This academic year had a rough start without Eileen Portillo, our full-time secretary. Eileen took a medical leave in mid-July 2005 to have an operation on her left hand. Since then, she had two additional operations, and is still on leave. We wish her the very best for a quick recovery. The Department managed without Eileen because of the help from Carol Tanaka (from the Dean’s office), and the hard work of Leticia Ramirez, our administrative support assistant, and Elen Andreasian, who was hired temporarily to replace Eileen. I am also thankful for Kathleen Dang, a student assistant, who covered the Department office with me between the time when Letty left on maternity leave and Elen was hired.

This year was also busy with recruitment. The Department received 169 applications for the three Spanish tenure-track positions. We hired Mr. Pablo Baler (Spanish American literature), Dr. Paola Marin (Golden Age literature), and Dr. Gaston Alzate (Mexican literature). The Department looks forward to having these three new colleagues on board in Fall 2006. I would like to thank the Appointments Committee members who worked very hard throughout the year. Of course, I am also thankful for everyone else who also worked hard on other committees and tasks.

As the three new faculty are joining us, we are losing five who have finished the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) this year: Drs. Dale Carter, Joseph Chrzanowski, Alfonso Gonzalez, Grant McCurdy, and Jeanine Gaucher-Morales. They have been outstanding teachers and scholars, and contributed greatly to the Department. The Department would not be what it is today without their dedication. On behalf of the Department, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them for many years of service.

On May 12, 2006, we had a party for Dr. Hildebrando Villarreal, who retired at the end of the 2004-05 academic year, and entered the FERP in September 2005. The event was held at Luminarias, where 95 people gathered to celebrate. Thanks to Dr. Felipe Diaz (Master of Ceremonies), Dr. Toshiko Yokota, Elen Andreasian, and Gloria Bautista (a graduate student in Spanish), who served on the Planning Committee. With the help of Letty and Kathleen, the gathering was very successful. I am glad that everyone, particularly Dr. Villarreal and his family, enjoyed the celebration.

In September 2006, we will have another party to celebrate: Drs. Gretchen Angelo’s and Kylie Hsu’s promotion to full professors. Congratulations! On this occasion, we will also welcome the three new faculty members in Spanish.

With Dean Selkin’s departure at the end of April 2006, we will have a new leader of the College of Arts and Letters. The Department looks forward to establishing a collaborative and constructive relationship with the new Dean.

Sachiko Matsunaga, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
over 70 years old. The contestants were from various schools and ethnic groups, and the quality of performance exceeded that in previous years. The first place winner at the advanced level was Fan Chi Kung who is a descendent of Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher and teacher. Many contestants wore traditional Chinese costumes, while others incorporated Chinese martial arts and dance in their recitations. Richard Chen, an 85 year-old student, gave an exquisite performance of poetry recitation in a Beijing operatic style, which won a longstanding ovation from the audience. He was the first-place winner in last year’s contest, and he participated this year as an honorary guest.

The recipients of the first, second, and two third places at the elementary level were Lawrence Gann, Winnie Wong, and Michael Cao/Lam Chau, respectively. The recipients of the first, second, and two third places at the intermediate level were Matthew Winter, Jae Yoon, and Xueling Cen/Shangzhi Ye, respectively. The recipients of the first, second, and two third places at the advanced level were Fan Chi Kung, Yang Guo, and Phuong Chau/Andy Li, respectively. There was a special category for contestants with no Chinese background. The recipients of the first, second, and two third places in this category were Andrew McKinn, Allison Mak, and Tara Brown/Ramona Herrera, respectively.

The Chinese program also hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Yingjin Zhang from the University of California at San Diego. Dr. Zhang’s presentation, “China’s Urban Generation and Postsocialist Filmmaking Since the Early 1990s,” attracted some fifty students, some of whom had scholarly exchanges with the guest at the end of the lecture.

**FRENCH**

The undergraduate program in French had a strong year in 2005-2006, with five graduating seniors at Spring commencement and fifteen new students in our upper-division classes. Our B.A. graduates -- Suzel Bertrand (magna cum laude), Sarah Gregg, Robert Martin, Moremi Ogbara, and Susana Porras -- have a variety of immediate projects, including relocation to French-speaking countries, new teaching positions, and graduate work. We congratulate them and wish them the best of luck in their diverse undertakings.

**NEWS FROM ANDREW O. MCKINN: CHINESE B.A. STUDENT**

Andrew O. McKinn, a Chinese major, was “infected by a bug” on his first trip to China. He wrote: I will never forget January 2001, as this was my first introduction to China, specifically Beijing, and all that its history had to offer. I looked forward to visiting the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, and Tiananmen Square. My language skills at the time included the standard “ni hao,” “xiexie,” and “zaijian,” and virtually no knowledge of Chinese characters. There I was, a foreigner who did not know anything about China but was as excited as a child in a candy store just to go. The trip to the Great Wall was nothing less than amazing - and tiring for that matter! It was not just navigating the steep steps that became a challenge but also avoiding any collisions with the other people climbing as well. It seemed that I was so ambitious about reaching the uppermost watchtower that I passed many tourists in doing so. Needless to say, when I turned around at the top to appreciate my work I was taken away by the magnificent view. The long body of the “dragon” flowing along the mountainside seemed to be quietly sleeping! After relishing this moment, I soon learned that going back down was as difficult as going up. Quite honestly, I never found this bit of information in any travel book! I have heard it said that springtime is the best season to visit the Summer Palace, with the numerous flowers in bloom juxtaposed with the colorful architecture of the palace. That as it may be, I feel wintertime did not hurt the beauty of this attraction in any way; it only changed its face. Frozen Kunming Lake was a spectacular sheet of ice among the architecture such as the Seventeen-Arch Bridge that seemed to welcome the accumulated snow. Walking in the cold through the various areas of the palace gave me an appreciation of what the palace might go through in weather changes that take place throughout the year. Tiananmen Square was both figuratively and literally bigger than I expected. This was probably due to the fact that the square is awash in history, which includes numerous demonstrations, rallies, and speeches. I suppose being the largest public square in the world would make it look physically big as well. An interesting thing I noticed was that as simple as the square was – not adorned with anything superfluous – it gave me the impression of being very complicated. As a result, I walked around in the square and admired it for quite some time. Well, there I was - a full-fledged I-have-done-the-China-thing tourist. It was not until I returned back home that I realized that I caught something from my trip. I am not sure exactly when I got it, but I suppose it was a gradual thing that snuck up on me at the last minute. I did not feel sick or anything.

What was it? A bug - not a disease per se, but a passion to learn Chinese and its diverse culture. I wanted to have an idea of what characters were “telling” me. Fortunately, I have since “cured” myself of this bug, but now my interest in Chinese is as high as a fever.
I have background in acting, and have performed in several restaurants. McDonald’s is all over the world – is this really such a good thing? It is a result of internationalization. My speech was titled “Let’s Think About Internationalization” and the majority of it was focused on the undeniable negative aspects of globalization and internationalization.

The example used most throughout the speech was that of fast food restaurants. McDonald’s is all over the world – is this really such a good thing? It is a result of internationalization. My speech was titled “Let’s Think About Internationalization” and the majority of it was focused on the undeniable negative aspects of globalization and internationalization.

I wrote a speech about the negative side of the much-talked-about topic of internationalization in Japanese society. I was afraid that my topic and viewpoint might be too controversial or confrontational, since in modern Japanese society, “internationalization” is almost synonymous with “good idea.” My speech was titled “Let’s Think About Internationalization” and the majority of it was focused on the undeniable negative aspects of globalization and internationalization. The example used most throughout the speech was that of fast food restaurants. McDonald’s is all over the world – is this really such a good thing? It is a result of internationalization. My take on the matter expressed that sometimes internationalization isn’t such a good idea, because the identity of a country might be erased by the corporate power of another country strong-arming its way into the other countries. It is a pretty serious topic, but I made sure to inject a little bit of humor throughout, and I think it turned out to be a good idea. I have background in acting, and have performed in several plays, so the idea of getting up on stage in front of a ton of strangers doesn’t frighten me as much as it probably does most people, but since this was my first time performing a speech entirely in Japanese, entirely from memory, to a panel of Japanese judges, my nerves were a bit frayed by the time I had managed to memorize my speech and land myself in the audience of the contest, waiting for my turn.

When my turn came, I went and stood in front of all of the audience and made my way through my entire speech, giving the best performance I had given of that speech so far, compared to all my practice routines. I noticed that many people in the audience of the contest, waiting for my turn.

In the end, I was announced to have won first place! I had a lot of points during my speech, and this bolstered my confidence.

I was somewhat nervous about my decision to participate in the CSULA Japanese Speech Contest. The prior year, I had participated in the UCI Japanese Cultural Showcase as part of a group of students from CSULA, and we ended up winning the award for Most Humorous Performance there, but this experience was quite different from giving a speech in a speech contest. However, since I had recently changed my major to Japanese, I figured it would be a good idea to suck it up and go for the speech competition, so I went for it.

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were awarded $300 and $200, respectively. Future projects of AEE include the formation of "Teatro Rústico", a form of theater created by the students and for the students with the goal of bringing to the stage theatrical performances in Spanish. For more information about the club, and to become a member, please write to aee@calstatela.edu.

SIGMA DELTA PI
Gamma Psi, the local CSULA chapter of the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, co-sponsored a book presentation of Who's Who: Ecuador en el mundo by CSULA alumna Berta Tapia. The student officers of Sigma Delta Pi, elected in October 2005, are: Carolina Almánzar (President), Ana Barajas (Vice-president), José Luis Corona (Treasurer), and María González (Secretary).

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ALUMNI NEWS


Miriam Boada (M.A. Spanish) married Manuel Castillejos, a professor of Spanish at Mt. San Antonio College. Miriam continues to teach Spanish at Cal State L.A. and other local colleges.

Claudia (Ossorio) Franklin (M.A. Spanish) is director of the ESL program at Jefferson High School. She is currently on the Advisory Board of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Cal State L.A.

Teresa Gamber (B.A. Spanish) has retired after being in the restaurant business and in real estate. She loves to travel and recently returned from a trip to Europe. She visits her native country, Argentina, on a regular basis.

Thania Muñoz, an undergraduate majoring in Spanish, is in Chile (2005-06) studying Spanish at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She says this has been a transforming experience for her. She sends greetings to the professors and students in the Department.

Bertha Tapia (B.A.; M.A. Spanish) is involved in many activities. She has published several poetry books, *Flores de otoño, Memorias del silencio, Vorágine de grito*, and other books of general interest like *Who's Who: Ecuador en el mundo*. The latter was presented at Cal State L.A. in December of 2005 under the auspices of Sigma Delta Pi. Tapia is a successful real estate broker with her own real estate office, Golden Arrow Realty.

OTHER NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Leticia Ramirez, our MLL secretary, gave birth to a baby boy in December 2005. Mama Letty wrote:

“A saint’s name is given to each day in the Hispanic calendar; it is a tradition to name your child after the saint’s name from the calendar. My second son, Diego, was born Friday, December 9, 2005 the day of Juan Diego. He was born at 8:25 am by cesarean; he weighed 6.5 lbs and was 20 inches long, ten fingers and ten toes. He’s my second little angel and I love him to pieces!”
**FACULTY ACTIVITIES**

**Gretchen Angelo.** French Coordinator, was promoted to full professor effective September 2006. Angelo continues to serve as a CSULA representative to the CSU Foreign Language Council, and as a liaison to our local CLTA affiliate, MCLASC (the Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California). She this year planned and presented at the third joint CSULA/MCLASC Teachers’ Immersion Day for high school and community college teachers of French and Spanish, and continues to revise her first-year book, Liberté.

**Domnita Dumitrescu** presented the paper “Las interrogativas eco, a la luz de la teoría de la cortesía,” at the 9th International Pragmatics Conference, Riva del Garda, Italy, July 2005 (as part of a panel on Politeness in Spanish, organized by the EDICE program). She also delivered the Presidential Address at the LASSO annual meeting, Lubbock, TX, October 7, 2005, entitled “Noroc!,” “Merci!,” “¡Qué lindo!,” “Sorry!” Some Polite Speech Acts Across Cultures; and she read a paper on “Pragmática de sí en el español mexicano,” at the Sexto Congreso Internacional sobre El español de América in Tordesillas (Spain), October 25-29, 2006. Finally, at the Spring meeting of the AATSP – Southern California chapter, held at UCLA on April 8, 2006, she presented the paper “Spanglish: polémica, retórica y lingüística.” Her book (co-authored with Dan Munteanu from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain), (Vreți să știți dacă știți ....) Limba spaniolă? [(Do you want to know if you know ....) The Spanish Language?), published in Romania by the Niculescu Publishing House – which specializes in foreign language learning publications – was launched at the Cervantes Institute in Bucharest, on July 1, 2005. She also published two reviews of linguistics books in Hispania; she chaired a session at the LASSO Annual meeting Lubbock, Texas; and she organized a session on linguistic variation in Spanish at the 88th Annual Meeting of the AATSP in Salamanca, Spain, June 27-July 2, 2006.

**Alfonso González** translated a book of short stories, Walking Stars by Victor Villaseñor, which was published by Arte Público Press in December, 2005. In addition, he has also finished the translation of the novel, Macho! by Victor Villaseñor, which will be published in 2006 or 2007.

**Kylie Hsu** was promoted to full professor, effective September 2006. She has continued to obtain funds for the Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest and the Chinese Studies Guest Lecture Series. She also received a grant from the Chinese American Faculty Association for her book project on Chinese discourse analysis, and another grant from the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching for her editorial project on online teaching tools. Additionally, she is collaborating with San Francisco State University on a grant project entitled, “Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages,” and with the Fullerton and Long Beach campuses of the California State University on curriculum development for the CSU Summer Language Institute held in Long Beach, June-August 2006. Her publications include a series of workbooks entitled Practical Chinese Exercises, Learn Perfect Publishing, Los Angeles, 2005; “Chinese Love Poetry and Folklore” and “Chinese New Year Lantern Festival,” Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching, February 2005; “MERLOT and Its Peer Evaluation Criteria,” Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Technology and Chinese Language Teaching, May 2006; and ten reviews of Web-based Chinese teaching and learning materials. She also made the following presentations: “MERLOT and Its Peer Evaluation Criteria,” at the Fourth International Conference on Technology and Chinese Language Teaching, Los Angeles, May 5-7, 2006; and “Engaging the Global Community—World Languages,” at the Fifth International Conference of Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching, Nashville, July 25-28, 2005.

**Chisato Koike** presented two papers: one entitled “Interactive Storytelling” at the Language Symposium 2006: Stories and Strategies: Narratives in Second Language Acquisition, held at Northwestern University, Chicago in April 2006, the other entitled “Ellipsis and body in talk-in-interaction” at the American Association for Applied Linguistics Annual Conference, held in Montreal, Canada, in June 2006.

**Christophe Lagier** has published articles in two encyclopedias this year: one on Jacques Audiberti in the Dictionary of Literary Biography (Vol. 321, 20th Century French Dramatists) and another on Jeanne de Berg in the Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature. He is currently researching French stereotypes in Hollywood movies and spoke on that topic in February 2006 at our Teachers’ Immersion Day at CSULA and in April 2006 at the Salon Français de Los Angeles.

Lagier will return to his homeland for 2006-07 where he will be, for the second time, Resident Director of the CSU International Programs in France (Aix-en-Provence and Paris). He will be in charge of 100 students coming from the 23 campuses of the CSU system. During his absence, Josette Hontanx will return from France to serve as a full-time professor in the department.
Sachiko Matsunaga (Professor of Japanese, Department Chair, and Director of the Japanese Studies Center) received a Cal State L.A. 2004-05 Outstanding Professor Award. She made two presentations, one at the 7th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Language Sciences, Sophia University, Japan, June 25–26, 2005, and the other at the 11th International Conference on Processing Chinese and Other East Asian Languages, Hong Kong, December 9-11, 2005. She was also an invited panelist for a session entitled “Credential and Certificate: Model Programs” at a conference on the development of Chinese language programs in the United States, held in San Francisco, May 6, 2006. In addition, she published an article entitled “Testing the dual coding hypothesis in remembering hiragana” in Studies in Language Sciences 4, 2005, and served as a referee for Language Learning and The Proceedings of the 14th World Congress of Applied Linguistics.


Qingyun Wu taught two new courses, CHIN402: Classical Chinese Language II and CHIN460: Proseminar: Masters of Chinese Culture and Thought, in winter and spring of 2006. In the winter quarter, due to class cancellation, several students of CHIN100C moved to her CHIN200B. Wu tried various teaching strategies to help those students, including practicing Chinese with them at a local Chinese restaurant. Her help enabled those students to complete 200B successfully and enroll in CHIN200C confidently in the spring. Wu conducted the 14th Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest on May 4, 2006 and organized the guest lecture by Dr. Yingjin Zhang on “China’s Urban Generation and Postsocialist Filmmaking since the Early 1990s” on May 25, 2006. Her essay “Daring to Dream: Wang Yun and Her Play A Dream of Glory” and excerpts from her translated play are published in the refereed journal Renditions (Aug. 2005), pp. 83-106. She made the presentation, “Classical Roots and Transnational Influence of Lolita” at the ACCL Conference in Nanjing University, China on June 24, 2005 and her paper was printed in the proceedings. She completed two entries on Wang Yun and Chen Duansheng for the Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History. Her book manuscript, including a critical introduction and translation of Wang Yun, has been accepted for publication by the Chinese University Press of Hong Kong.

\[\text{Several students practice Chinese with Qingyun Wu in a Chinese restaurant.}\]
FACULTY

- Gretchen Angelo (Ph.D., Yale University): Medieval French Literature
- Maria 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
- Chisato Koike (Ph.D. candidate, University of California, Los Angeles): Japanese Linguistics, Language Pedagogy, and Conversation Analysis
- Christophe Lagier (Ph.D., Princeton University): Modern French Theater
- 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
- Qingyun Wu (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University): Modern Chinese Literature
- Toshiko Yokota (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine): East Asian Languages and Literatures

EMERITI/RETIRED

Alfred F. Michael Atlee (Spanish)  
Abdallah J. Beddawi (French)  
Dale Carter (Spanish)  
Matilde O. Castells (Spanish)  
Joseph Chrzanowski (Spanish)  
Felipe Díaz (Spanish)  
Jeananine Gaucher-Morales (Spanish)  
Alfonso González (Spanish)  
Kazumitsu Kato (Japanese)  
Hugh W. Kennedy (Spanish)  
Harold E. Lionetti (Spanish)  
Grant MacCurdy (Spanish)  
Alfredo O. Morales (Spanish)  
Françoise M. Pasques (French)  
Elba Torres de Peralta (Spanish)  
Leon Schwartz (French)  
Hildebrando Villarreal (Spanish)  
Marie-Antoinette U. Zrimc (French)

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