FROM THE CHAIR

Despite the financial challenges facing the CSU and the University, the Department is moving forward. This past year the BA in Chinese was approved and two students majoring in that program, Kathy Wu and Sang Sang Liu, will graduate in 2003. The Department, with generous support from Carl Selkin, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters, hosted the 31st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest (LASSO) October 4-6, 2002. Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu was instrumental in bringing the conference to Cal State L.A. and in coordinating the on-site arrangements with the help of several colleagues. The conference theme, Language Variation, Content and Change: Focus on the Pacific Rim, attracted many interesting papers and contributed to the resounding success of the meeting. There were two plenary addresses, one presidential address, one panel, 86 papers, and a poster session. Over 120 scholars from China, Mexico, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States participated in the meeting. The Department is also proud to say that two of its students, Jacqueline Vidal and Mario Cuéllar, were selected as McNair Scholars, a program providing academic and research support to underrepresented students at the doctoral level.

I am sure you will agree, as you read our newsletter, that we have a dynamic Department with excellent students and alumni and a faculty who are productive in teaching, research, and service. We invite you to write or email us to share news about yourself and we hope you will share this newsletter with your friends.

Hildebrando Villarreal, Ph.D.
Professor of Spanish and Chair
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LANGUAGE AREA NEWS

CHINESE

The Chinese program congratulates Kathy Wu and Sang Sang Liu on graduating with a major in Chinese, and Janie Chien on graduating with a minor in Chinese.

The Chinese Studies Center hosted the Eleventh Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest at the Maxwell Theatre of the University-Student Union on May 7, 2003. Participants included students from Cal State L.A., East Los Angeles College, Santa Monica College, and the University of California, Irvine. Winners of the contest included the following students from our program. Janie Chien received first place; Lixian Situ, second place; and Hong Fu and Christina Ng received honorable mentions in the Advanced Level.

Several Chinese Studies scholarships were awarded at the contest. Sang Sang Liu and Karen Yang received the Major Tsai Awards, Li-Chuan Chiu and Kathy Wu received the Chinese B.A. Scholarships, and Janie Chien received the Kylie Hsu Endowed Scholarship. In addition, Christina Ng received a scholarship for the 2003 Summer Workshop on Foreign Language Teaching. The Chinese program also participated in the College of Arts and Letters Showcase for the University Open House on April 26, 2003. Janie Chien sang a Chinese song with translation and piano accompaniment by Kylie Hsu, and Li-Chuan Chiu presented Chinese arts and crafts.
Faculty Activities

Dr. Kylie Hsu received a Cal State L.A. Distinguished Woman Award, a creative leave for her research in Chinese Language Education, an Innovative Instructional Award for developing Online Texts and Pictures for Elementary Chinese, and Instructionally Related Activities funds for the Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest and the Department Newsletter. She was promoted to Associate Editor of MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource on Learning and Online Teaching) by the CSU Chancellor's Office. She also served as the Language Competency Interviewer for the CSU International Programs' Resident Directors in China. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, and served on the Local Arrangements Committee for the Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest in Los Angeles and Pasadena, October 4-6, 2002. She was invited to give a keynote address at the Hilton Hotels Diversity Week Celebration in Beverly Hills, CA, September 9, 2002. She was also invited to be a speaker on the panel, "Digital Library, Professional Development, Collaboration, and Communication," at San Diego State University, CA, November 1, 2002. Additional professional activities included one article, three reviews, and four presentations. Her biography was published in Strathmore Who's Who and Marquis Who's Who in American Education.

Ping Luo, a student assistant in the Chinese program, interviewed students in Dr. Kylie Hsu's Business Chinese class on May 5, 2003.

Regardless of their age and background, students shared the same understanding of the importance of Chinese language learning in light of China's entering the World Trade Organization. They realized that proficiency in Chinese could create career opportunities for them. Jia Ling indicated that this course gave her a clear picture of the corporate management system and the latest industrial development in China today. Karen Yang stated that she learned a lot about Chinese business language and culture in this interactive learning environment. Jamie Chien enjoyed doing the exercises following each lesson, while Li-Chuan Chiu found it quite challenging to learn Chinese business jargon and grammar. The class was grateful to Dr. Hsu for making this course interesting and lively. They could easily apply what they had learned in business-related activities such as reading commercial news and negotiating business in Chinese, and they looked forward to actively putting theory into practice.

The French program congratulates Pamela Wilson on obtaining her M.A. in French in Spring 2002. Our B.A. graduate Sarah Novak is in France working on a Master's degree in Medieval French Literature at the Sorbonne.

Kasey Cromer, a CSULA French student, studied in the CSU International Program in Aix-en-Provence, France. He hopes that his experience will encourage other CSULA students to study abroad.

Studying abroad has changed my life forever. Before living in France, I understood very little about different cultures and perspectives of people outside the United States. At the beginning of my studies in France, there were obstacles that made the adjustment period difficult. There were events that transpired while I was there that challenged my values. After experiencing the different challenges, I learned and matured in important areas of my life.

From the start, I encountered several obstacles. During the first month, I had problems communicating. Because of my pronunciation and accent, the French speakers responded either in English or with a simple remark of ridicule. The negative reactions encouraged me to work harder on speaking and communicating more effectively. Transportation was another element that created ob-
The culture in Aix-en-Provence centered more on walking or public transportation rather than the use of cars. Initially, this posed a problem because I was used to transportation by car only. Walking to school, to the market, and anywhere else was unusual. Adjusting to the educational environment was the biggest factor. Sometimes the way in which the professors interacted with the students dissatisfied me. For example, it is normal for French professors to give out the students’ grades in front of the class. To make matters worse, the professors will reprimand or praise students’ performance in front of the class. This open format created an awkward environment depending on the student’s disposition.

During my experience abroad, there were different events that occurred which challenged my beliefs and values. The event of “9/11” and the reactions of the United States government reshaped my perception of world politics. By living in another country, I gained different perspective on international relations. I no longer have the notion that the U.S. government serves the best interest of the world in all situations. My religious values also evolved as a result of the influence of French culture. Before going to France, I believed that Christianity was the only acceptable religion of practice. Now I am open to different doctrines which have different perspectives on creation and the meaning of life. This change in attitude is the result of participating in different religious practices while studying abroad. The openness of the French and international people influenced me to challenge the values that define every aspect of my personality, ranging from family values to societal values. The French influence helped me to define why I believed in certain values and challenged me to change aspects of my value system that were unnecessary.

Through these different challenges, I learned and matured in important areas of my life. First, I learned how to be a better thinker. Previously, I was afraid to challenge popular value systems that my family and society shared. I have learned how to be fearless and unashamed of having any difference of opinion. Second, I learned how to adapt and interact more effectively in different cultural environments. Finally, I learned how to be a better communicator. Because there was a language barrier initially between French speakers and myself, my awareness of communication increased, not only insofar as French is concerned, but in every aspect of communication. I came to the realization that I need to be efficient in writing and speaking English and any other language of interest.

Studying abroad has been a positive experience. The obstacles I encountered in France served the purpose of challenging my beliefs and value systems. The different events that transpired contributed to new growth in important areas of my life. I believe I have become a better evaluator of life and a better thinker overall.

**Faculty Activities**

**Dr. Gretchen Angelo** was re-elected president of the CSU Foreign Language Council. She also serves on the boards of the California Teachers’ Language Association and the Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California. In Spring 2003, Dr. Angelo’s article, “A Most Uncourteous Lady: The Testimony of the Belle Dame sans mercy,” appeared in the journal *Exemplaria*. She has received a sab-
College, UC Irvine, CSU Long Beach, and CSULA) spoke to 50 people, and the following students were selected by the judges (Dr. Yasuko Koshiyama of Pepperdine University and Dr. Setsue Shibata of CSU Fullerton) as winners. The event was supported by the Japan Foundation and Kinokuniya Bookstore.

- **Grand prize:** Se Hwa Park (UC Irvine)
- **Second prizes:** Amy Noda Marutani (Marina High School); Ilana Hecht (CSU Long Beach); Greg Kodama (UC Irvine)
- **Third prizes:** Derek Yee (Alhambra High School); Erica Wenzke (Fullerton College); Christopher Kowalchuk (CSULA)
- **Honorary prizes:** Alice Fritz (CSULA); Sang Han (UC Irvine); Charles Hughes (CSULA)

Daigoro Hiramine, a senior from Japan, asked two Japanese majors why they chose Japanese as a major and what they think about the program.

The first, Ji Eun Kwon is a freshman from South Korea. She would like to become a teacher of Japanese or start a new business utilizing Japanese. She is taking three Japanese courses, and said, “I think that all of the courses are very useful. I am very happy to be able to learn about Japanese literature including haiku, and about Japanese history and society such as the Japanese education system. I also believe that my Japanese language skill is improving because I am studying hard despite the difficulty of the language class.”

The second interviewee, Steve Nguyen is a senior who graduated this spring. He was president of the Japan Club. After graduation, he is going to Japan to teach English in the JET program. He took his first Japanese course at CSULA at his friend’s recommendation, though at that time, his major was computer science. Eventually, he changed his major to Japanese. He said, “I was able to find the joy that I had not found elsewhere in learning Japanese language and culture. I think that learning about another culture is a wonderful thing. Japanese language is very difficult, but I felt extremely rewarded when I was able to communicate even a little. I am glad that I studied Japanese, and thankful for the opportunity to participate in the JET program. The professors in the Japanese program are knowledgeable and passionate teachers, so the environment to learn Japanese is extremely good. I would like to continue my study of Japanese for further improvement.”

Both students seem to have a positive attitude and gratitude for the Japanese program. I hope that many others may also find enjoyment in studying the Japanese people and culture.

### Faculty Activities

**Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga** continued to serve as a national board member of the Association of Teachers of Japanese (ATJ). She presented a paper at the ATJ Seminar in New York (March 27, 2003). She was also an invited speaker at the Language Processing Brownbag Seminar at Beckman Institute for Science and Technology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (December 5, 2002), and at the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning Brownbag Seminar at CSULA (February 20, 2003). In 2002, she published three book chapters in: 1) H. S. R. Kao, C. K. Leong, & D.-G. Gao (Eds.), *Cognitive Neuroscience Studies of the Chinese Language* (Hong Kong University Press); 2) M. Erbaugh (Ed.), *Difficult Characters* (National East Asian Languages Resource Center); 3) H. Nara (Ed.), *Advances in Japanese Pedagogy* (National Foreign Language Resource Center). In spring 2003, she was selected to serve on the California Subject Examinations for Teachers Panel to develop new examinations for prospective teachers of Japanese in high schools in the state.

**Dr. Toshiko Yokota** joined the Japanese program in the fall of 2002. She presented the following two papers: “China as a Source of Cultural Production in Eighteenth-Century Japan: A Study of Buson’s Painting” at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu, Hawaii on January 14, 2003, and “Reading Classical Texts for the Cultural Production in Eighteenth-Century Japan: A Case Study of Buson’s Poetry and Painting” at the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in New York on March 30, 2003. The abstract of the former was published, and that of the latter is to be published in the near future.
McNair Scholar’s Program
Congratulations to Jacqueline Vidal, who won the first place in the CSULA Student Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Symposium, February 28, 2003, in the undergraduate contest for Social Sciences and Humanities. Jacqueline’s paper, “Compliment Responses in Salvadorean Spanish: A Socio-pragmatic Study,” was selected for presentation at the systemwide CSU Student Research Competition in May 2003. She will also present the paper at McNair conferences in Berkeley, CA and Knoxville, TN. The program coordinators also congratulate Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu, who was Ms. Vidal’s mentor. She is also mentoring Mario Cuéllar, a Spanish major and double minor in English Linguistics and Mathematics, who has been selected as one of the new 2003-2004 McNair Scholars. Good luck, Mario!

Nava, Ignacio Reinoso, Cristina Ruvalcaba, and María Ivonne Villegas. The event could not have been possible without the supervision of Dr. Ignacio López-Calvo, faculty advisor of the Spanish Honor Society, and Nicolás Alemán, president of the Chapter Gamma Psi. At the initiation ceremony, Dr. Robert Rudder lectured on Spanish to English translation. The cultural activities of the Honor Society also included several poetry readings. On April 10, 2003, Dr. Roberto Cantú gave a lecture on U.S. Latino literature and culture in a session sponsored by Sigma Delta Pi.

Alumni Certificate of Honor 2003 Nomination
The Department nominated the following students for the Alumni Certificate of Honor: undergraduates Kathy Wu and Marius Sapkus and graduate student Roger Kroeger…Congratulations!

Sigma Delta Pi
On March 12, 2003, 15 new students participated in the initiation ceremony of the CSULA Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. The Gabriela Mistral Prize was awarded to Hilda Clara, and the following students were initiated into the society: Armando Botello, Lucía Campos, Carolina Cerda, Rocío Cervantes, José Luis Corona, Mario E. Cuéllar, Flórian A. Ospla, Roger Kroeger, Fabiola Macías, Luis Molina, Sara

Faculty Activities
Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu
Dr. Dumitrescu read four papers at national and international scholarly meetings, including “El acto de habla de formular votos en español en comparación con el inglés, el francés y el romano,” First EDICE (Estudios del Discurso de Cortesía en Español) Colloquium, Vaxholm, Sweden, September 5-9, 2002, and “Claves del exilio en la obra de Alina Diaconu,” International Conference on Hispanic Literature, Cal State Sacramento, Mar. 21-22, 2003. Dr. Dumitrescu, who serves as vice-president (West) of the Hispanic Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi, was awarded Sigma Delta Pi’s highest distinction, the Order of Don Quijote, on March 12, 2003. In 2002 she finished her term on the Executive Committee of the Language Theory Division of the MLA and has been elected the Language Theory Division of the MLA representative to the Delegate Assembly (2003-2006). She continued her work as associate editor of the Southwest Journal of Linguistics, and organized and chaired the continuing session on Ibero-romance languages and linguistics at the Annual Meeting of the AATSP (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 2002). She also organized the 31st annual conference of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest (LASSO), which was held at CSULA.

Dr. Dale Carter
Dr. Dale Carter has been appointed to the Spanish Subject Matter Advisory Panel for the development of the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET). The CSET will be administered to candidates for California teaching credentials who choose to meet the subject matter competence requirement by taking examinations. This new testing program will, over the next four years, replace the current SSAT and Praxis II subject matter examinations. The first administration of the CSET in Spanish is scheduled for September 2004. The appointment is expected to be for four years.

Dr. Ignacio López-Calvo

(L-R: Estrella Zumaeta, Dr. G. MacCurdy, Laura Dueñas, Dr. I. López-Calvo, Gloria Bautista, Lesley Robles, and Marlene Prieto)


**Dr. Grant MacCurdy** is now a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.


**Dr. Hildebrando Villarreal** is the coauthor of a new book *Puntos en breve* that has been published by McGraw-Hill in 2003. He also presented a paper, “Perspectivas para estudiantes latinos en la universidad,” at the AATSP Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

• Gretchen Angelo (Ph.D., Yale University): Medieval French Literature

• María Dolores Costa (Ph.D., University of Massachusetts at Amherst): Modern Spanish Fiction

• Domnita Dumitrescu (Ph.D., University of Southern California): Contemporary Spanish Linguistics

• Kylie Hsu (Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles): Chinese Functional Linguistics and Language Pedagogy

• Christophe Lagier (Ph.D., Princeton University): Modern French Theater

• Ignacio López-Calvo (Ph.D., University of Georgia): Contemporary Spanish and Spanish-American Fiction; Literary Theory

• Sachiko Matsunaga (Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa): Applied Japanese Linguistics and Psycho-linguistics

• Elena Ruzickova (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh): Hispanic Linguistics

• Alejandro Solomianski (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh): Hispanic Language and Literature

• Hildebrando Villarreal (Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles): Applied Spanish Linguistics

• Qingyun Wu (Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University): Modern Chinese Literature

• Toshiko Yokota (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine): East Asian Languages and Literatures

• Alfred F. Michael Atlee (Spanish)

• Abdallah J. Beddawi (French)

• Dale Carter (Spanish)

• Matilde O. Castells (Spanish)

• Joseph Chrzanowski (Spanish)

• Felipe Díaz (Spanish)

• Jeannine Gaucher-Morales (Spanish)

• Alfonso González (Spanish)

• Kazumitsu Kato (Japanese)

• Hugh W. Kennedy (Spanish)

• Harold E. Lionetti (Spanish)

• Grant MacCurdy (Spanish)

• Alfredo O. Morales (Spanish)

• Demetra Palamari (French)

• Françoise M. Pasques (French)

• Elba Torres de Peralta (Spanish)

• Leon Schwartz (French)

• Marie-Antoinette U. Zrimec (French)
**The Language Mirror** is distributed to alumni who have majored/minored in one of the Department’s programs and to others in the academic community. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures appreciates 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 Inc./MLL, Cal State L.A.

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