
- Paul Fallon, University of Kansas
- Elizabeth Gárrate, UCLA
- Deborah J. Gil, University of Southern California
- Mercedes Limón, UCLA
- Cristián Horacio Ricci, UC Santa Barbara
- Eric Rydman, UC Berkeley
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The Language Mirror is distributed to alumni who have majored in one of the Department’s programs and to others in the academic community. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures will appreciate your assistance in publishing future issues of The Language Mirror and in supporting the Department's activities. Donations may be made by check to: University Auxiliary Services/MLL, Cal State L.A.

I wish to donate: $50.00 _____ $25.00 _____ $10.00 _____ Other _____

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Mailing address: Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Cal State L.A., 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90032.

The editors of The Language Mirror welcome comments, suggestions, and news about Cal State L.A. alumni:

   Dr. Joseph Chrzanowski (jchrzan@calstatela.edu)
   Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu (ddumitr@calstatela.edu)
   Dr. Christophe Lagier (clagier@calstatela.edu)
   Dr. Ignacio López-Calvo (lopezcalvo@cs.com)

Department telephone: (323) 343-4230 Department fax: (323) 343-4234