FROM THE CHAIR

As we approach a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to feature an “unsung” friend of the Department, Dr. Charles Leyba. Many of you may remember him from the Charter College of Education where he taught for 27 years. During his career at CSULA he was successful in obtaining over $27 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Leyba was instrumental in creating both the Bilingual Center and the Dissemination and Assessment Center, in founding Bilingual Resources, a magazine for teachers, and in publishing two books, Beyond Language and Schooling and Language Minority Students. He established a program for CSULA teachers at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara in addition to training teachers in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean. It was through this latter language program that Cantonese and Mandarin came to be taught in our Department. His grants provided the funds for the first Chinese professors. Our Department now has a full-fledged B.A. program in Chinese with a growing number of students. However, Dr. Leyba’s contributions to the Department did not stop there. Since 1997 he has taught Latin on a volunteer basis and in 2003-04 he began teaching Greek. Dr. Leyba has been a beacon of light and an inspiration for countless students at CSULA. As he continues to contribute to our Department, his legacy is one that will certainly be difficult to surpass.

Two special students! Hong Y. Fu and Yueh-Chu Chen graduated in Winter 2004 with a B.A. in Chinese and in Japanese, respectively. What is so special about them, you ask? The former is 90 years old and the latter 70! Thanks to their persistence and dedication, they can now boast of a B.A. in their respective programs.

More good news! Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga will be the next Department chair. She assumes her duties September 1, 2004. We wish her the best in her new position. We also welcome Dr. Elena Ruzickova, professor of Spanish linguistics. In the Department office we have a new half-time administrative assistant, Letty Ramirez. Special thanks to Dr. Kylie Hsu for her leadership in producing two very successful editions of The Language Mirror.

Hildebrando Villarreal, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

LANGUAGE AREA NEWS

CHINESE

Congratulations to Hong Y. Fu and Li-Chuan Chiu on graduating with a B.A. in Chinese, and Karen Yang with a minor in Chinese.

(L-R: Kylie Hsu, Li-Chuan Chiu, Hong)

The 12th Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest was held on March 1, 2004. This year’s event was funded by the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Program and by generous donations from Mr. Major Tsai.

Songs performed by children in a 1st grade Chinese class at Academia Semillas del Pueblo began the ceremony. This year’s special guest was the Honorable Consul Dong Zhixue of the Office of the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China. He was delighted to see a large number of non-native speakers of Chinese participating in the contest.

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Contest winners included Li-Chuan Chiu and Ching Shih, who received third place at the Advanced Level. In addition, three Chinese Studies scholarships were awarded. Christina Ng received the Chinese B.A. Scholarship, and Kattie Tran and Hon Ming Wong the Kylie Hsu Endowed Scholarship.

The Chinese program also hosted three guest lectures: Chinese Bronze Mirrors in the Warring States, presented by Dr. Dominic Cheung from USC, Symbolic Sounds: Chinese Musical Instruments, by Dr. Wen-hsiung Yen from the Chinese Culture Institute, and Internet Resources for Learning Chinese, by Dr. Tianwei Xie from California State University, Long Beach.

Faculty Activities

Dr. Kylie Hsu was appointed to the Executive Committee of Phi Kappa Phi. In this capacity, she contributed her services to the society’s annual banquet, student research symposium, and outstanding freshman scholarship and graduate fellowship selection process. She was also reappointed by the Chancellor’s Office to be the World Languages associate editor for the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT), an interdisciplinary project founded by the CSU. She served on the program committee of the 4th MERLOT International Conference where she was also an invited speaker of two round tables, “Will Your Tenure/Promotion Committee Recognize Your Teaching Innovation?” and “Teaching with MERLOT Across Disciplines.” She also presented a paper entitled, “Chinese Language and Culture Learning Module.” Other papers she presented include: “Web-based Test Design for Intermediate Chinese,” “Peer Evaluation of Chinese Web-based Materials,” and “Web-based Educational Resources and Online Communities.”

She also published two online learning modules, two articles, and five reviews. Her biography is in the International Who’s Who of Professional Educators, 2003-04.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Emmanuelle Remy on obtaining her Master’s in French. She was one of six faculty members honored by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee in appreciation of her “creativity and dedication to inspire students.” French majors, Tiffany Howard and Susana Hermández, are studying in Aix-en-Provence under the auspices of CSU International Programs.

The French club, le Cercle français, under the direction of president Korina Smith and faculty advisor Christophe Lagier, has taken on new life this year, with trips to French restaurants, movies, and plays, as well as activities, as a discussion of French rap, wine-tasting, and a crêpe party.

Christina Ng, a Chinese major, won a scholarship to attend the 2003 Summer Workshop on Foreign Language Teaching at UC Santa Barbara.

Last year, I had the privilege of attending the Summer Workshop on Foreign Language Teaching sponsored by the California Language Teachers Association (CLTA) and the California Foreign Language Project (CFLP). I was interested in exploring the profession of teaching Chinese. I did not know what to expect except for a lot of lectures about being a foreign language teacher. What I learned exceeded my expectations many times over. I learned that being a teacher is not an easy task. It takes a lot of preparation, energy, and enthusiasm to teach a class well. Moreover, to be a good teacher means to care about my students and to motivate them inside and outside the classroom so that they can be the best students they can be. I also learned that it is important to create a safe and nurturing environment. Only in this way can a student feel comfortable enough to participate, to become active and to learn. Finally, I learned that being a teacher is not just teaching the materials in class. It also means making an impact on the lives of my students. During one of the sessions in our workshop, our group leaders invited a guest speaker to share a letter that one of his former students wrote. This student expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the guest speaker for being his teacher and for being such a great influence in his life. This letter was written many years later when the student had gone on to become a well-established lawyer. Listening to his talk brought tears to my (and his) eyes. These special moments make being a teacher worthwhile. Thanks so much to CLTA, CFLP, Drs. Gretchen Angelo, Kylie Hsu, Hildebrando Villarreal, and Qingyun Wu for giving me such an enriching experience for my future profession!
Faculty Activities
Dr. Gretchen Angelo serves on the boards of the CSU Foreign Language Council, the California Language Teachers Association, and the Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California. At the Modern Language Association’s annual convention in San Diego she presented a paper, “The Absent Professor: Technological Innovation versus Student Expectations in a Hybrid French Civilization Course,” which discussed our students’ experiences in a web-based course offered by our Department and shared between two CSU campuses. During her sabbatical, Dr. Angelo worked on her new first-year French book, Liberté, now being used in our first-year classes. It has highly communicative activities that allow students to use French in conversational situations. It can be downloaded from the Internet at no charge by our students. Christophe Lagier and Emmanuel Remy have assisted in making audio recordings to accompany the text, which will soon be freely available online to students of French everywhere.

Dr. Christophe Lagier received tenure, and he was promoted to associate professor. After his residency as director of the CSU International Programs in France, he taught a six-week seminar on Post World War II French Theater for Bryn Mawr College in Avignon, France. He also coordinated the visit of playwright René de Obaldia to the International Theater Festival in Avignon. In September 2003, Dr. Lagier was bestowed the prestigious honor of “Chevalier des Palmes académiques.” This is the highest distinction given by the French government in the field of education and culture.

Deputy Consul Olivier Plançon presents the order of the Chevalier des Palmes académiques to Dr. Lagier.

Dr. Lagier’s entry on Jacques Audiberti will appear in the Dictionary of Literary Biography, and his article, “De l’absurde au potentiel de régénération infini du langage: Jean Tardieu ou le théâtre de la parole spectaculaire,” appeared in Recyclages culturelles. He also provided the French translations for Interstellar Transmissions, a book of photography and poetry by Gustavo Alberto Garcia Vaca. Dr. Lagier has been awarded a sabbatical for Fall 2004 to travel to Paris to collaborate with René de Obaldia, a member of the Académie française, in filming a documentary of his life and in bringing a new English translation of his play, Wind in the Branches of Sassafras, to CSULA for its American premiere in Fall 2005.

Japanese

The Japanese Studies Center successfully hosted three events: two Japanese films, Grave of the Fireflies and The Makioka Sisters, and the Japanese Speech Contest. The contest took place February 28, 2004 with 25 contestants. The judges were Dr. Yasuako Koshiyama from Pepperdine University and Dr. Setsue Shibaga from CSU Fullerton. The event was supported by the Teachers...
of Japanese in Southern California and the Kinokuniya Bookstore.

- First prize: Kristoffer Nissinen (Irvine Valley College).
- Second prize: Derek Yee (Alhambra High School); Russell Martin (Cal State L.A.); Daryle Santos (UC Irvine).
- Third prize: Jennifer Koga (Alhambra High School); Patrick Wetherbee (Irvine Valley College); Tarik Booker (Cal State L.A.).
- Honorary prize: Amy Mritani (Marina High School); Eunice Park (Fountain Valley High School); Junpei Fukuda (Cal State Long Beach).

**Faculty Activities**

**Dr. Toshiko Yokota** presented a paper in Japanese on “Effective Classroom Activities for Advanced Japanese Reading” at the 8th Symposium on Japanese Language Education in Europe and at a meeting for Japanese lecturers and graduate students at UC Irvine. The paper was published as part of the proceedings of the symposium. She also published a paper, “Collaboration of Buson and Kito in their Cultural Production,” in *Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (Fall 2003).

**Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga** received promotion to professor. She presented a paper at the Association of Teachers of Japanese (ATJ) Seminar, at the Teachers of Japanese in Southern California (TJSC) Fall Workshop, and at the 5th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Language Science. She published two articles in refereed journals: *Japanese-Language Education Around the Globe*, 13 and *Journal of Heritage Languages*, 1. She serves on the ATJ Board, and on the California Subject Examinations for Teachers Panel to develop new tests for prospective teachers of Japanese.

**Spanish**

**Liudmila García**, an outstanding graduate student in the Spanish Master’s program, received the Susan Steiner Graduate Student Award.

**McNair Scholars**

**Mario Cuéllar** prepared a paper on “Voseo among Salvadorans Living in the U.S.,” which earned him a second prize at the CSULA Student Research Symposium in 2004. **Jacqueline Vidal** presented her paper in 2003 on “Response to Compliments in Salvadoran Spanish” at the statewide CSU Student Research Competition and at the National McNair Conference, winning first prize at both. She also won the Carter Essay Prize last year. She presented a version of this paper at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest. Jacqueline’s and Mario’s sponsor was **Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu**.

**Sharon Pittman**’s paper, “Black, White: A Color for English?” has been accepted for presentation at the 2004 MLA Convention in Philadelphia.

**Sigma Delta Pi**

Gala event! Gamma Psi, the local chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, celebrated its 50th anniversary. The student officers **Mario Cuéllar, Iris Martínez, José Luis Corona, and Mónica Shah**, as well as the faculty advisor, **Dr. Dumitrescu**, worked tirelessly to prepare the initiation ceremony and dinner that took place March 4, 2004. New professor **Elena Ruzickova** and 30 students were inducted: Laura N. Aranda, Jesús Arellano, Yeni Patricia Argüeta, Alejandro Barco, Abraham Carranza, Maríene Carranza-Mendoza, Cándida Castillo, Hilda Cervantes, Vilma Chacón, Nelly Cornejo, Michael K. Corrigan, Jessica Cruz, Henry Dubón, Antonia Neri Elenes, Viviana Farley, Manuel Carlos García, Tláloc García, Alberto Gieco, María Dolores González, Erika Hernández, Blanca Martínez, Mauricio Antonio Montañó, Johanna C. Moore, Sofia Oneto, Sharon A. Pittman, Jessica Ramírez, Benito Rodríguez, Irma Romero, Ada Jessica Sánchez, and Diana Sánchez. More than 80 people attended the event.

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Dr. Carmen Silva-Corvalán from the USC was the guest speaker. The chapter awarded the Gabriela Mistral Prize for academic excellence to Ludmila García and the Order of the Discoverers to Dr. Hildebrando Villarreal, the Department chair.

The chapter received a certificate of recognition from the Sigma Delta Pi National Executive Office and a letter of commendation from Dr. James Rosser, the University president, in which he stated that “Sigma Delta Pi is not only the largest foreign language society in existence, but it is also one of the very best... By establishing a chapter of this renowned society on campus, Cal State L.A. offers an outstanding service for its students of Spanish—encouraging students to attain the highest level of knowledge and proficiency... I extend my deepest appreciation to the Cal State L.A. chapter of Sigma Delta Pi....” Entertainment was provided by a Mexican folkloric dance group from Burbank.

Erika Hernández, a new Sigma Delta Pi member, writes: “I am looking forward to obtaining my B.A. in Spanish next year. With this degree, as well as continuous studying, I hope to master the language and apply it to my chosen profession, sports journalism. As a Salvadoran-American female, I aspire to one day work for a Spanish language network as a writer or broadcaster.”

The chapter organized a presentation of the 4th volume of the complete works of Miguel N. Lira, edited by Emeriti Professors Jeannine Gaucher-Morales and Alfredo Morales. A group of Sigma Delta Pi students performed a scene from one of his plays, El Diablo volvió al infierno.

**Faculty Activities**


**Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu** published the following book chapters: “La expresión de buenos deseos hacia nuestro prójimo: ¿Un acto de habla cortés automático?” in Pragmática sociocultural: Estudios sobre el discurso de cortesía en español and “Romanian in Contact with English in the United States: In the Footsteps of Cuban-American Spanish?” in Romance Studies Today: In Honor of Beatriz Varela. She also published book reviews “Bibliografía básica y selectiva de lingüística románica” and “Lingüística aplicada. Adquisición del español como segunda lengua.” Additionally, she read the following papers: “Agradecer en interlengua: una comparación entre la competencia pragmática de los estudiantes nativos y no nativos del español en California,” “Linguistic Pluralism among Romanian-Americans: Attitudes, Beliefs and Linguistic Practices,” “The Speech Act of Wishing in Spanish and Romanian: A Cross-Cultural Approach,” and “Sobre el uso de sí exclamativo y de sí enfático en español” at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, at which she also organized and chaired a panel on Language Variation. At the annual meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, she chaired a panel and was elected vice-president and program chair for the next LASSO meeting in New Orleans (September 2004); she will become LASSO president in 2005. She also attended the 2003 MLA Convention in San Diego, where she organized and chaired a panel on Topics in Language Theory, and participated in the Delegate Assembly as an elected representative of the Division on Language Theory for the triennium 2003-2006.

**Dr. Jeannine Gaucher-Morales**’s book Miguel N. Lira, Teatro Completo, vol. II, was published by the Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura in 2004. She co-authored it with Dr. Alfredo O. Morales. In Summer 2003, she read papers on Jean Cocteau and Samuel Beckett’s drama (cont. on pg. 6)
productions, and Maruxa Vilalta and Miguel N. Lira’s theater. In Fall 2003, she spoke at presentations of her book *Miguel N. Lira. Teatro Completo*, vol. I in Yucatán and Quintana Roo, Mexico. Volume II was presented in Mexico City and Tlaxcala.

**Dr. Alfonso González** published an article on Mexican theater titled “México” and over 30 bibliographical entries on Mexican playwrights in the *Encyclopedia of Latin American Theater*. He also published a 300-page translation of Stella Pope Duarte’s *Let Their Spirits Dance!* (Que bailen sus espíritus!)

**Dr. Ignacio López-Calvo** published an article, “Lesbianism Caricature in Griselda Gambaro’s Lo impenetrable,” and a book review, “The Scroll and the Cross, 1,000 Years of Jewish-Hispanic Literature.” He also read the following papers: “Hate as a Political Tool: The Taino Myth in the Trujillito Narratives,” “Written in Exile. Chilean Fiction from 1973–Present,” “Lesbianism and Caricature in Griselda Gambaro’s Lo impenetrable,” and “The Testimonio of the Trujillo Era: Novel as History or Historical Documents as Fiction?” As faculty advisor to Sigma Delta Pi, Dr. López-Calvo invited Colombian poet Antonieta Villamil to a poetry reading and to give a workshop on surrealist automatic writing; Mexican poet Citlalli H. Xochitiotzin Ortega to a poetry reading and to deliver a presentation on contemporary Mexican poetry; and Professor Ana Gallego (University of Granada, Spain) to read a paper on the novel of the Trujillato.

**Eduardo Abea** (B.A. Spanish, 1997) teaches Spanish at Jefferson High School and is enrolled in our Master’s program in Spanish. He is a budding novelist and soon hopes to finish a novel he has been writing. **Yeni Argueta** (B.A. Spanish, 1999) teaches Spanish at Nogales High School in Rowland Heights. **William Dougherty** (B.A. Spanish, 1964) currently resides in Los Angeles and sends greetings to his former professors in the Department. **Miguel Angel Echeverria** (B.A. Spanish, 1999) teaches at Jefferson High School and is planning to enter the Master’s program in TESOL at CSULA. **Genaro Flores** (B.A. Spanish, 2000) is teaching at Fairfax High School. **Martin Gans** now lives in Thailand where he teaches German and Spanish. He sends regards to Drs. Castells, Chrzanski, MacCurdy, and Peralta. **Tomás García** (B.A. Spanish, 1997) is taking a “break” from teaching after seven years by working on his M.A. in Spanish. **Ana Lilia Lira** (B.A. Spanish, 1995; M.A. Spanish, 1997) is an adjunct professor of Spanish at East Los Angeles College. **María Elena Lira** (B.A. Spanish, 1995; M.A. Spanish, 1997), the recipient of the Theodore T. Alexander Jr. Scholarship last year, is completing her credential in the Charter College of Education. **Martha Lira** (B.A. Spanish, 1995; M.A. Spanish, 1997), the recipient of the Anita Suazo Scholarship last year, is completing her credential in the Charter College of Education. **Mariella Loza** (B.A. Spanish, 2001) is teaching at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights. **Jorge Mari** (M.A. Spanish, 1993) received tenure at North Carolina State University. **Felipe Méndez** (B.A. Spanish, 2001) earned an M.A. in Linguistics at CSU Fullerton and has been accepted with a full scholarship into the graduate program in linguistics at the Free University of Amsterdam. **Claudia Ossorio** (M.A. Spanish, 2001) is the director of the ESL program at Jefferson High School. She was the recipient of an NEH Summer Grant to study the teaching of Spanish to heritage speakers. **Paola Pastorino** (M.A. Spanish, 2002) has been teaching Spanish at the Archer School for Girls in Brentwood. **Gabriela Miranda Recinos** (M.A. Spanish, 2000) was awarded a two-year departmental fellowship in the doctoral program at UC Riverside to study Spanish-American literature. **José Recinos** is pursuing a Ph.D. in Spanish-American literature with an emphasis on the Central American novel at UC Riverside. **Cristián Ricci** (B.A. Spanish, 1998) has received his Ph.D. from UC Santa Barbara and is now teaching at Whittier College. **Edith Rincón** (B.A. Spanish, 1999), the recipient of the John Nagata and the Andrew and Phyllis Krinock Scholarships, is completing her credential in the Charter College of Education. **Amalia Sánchez** (B.A. Spanish, 1999) teaches Spanish at Rowland Heights High School. **Cynthia Serrano** (B.A. Spanish, 1999) teaches Spanish at Nogales High School in Rowland Heights. **Ana Vaiera** (B.A. Spanish, 1999) teaches Spanish at Rowland Heights High School. **Indelisa Villalobos** (B.A. Spanish, 1998) works at Rio Hondo Community College, teaching Spanish to adults and children. **Estrella Zumaeta** (B.A. Spanish, 1999) is teaching Spanish at Nogales High School in Rowland Heights.
MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES FACULTY

• 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, 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, Los Angeles): Applied Spanish Linguistics
• Qingyun Wu (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University): Modern Chinese Literature
• Toshiko Yokota (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine): East Asian Languages and Literatures

EMERIT/RETIRED

• 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)
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