



# RLL Newsletter

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
University of Florida

Editor: David Pharies

Assistant Editor: Gillian Lord

## Message from the Chair

### A year of accomplishments

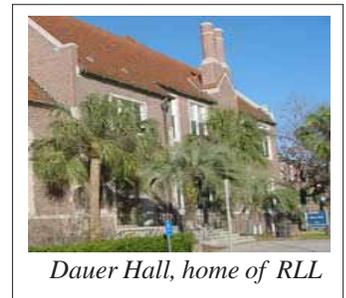
Dear Friends of RLL:

It has been a year of very hard work here at RLL. Let me try to impress you with some numbers. As you will see under the "Graduate Student News" section of this Newsletter, over the past year we have awarded six Ph.D.'s – meaning that at least three of our faculty members read and approved their dissertations – advanced seven students to Ph.D. candidacy – meaning that they passed Ph.D. Qualifying Examinations prepared and graded by at least three RLL faculty – and awarded 15 M.A. degrees, all of which involve comprehensive examinations and most of which entail M.A. theses as well. At the undergraduate level, we have graduated close to 40 majors in Spanish and 15 in French, and awarded even greater numbers of minors in Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. All of this is just the tip of the iceberg, of course, since most of the students we serve are at the first- to third-year levels. In all, RLL is responsible for teaching Romance Languages to approximately 6400 students per academic year! Not only do we do a lot of work, we do it well. I am convinced that our students receive instruction and mentoring that is equal in quality to that received by students at America's most renowned universities. RLL majors are certainly more challenging than the major I completed more than 30 years ago, and I know that our graduate students receive much more personal attention than I received when I was in graduate school. We are

very proud of our students and do everything we can to help insure their success after leaving our department.

Of course we could do more if we had more resources. This year we are most acutely aware of the insufficiency of the scholarships we are able to offer our students, both graduate and undergraduate, aimed at helping them spend time abroad where they can sharpen their language skills and get first-hand experience of the cultures they study here. This is an incredibly enriching

experience which is not often available to students of modest means. At the end of this newsletter you will find descriptions of several of the fund-raising initiatives that we are promoting, as well as a coupon to send in with



*Dauer Hall, home of RLL*

your support of the initiative of your choice.

I would like to reiterate as well our desire to keep up with the lives of our alumni through the medium of this Newsletter. We would love to hear from you, and to receive news of your career, your families, and your lives. You can write to us at the return address, or use our e-mail address: rll@rll.ufl.edu.

In this spirit, this year we are featuring a vignette from the current research being carried out by one of our favorite alumnae, Dr. Eugena Poulin, RSM, who received her Ph.D. in French literature from UF in 1986. After leaving Florida, Eugena taught at Salve Regina University, in Newport, RI, where she served five years as chairperson of the Modern Languages Department. She is now in semi-retirement, but continues to research topics close to her heart. Her most recent work was a series of four articles on seventeenth century women in New France which appeared in the Genealogical Journal, *Je Me Souviens*. Notably, Eugena was selected as Franco-American of the Year by the Rhode Island Heritage Commission in 1987.

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## Departmental News and Happenings

**Brad Epps**, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Harvard University, presented a talk entitled “Melodrama, Pornography, and Abstraction in Pedro Almodóvar’s ‘Talk to Her’” on March 18, 2005. Professor Epps has published nearly sixty articles on modern literature, film, art, and architecture from Spain, Latin America, Catalonia, and France, and is the author of *Significant Violence: Oppression and Resistance in the Narratives of Juan Goytisolo* (Oxford UP). He is currently preparing two books: “Daring to Write”, on gay and lesbian issues in Latin America, Spain, and Latino cultures in the United States, and “Barcelona and Beyond”, on modern Catalan culture.

**Laura Freixas**, a well-known Spanish writer, journalist, and critic, gave a lecture to a large and appreciative audience in November 2004. Both her lively delivery and her topic—“Literatura y mujeres en España: historia de un falso boom”—made the occasion memorable. Her visit to UF, which included a luncheon with the Casal Català (the Catalan House of Florida) was later described in one of her weekly columns in *La Vanguardia*, the largest circulation newspaper in Barcelona. Freixas is the author of creative fiction (*El asesino en la muñeca*, 1988; *Último domingo en Londres* 1997; *Entre amigas*, 1998; *Cuentos a los cuarenta*, 2001), critical essays (*Literatura y mujer*, 2000) and several popular anthologies, including *Madres e hijas* (1996), now in its twentieth reprinting.

**Entre Nous**, our informal talk series, continued in 2004 under the direction of Gillian Lord and Andrew Lynch. We

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## Research Vignette

### The French Woman of Canada

by Eugena Poulin, RSM, PhD

The French impact on the North American continent was experienced early. With the founding of Quebec by Samuel de Champlain in 1608, the French embarked on a colonial venture. Women were in a minority in the first fifty years of the settlement. Because the King, Louis XIV, was eager to increase the population of New France in order to ensure France's supremacy in the New World, he sponsored the immigration of large groups of women. He provided transportation and dowries for young women who were identified as 'Les Filles du roi,' the daughters of the King. The goal was to equalize the male dominated population and provide wives and mothers to the fledgling settlement. During the period between 1663-1673 nearly a thousand young marriageable girls and women made their home in New France. They were more than wives and mothers, they immediately became a vital segment of society.

'These Amazons' is the description in the *Jesuits Relation*, a journal maintained by the missionaries, of the French religious women who colonized New France. The first to arrive were Marie Guenet, Anne Le Cointre, and Marie Forestier. They founded a hospital, l'Hôtel Dieu, in Quebec in 1639. That same year Marie Guyart, Marie de la Torche, Marie Ste Croix, and a lay woman, Madame de La Peltrie, opened the first school. In Montreal Marguerite Bourgeoys and four other women opened the first female trade school in North America in 1658. Not all the women were involved with hospitals and schools. Although not formally belonging to any religious order, Jeanne Le Ber, a recluse, was considered a mystic.

One must not forget the wives and mothers who raised enormous families and labored in the fields with their husbands. They also deserved the accolade penned by the Jesuits for their courage and fortitude. During the winter months, women managed the family business while their husbands made long treks into the wilderness to trap food and furs. In general, seventeenth century men in New France depended on women as partners. One such instance of this interdependence was Jacques Largillier, who, during his absences from the colony, entrusted his financial affairs to two female relatives, his sister, Catherine Largillier, and a cousin, Marie Paget.

Among the many seventeenth century French women who actively participated in the colonial economy was Agathe Saint Père, a wife and mother of eight children, who began a textile manufacturing enterprise, and experimented with roots and berries to produce a variety of colored fabrics. Also in the economic domain, Eleanor de Grand-Maison, a four-time widow, could be considered a real estate magnate, completing more than sixty transactions.

Life was tumultuous in seventeenth century New France; the presence of the war-like Indians made violence a common occurrence. A remarkable young woman, fourteen-year-old Madeleine de Verchères, assumed the role of a military leader in 1692. To protect her small settlement of Verchères from marauding Iroquois she organized a few women and her two younger brothers, one of whom was only eight years old, to guard the ramparts of the village. She succeeded in keeping the attacking enemy at bay for three days until male reinforcements arrived. Seventeenth-century women generally had little influence. In most parts of the world, including France, midwives were frequently at odds with the medical establishment. The seventeenth-century

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men of science looked with disdain upon the profession and its practitioners, even though they themselves knew very little about conception and the development of the fetus. In New France, however, there was cooperation between medical men and midwives. The doctors of Quebec did not hesitate to use the services of the midwives for their own wives. Among several documented cases was the Neuville surgeon, François Grégoire, whose wife, Marie Liénard, was attended by the midwife of the area. The women of New France probably had more influence on the success of this French colony than other colonial European women of that period. The title of Louis- Guy Lemieux's article "The Great Man of Canada Was a Woman -- a literary portrait of Marie Guyart" seems fitting. The French women who settled New France may even have surpassed their male counterparts in their courage, ingenuity and influence. The early description of 'these Amazons' is still deemed appropriate.

**Department news, cont'd.**

have enjoyed talks by Ben Hebblethwaite, Dr. Efraín Barradas, Roger McManus, Dr. Mary Watt, and Dr. Elizabeth Lowe. Spring 2005's lineup looks to be as promising and interesting as these and we all look forward to the upcoming talks.

**Sigma Delta Pi** (Hispanic Honor Society) is open to outstanding students of the Spanish language and Hispanic literature. We are pleased to announce the 2004 initiates of the Beta Rho chapter: Keith Earley, Stephen Fafulas, Benjamin Freeman, Ashley Hamilton, Debra Herrick, Joy Lewis, Lindsey Laboon, Gail Mayer, Alberto Méndez, Erin Miller, Lucia Montas,

Sarah O'Brien, Erica Parrett, Jessie Rundle, Shari Scalone, Nicole Terpening, Katelan Wick.

The nascent **Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies**, of which Mary Watt is co-director, launched its monthly Stammtisch Series. On the first Monday of every month a graduate student or MEMS faculty gives a talk followed by a roundtable discussion. Also, the Center received generous funding from the City of Gainesville and the FFRI for its annual spring Colloquium. This year's program, entitled "Carnevale - Mediaevale: 'Oyez, Oyez, Oyez' - Missives and Messages: Media in the Middle Ages", took place on March 14, 15, 16 at the Thomas Center and the University of Florida.

On October 28-29, 2004, our Department (in conjunction with The Center for Latin American Studies, The College of Education, The International Center, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Provost) hosted a lecture series and a workshop entitled: **"Indigenous Knowledge, Education and Development in the Americas: Academic Responses to Indigenous Activism and Cultural Revival in Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, and Florida."** The event gathered eight intellectuals from four countries and was organized by Álvaro Félix Bolaños (Associate Professor, RLL) and Allan Burns (Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor of Anthropology). This initiative responded to the increase in the cultural and political visibility of indigenous communities in Latin America and the U.S. It is our hope to establish the basis of an international

association for the further discussion of indigenous issues.

The **Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC)** program at UF, directed by Dr. Greg Moreland, enters its ninth year, offering an extensive array of language enhancement sections in Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. Fall 2004 featured several "tried and true" courses: France and the European Union, Brazilian Music, Contemporary Latin American Politics, Public Relations in the Spanish-Speaking World, and Latin American Business Environment. Spring 2005 included sections on Business and Economics in Latin America, Spain and the European Union, Latin American Music, and Business Portuguese, as well as two new additions to the lineup: Business and Culture of Sports in the Spanish-Speaking World and Business and Culture in the Francophone World.

To augment the quality and variety of our lecture series, our visiting scholars and our special events with your financial gift, please see the back page or call us (352-392-2016, x222).

**Study Abroad Programs**

The **UF Rome 2004 summer programs** continue to attract students. During the Rome A session 43 students participated.



Dr. Michael Paden served as instructor and director and Mr. Gianfranco Balestriere taught and assisted. For the Rome B session, 42 students participated. Dr. Mary Watt taught and served as director, while

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### Study Abroad, cont'd.

Ms. Sherrie Nunn taught and assisted. The programs offer students the opportunity to live and study in Rome and also to visit Florence, Pompeii and other cities. The 2005 programs are fully subscribed. Plans are under way to start a semester program in Rome beginning in the near future.

Last summer, a number of graduate students, including Abdou Yaro, Cyrille Guillo, Sandrine Savona, and Sophie Ganachaud taught at the **Paris Research**

**Center**. Also, Hongli Fan served as Professor Antes's teaching assistant in the **UF in Provence** Program (Avignon).



Drs. Greg Moreland and Efraín Barradas led the contingent of students who participated in the **UF in Guanajuato** program during Summer A 2004. The relatively small size of



the group allowed for quick bonding and a great deal of Spanish-language practice. The 17 students connected quite well with Mexican culture and thoroughly enjoyed excursions to various parts of the country. We expect much the same for UF in Guanajuato 2005, which will be directed by Drs. Moreland and Clara Sotelo.

During Summer A of 2004, Susana Braylan and Maria Guerrero took 25 students to **Santander**, Spain. This was the third year of the program and,



despite the political problems and the war in Iraq, they had an enjoyable trip filled with very positive experiences. The students stayed with families and studied in this beautiful northern city, surrounded by the most wonderful beaches and mountains. The weather helped greatly since it rained only a few times and the students were able to enjoy many warm and sunny days. During their seven-week stay, they visited magnificent museums, such as El Museo del Prado, and Reina Sofia in Madrid, and the Guggenheim Museum, in Bilbao. They trekked the Picos de Europa mountains, learned about the Altamira Caves and the architecture of the great Gaudi. They traveled to El Escorial, Toledo, and San Sebastian. The Santander group was wonderful; they followed rules, were very polite and friendly toward their host families, and enjoyed each other, developing long-lasting friendships among them. Kathy Navajas will be traveling to Santander as the director in the summer of 2005. Ericka Parra has been elected to go as a TA, and they have recruited 26 students to date.



The department has long needed a semester-long study abroad program in a Spanish-speaking country, and at last we are close to starting one: **UF in Barcelona** will debut in Spring 2006. The advantages of having our own program are many, but principally it is a means to guarantee that our students will be able to take courses abroad that complement rather than duplicate our curriculum. Students on the program will take 12-15 credit hours, most at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, a new public university in Barcelona with an excellent reputation. They may also take one advanced Spanish literature

Our study abroad programs need your help now. To contribute, please see the back page of this newsletter or call us (352-392-2016, x222).

course from the UF professor who will be the resident director of the program (for Spring 2006 it will be Geraldine Nichols). Barcelona, Spain's second largest city, was chosen for the vibrancy of its cultural and intellectual life, its mild climate (we are Floridians, after all!), and because so many students are eager to spend time there.

## Faculty Updates



**Montserrat Alás-Brun**, Associate Professor of Spanish Literature, presented two papers dealing with the 1909 Spanish-Moroccan war from a female writer's perspective at the 2004

MLA Conference in Philadelphia in December and the 2004 International Conference on the Humanities in Madrid in July. She contributed a chapter on the representations of the Black African colonial subject in 20th-century Spanish theater and pop culture in the book, *La reconstrucción de la memoria*, edited by M'bare N'gom, which was published by the University of Alcalá de Henares last December. Last Fall, she contributed a chapter on the female writers of the early 20th century in a book edited by Susana Carvalho, currently in press, and an article on the playwright Benavente for a forthcoming book on Nobel-winning writers. Last Summer, she received a travel grant from CES (UF Center of European Studies) and two grants for curriculum development from CES and the UF International Center.

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**Faculty Updates, cont'd.**

The Department is pleased to announce that Dr. **Luis Alvarez-Castro** has accepted an invitation to join our faculty as Assistant Professor of Spanish starting Fall 2005.

We are also pleased to announce that Dr. **Deborah Amberson** has accepted an invitation to join our faculty as Assistant Professor of Italian starting Fall 2005.



**Theresa Antes**

continues to work on her manuscripts in French linguistics and elementary French, and is also continuing work begun last year

examining the use of multimedia technology in information gap activities. She will soon collect data from students enrolled in the English Language Institute at UF, to be followed later by collection of data using the same activities with learners of French.

To celebrate the fourth centenary of the publication of *Don Quijote*, **Shifra Armon** will present a paper entitled "El reloj de Barataria: El arte de buen gobierno en el Quijote" at Villanova University in March 2005. Last summer, Dr. Armon directed the RLL Summer in Seville study abroad program with a record 43 students attending. There she taught "Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville", a culture studies course that examined the impact of New World trade on the sociological reality of Seville's women. The recipient of a grant from the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports and United States Universities, Dr. Armon will spend two weeks this summer at the Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid investigating Antonio de Guevara's *Reloj de príncipes*.

**Andrés Avellaneda** chaired the Bryce Wood Book Award Committee of the Latin American Studies Association to choose the best book published in English on Latin American Studies. He recently published two articles: "Bio,

pasado y presente" in *Espacios de crítica y producción* (Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la Universidad de Buenos Aires), and "Política de la investigación, investigación de la política: estudios literarios e hispanismo a principios del nuevo siglo", in *Homenaje a Ana María Barrenechea* (Instituto de Filología y Literaturas Hispánicas Amado Alonso, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina). He was invited to present papers at the colloquium "Julio Cortázar, Twenty Years After/Veinte Años Después" (Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center and Department of World Language Education and Hispanic Heritage, University of South Florida), and at the Segundo Congreso Internacional de Literatura (Universidad de Mar del Plata, Argentina).

**Susan Read Baker** has organized a session entitled "Formal Aspects of Tragedy" for the April meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Seventeenth-Century French Literature, at the University of South Carolina.



**Hélène Blondeau**, a sociolinguist who specializes in the description of North American varieties of spoken French, came to

UF from the University of Ottawa. She published an article entitled "La spécialisation sociostylistique d'un trait variable du français montréalais" in the new book *Variation et francophonie* edited by Coveney, Hintze and Sanders, and has in press an article in collaboration with Dr. Gillian Sankoff about the recent change in pronunciation of R in Montreal French. She recently prepared the entry "Panel study and variation" for the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of language and linguistics* (forthcoming). In the past year, she delivered two papers at the Newcastle Sociolinguistics Symposium. In addition, "The future of Anglo-Montrealers," a paper

presented at NVAV 32 in collaboration with Nathalie Dion, will soon be published in the Penn *Working Papers in Linguistics*. Dr. Blondeau is particularly enthusiastic about the research funds she was awarded by the Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund to conduct new research. Her project "The Future of Individuals" will bring her to Canada next Summer where she will collect data at the Laboratoire de sociopragmatique des interactions et de la conversation at the Université Laval in Québec city, as well as in Montreal.



**Rori Bloom** attended the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies meeting where she delivered a paper on Restif de la Bretonne. A

longer version of that talk, entitled "Privacy, Publicity, Pornography: Restif de la Bretonne's *Ingénue Saxancour, ou la Femme séparée*" was recently published in the journal *Eighteenth Century Fiction*. She is currently working on a paper called "Reflections in/on the Palais Royal: Double Images and their Architectural Frame" to be delivered at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. As well, she is developing a course called "Paris: l'écriture de la ville" to be taught in the summer program at the Paris Research Center. Her proudest achievement of 2004 was the birth of her son Max August Caldwell.

**Sylvie Blum-Reid**, currently on sabbatical, gave three conference papers this past year at the 20th & 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies Conference, PAMLA and the MLA. Her book review of Assia Djebar, *La Femme sans sépulture* appears in *Le Maghreb Littéraire: Revue Canadienne des littératures maghrébines*. Her article on "Voyage dans le passé/présent de *La femme sans sépulture* d'Assia Djebar," is forthcoming in a special issue on Assia

### Faculty Updates, cont'd.

Djebar of *Le Maghreb Littéraire* (2005). She taught a new course, "Contes et Nouvelles au cinéma," and coordinated the summer abroad program in Avignon.



**Álvaro Félix Bolaños** was invited to take part in a Symposium entitled "Reinventing Hispanism in the Age of Globalization," organized by the

Center for the Study of Cultures and the Department of Hispanic Studies at Rice University on February 26, 2005. He lectured on "Hispanism and its Literary Icon's Exclusions: Moors and Indigenous Peoples in Reading *Don Quixote* Today."



**Bernadette Cailler's** article: "Relire: 'ma bouche sera la bouche ..', ou qui dit 'je' chez Césaire" appeared in *Aimé Césaire. Une pensée pour le XXI<sup>e</sup>*

*siècle*, and she presented a paper at the 47<sup>th</sup> African Studies Association/34<sup>th</sup> Canadian Association of African Studies joint Meetings (New Orleans): "Kebir M. Ammi and *Augustinus Afer*: à propos de terres plurielles, de cultures composites et de pensées de l'Un". She has been invited to read a paper at a Conference in Carthage, Tunisia, with Edouard Glissant as distinguished guest (*Fondation Beit El Hikma*, April 25-28, 2005): "De ruptures en échos: Virgile, Broch, Glissant". In Fall 2004, she taught courses on *Poésie et Culture* and on *Mémoire, Créativité et Poétique de la Relation*.



**William Calin** is currently Fellow at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto. He has completed one book, "The Humanist Critics,

from Spitzer to Frye," and is at work on the next, "The French Tradition and the Literature of Medieval and Renaissance Scotland." He spoke on the Occitan baroque at the MLA and at the Medieval

Conference at Kalamazoo, on modern Breton at the FSU Conference on Cultural Memory; and on medievalism at the Studies in Medievalism Conference, University of New Brunswick. Also, he held invited public lectures at the University of Maryland, "Sex and Perversion in the Southern Heartland: Theodore Aubanel," and at the University of Toronto, "Michel Tronc and the Renaissance Poetry of Provence," and a plenary address/lecture at King's College (Ontario) on Marie de France. Also, he was 'external examiner' for doctoral dissertations at Edinburgh University and the University of Western Ontario.



**Joaquim Camps** had his article "The emergence of the imperfect in Spanish as a foreign language: The association between imperfective morphology

and state verbs" accepted for publication in the *International Review of Applied Linguistics in Language Teaching*. He taught a new course in fall 2004, Spanish Second Language Acquisition, in which he used the manuscript of his book *Introducción a la adquisición del español como lengua extranjera: Teoría y práctica* (Introduction to the acquisition of Spanish as a foreign language: theory and practice). This textbook includes transcripts of oral and written production by learners of Spanish, and the students in this course used the transcripts to analyze learner production for their final papers.



In December 2004, **Raymond Gay-Crosier** was appointed coordinator of vols. I and II and editor in chief of vols. III and IV

of Gallimard's Pléiade edition of Albert Camus's *Œuvres complètes* to which he is contributing significant portions. *LE PREMIER HOMME en perspective*, vol. 20 of the *Camus* series (Paris, Lettres Modernes) of which he is also editor in chief, was published in May 2004. In April, he was invited to give a seminar at

Harvard University's Humanities Center on "Une Pléiade pas comme une autre: problèmes de méthode". He discovered at the Houghton Library the original manuscript of *L'Homme révolté*, a copy of which will soon be in the Special Collections Department of the University of Florida Library.



**Libby Ginway's** book, *Brazilian Science Fiction: Cultural Myths and Nationhood in the Land of the Future* (Bucknell UP) appeared in April of 2004 and was

placed on the Recommended Reading List for Non-Fiction by *Locus: Magazine of the Science Fiction and Fantasy World* (Feb. 2005) and featured in *CLASnotes* (Dec. 2004). She published an article on Brazilian composer-turned-writer Chico Buarque, co-authored with colleague Charles Perrone and Brazilian writer Ataíde Tartari, and presented five papers at conferences. While directing the program in Rio de Janeiro, she gave two lectures for students, and is in the process of signing a contract for the translation of her book into Portuguese by Devir Editora of São Paulo.

**Gillian Lord** has maintained an active pace during the past year. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in technology and language teaching, second language acquisition and Spanish linguistics, and is also involved with a variety of grants related to teaching with technology. In terms of research, she presented at several conferences on topics related to computer-assisted language learning, study abroad and language acquisition, and other areas of language learning. She has recently had articles published and accepted in journals such as *Foreign Language Annals* and *Hispania*, as well as a number of chapters forthcoming in edited volumes. On a personal note, in May of 2004 she was married to Harvey Ward, Jr. and they celebrated the birth of their daughter Resli in February of 2005!

The Department regrets to announce that Dr. **Andrew Lynch**, Assistant Professor of

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**Faculty Updates, cont'd.**

Spanish Linguistics, has accepted a position at the University of Miami beginning Fall 2005. Andrew has been a popular instructor and colleague and he will be sorely missed. We wish him the best of luck in his new position.



**Gregory E. Moreland** continues to serve as the Undergraduate Advisor in Spanish, Director of the FLAC program, and Director of UF in

Guanajuato. He recently created two new courses: "The Business and Culture of Sports in the Spanish-Speaking World" (FLAC) and "Pop Culture in the Spanish-Speaking World: Magazines, Movies, Music and More" (Guanajuato). In November, he was the invited guest speaker at a University of Central Florida workshop on Languages Across the Curriculum. During the Mexican-American Student Association's Chicano Week, he spoke about the music and cultural impact of deceased Tex-Mex singer Selena. And at the Summer 2004 AATSP Conference in Acapulco, Mexico, he presented a paper entitled "Spanish for Business at the University of Florida, 1998-2004."



**Carol Murphy** delivered a keynote speech, "Marguerite Duras: affect, écriture, lecture" at the Colloque Marguerite Duras at the University of Newcastle Upon

Tyne in England in September. She presented a paper, "Black and White in Color: Jean Paulhan's Essay on Jean Fautrier," at the UK Society for French Studies annual meeting at Cambridge University in July. Her essay, "Re-presenting the real: Jean Paulhan and Jean Fautrier" appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of *Yale French Studies*, and her essay on Marie Nimier, "Domino, ou le polar pervers," appeared in the Spring 2005 issue of *L'Esprit Créateur*. She is preparing an essay on Marguerite Duras to appear in the 2005 special issue of the *Cahiers de l'Herne* devoted to Duras's works.



**Geraldine Nichols** had a research leave in Spring 2004, and has been back teaching full time since Fall 04: just in time for the hurricanes! Last spring, she served as external evaluator of the

Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the U. of California, Irvine, and read invited papers at two conferences: one at Berkeley — "Familia, reproducción y futuro en la literatura de mujer" — and the other at Harvard: "No parirán: Resisting Orders in Postwar Narrative." She was the recipient of two grants to support her summer's research on the representation of reproductive issues in postwar Spain, and she spent six weeks in several libraries in Barcelona, reading disintegrating newspapers and magazines and viewing films. She is the Director of the UF in Seville program for Summer 2005, and will also direct the first semester-long study abroad program in Spanish, in Barcelona for Spring 2006.

**Sherrie Nunn** spent the summer of 2004 teaching in the University of Florida's study-abroad program in Rome, Italy, and will return to Rome with the same program in summer 2005. She continues as lecturer in Spanish and Italian, and as faculty advisor for Sigma Delta Pi.



**Charles A. Perrone** was visiting professor at Stanford University in spring 2004. While on the West Coast, he conducted several guest seminars and gave invited lectures

at the major University of California campuses. The topic of most of these appearances was transamerican poetics, on which he published a first major article in *Cha'squi*. He made two trips to Rio in summer 2004, to coordinate literature sessions at the Brazilian Studies Association meeting and to give an invited lecture at a colloquium organized by the Fundação Casa de Rui Barbosa on literature and technology. While in Brazil, Perrone saw the publication of his essays in edited volumes dedicated to Augusto de Campos and to Chico

Buarque, this item in collaboration with Prof. Ginway and one of her local interlocutors. Perrone should complete his book-in-progress on contemporary Brazilian lyric while on leave next academic year.



**David Pharies** traveled to Vienna, Austria, last October, where he gave two lectures, one in Spanish and the other in German! After many years of being dissatisfied with

available textbooks on the history of the Spanish language, he has written his own and is using it as a pilot text in his class this Spring. He hopes to publish it eventually in both Spanish and English.

**Alioune Sow** reports the following: In September I delivered a paper titled "Memory, Representation and Genocide" at the Southern Comparative Literature Association Annual meeting hosted by the University of South Carolina. I have had two essays published: "Biography and Colonial discourse in 'French West Africa'" in the journal *Social Dynamics*, (vol. 30. no. 1), and the other one on Malian literature titled "Tragédies élémentaires, ce que les astres ne disent pas" in the journal *Ponti / Ponts langues littératures civilisations des pays francophones* (No 4, 2004). To conclude, I will present in April, two papers at the African Literature Association 31st Annual Meeting in Boulder, Colorado.



**Mary Watt** and **Michael Paden** were both invited to speak at a conference sponsored by the Italian Consulate and Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton in December 2004.

The conference, aimed at exploring strategies for meeting the growing demand for Italian courses in the southeastern US, brought together instructors and professors of Italian from elementary school to University level programs. Dr. Watt spoke on the role of Italian in Interdisciplinary Studies and Dr. Paden spoke on the role of Study Abroad in the Italian Studies curriculum.

## Section and Program News

### Undergraduate French

Dr. Bernadette César-Lee, who is serving this year as French Undergraduate Coordinator, reports the following: (1) Enrollment of majors in French is stable with an increase of minors since 2003 and increased enrollment in French courses overall this year thanks to active recruitment on the part of all faculty at various events. (2) The offering of new advanced Summer courses at UF was successfully received with David Billa's FRE 3410 "Advanced French Conversation" and Heloise Seailles's FRE 3564 "Contemporary Culture" courses. (3) Many of our former majors are teaching in France and/or pursuing their academic career in France: Margot Bettencourt, Christina Higgins, Dana Connors, Jaime O'Dell, Kalin Linsberg, Rachel Gora... Several others are on their way: Joseph Swan, Jaime Perdomo, Miguel Bunker, Ralph Gedeon, among others. (4) Students for the first time were able to take French courses during spring break at the Paris Research Center, and during the summer with the Avignon program (see PRC report/Avignon report). (5) The French Honors Society (moderated by Daniele Buchler) saw

an increase in membership. (6) Starting this semester, the French Club now meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm, with faculty advisers (Nathalie Ciesco and Annie Trégouët) alternating meeting attendance. Officers include: Jennifer Basset, Brooke Ballou, Souleymane Faye, Sandy-Mehu Garcon, Karina Fernandez, Christopher Scoones, and Elissa Smith. Activities include: film screenings, conversation and games —on and off campus, and a picnic at Lake Wauburg on March 20 for the Jour de la Francophonie.

### Portuguese

The Portuguese section welcomed a new teaching assistant, Luciana Monteiro, who is pursuing a concentration in Brazilian Studies in Latin American Studies. Professors Ginway and Perrone prepared new courses for the diversifying major; these included an updated version of the popular-music enhancement section, an upper-division class on Brazilian science fiction, separate offerings for Luso-Brazilian Culture and Civilization, and a new rotating topic on cultural dimensions of Portuguese globalism (funded by the Center for European Studies and cross-listed with Women's Studies). In conjunction with this course, the Department co-sponsored a visit and lecture by Prof. Anna Klobucka of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Once again an

undergraduate student will be awarded travel money from the Alfred Hower memorial fund to attend the summer 2005 study-abroad program in Rio de Janeiro, now in its 24th year. Summer 2004 was another busy and successful year for the Copacabana program. At UF, the Brazilian Portuguese Club has met regularly this academic year under the supervision of adjunct Mary Risner, who also taught an enhancement section of Business Portuguese.

### Undergraduate Spanish

Dr. Greg Moreland, Undergraduate Coordinator of Spanish, reports that enrollment in Spanish courses continues to rise. The number of majors is holding steady in the neighborhood of 160, while the number of minors is rapidly increasing, from 120 in Fall 2003 to 163 in Fall 2004. Accordingly, enrollment in 3rd and 4th-year courses has grown as well, from 614 in Fall 2003 to 696 in Fall 2004. We continue to be hard-pressed to serve such a large cohort of students.

### Graduate Spanish

Shifra Armon, Graduate Coordinator for Spanish, reports that the Graduate Program in Spanish admitted four Ph.D. candidates and eight M.A. candidates in Fall 04. Among the

Continued on page 9

## J. Wayne Conner Memorial Fund

We have established a memorial fund in honor of Professor J. Wayne Conner, the founding chair (1962-1980) of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, who passed away on December 10, 2000. We most gratefully acknowledge the fund's promising start thanks to a generous contribution of \$40,000 by Mrs. Aileen Conner. The purpose of this fund is to provide initially a \$1,000 J. Wayne Conner Fellowship as a one-year supplemental grant to an incoming French graduate student selected by the faculty of the French section. Each year, a new French graduate student shall be the recipient of this fellowship. We appeal to our colleagues, alumni and alumnae, especially those who studied and worked with Dr. Conner, to contribute to this fund, to help us maintain it and gradually allow us to increase the number of recipients who, eventually, may include undergraduate students. To make a contribution, please detach the stub at the end of this newsletter and mail it in with your check. Please make your check payable to "The University of Florida Foundation" and note "J.Wayne Conner Memorial Fund #8517" on the left hand bottom of your check.

**Program news, cont'd.**

M.A.'s, Violeta Lorenzo is our first 4-1 student, which means that she managed to complete her first four graduate courses in Spanish while she was still an undergraduate at UF. We are delighted that Violeta accepted the challenge of pioneering this ambitious new track. According to Dr. Armon, Spanish graduate student representatives Alejandro Quin and Melanie D'Amico have done a great job this year. They organized a series of informal meetings with Dr. Armon in the Fall to clear up questions about procedures. Dr. Armon also reports that we celebrated our first annual Spanish graduate student brunch in January, at which 35 student and faculty showed up for a relaxing social afternoon at her home in Alachua. A student-run conference is in the works as well.

**Bilingual Program**

Susana Braylan, Coordinator of RLL's Bilingual Program, reports that the academic year 2004-2005 has been very rewarding and that she is looking forward to the challenges of a new year. She reports: "The Bilingual Program is growing nicely. It is a pleasure to see Bilingual students continuing their studies and majoring in Spanish. It is also rewarding to hear from them once they have left. We have a wonderful Hispanic community at UF that needs to be catered to and pampered so that its members will realize how important it is to maintain their heritage. I feel these classes honor their need to grow as Hispanics and to feel proud of their roots."

**France-Florida Research Institute**

**Greetings from the FFRI, from the Director, Carol Murphy.**

The France-Florida Research Institute is nearing the end of its third year of existence, during which it has sponsored over 70 events, including 8

We are constantly striving to expand and improve our graduate and undergraduate courses. We can continue to offer the excellent programs that we do only with your help. To donate, please see the last page of this newsletter or call us (352-392-2016, x222).

short-term visiting professorships, a film festival, the Jacques-Henri Lartigue exhibit at the Harn Museum of Art, and numerous lectures, conferences, and symposia. A highlight of the 2004-2005 calendar was the 22nd Annual 20th and 21st Century International French and Francophone Studies Colloquium, which was held at the University of Florida Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, March 31-April 2, 2005. Over 200 participants from universities in the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Sweden, Australia, and Japan gathered to present papers on the conference theme, "Verbal, Visual, Virtual: New Canons for the 21st Century." Keynote speakers included Professor Étienne Balibar, of the Université de Paris X and UC-Irvine, who spoke on "Constructions et déconstructions de l'universel," and Pierre Alferi, poet, philosopher and filmmaker, who addressed "Le Sens du Trait." Also present for special sessions on their works were the novelist Marie Nimier, 2004 Prix Médicis laureate for her novel *La Reine du Silence*, and Fred Forest, web artist and theoretician. Of the numerous events sponsored by the FFRI, it is important to mention the enormous success of the exhibit "Jacques-Henri Lartigue: A Boy, A Camera, An Era" (March-July 2004), co-curated by Dr. John Cech and Kerry Oliver-Smith. The exhibit – a joyous look at Lartigue's boyhood photography created at the Harn – is now at the Louisiana Art and Science Center in Baton Rouge, and will travel to the Elvehjem Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin. Two visiting FFRI professors came to UF in 2004. Professor Maati Monjib, Université de

Mèknes, Morocco, taught a course on African history last spring, with the cooperation of the Department of History and the Center for African Studies under the direction of Dr. Leo Villalón. Dr. Pierre Jacob of the Institut Nicod and the EHESS in Paris, delivered lectures in Philosophy and Linguistics and at the McKnight Brain Institute. Novelist Marie Nimier and international artist Hervé Di Rosa were guests of the FFRI in November for a series of lectures and seminars on their individual and joint works, and in December, Thierry Zéphir, curator of southeast Asian art at the Musée Guimet in Paris, delivered a slide lecture on the temples of Cambodia. In Spring 2005, the FFRI co-sponsored three events in conjunction with the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Center, co-directed by Assistant Professor of Italian Mary Watt, and the Department of English, including a seminar, a film conference, and a lecture and exhibit at the Thomas Center on the Bayeux Tapestry. In June 2004, Carol Murphy was invited to the second annual Seminar on Franco-American cooperation in Paris, France, by French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte. Accompanying her were CLAS Associate Dean for Research Lou Guillette and Zoology Professor Craig Osenberg, who each presented proposals to establish new partnerships between UF and French universities. UF is engaged in two grant proposals for funding from the French-American Fund in Academic Partnerships, one in Economics with the Université de Toulouse 1, and the other in Coral Reef Preservation with the Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes and its lab, CRIOBE, in Moorea, French Polynesia.

## Graduate Student Updates

**Stephanie Buck** is our first student in French to participate in the 4-1 B.A./M.A. program.

**Sophie Ganachaud** successfully passed her qualifying exams in December 2004. She is doing preliminary research for her dissertation, entitled *French-Italian Cinema: Translating the Body*. In spring 2004, she assisted Dr. S. Blum-Reid in the organization of the French film festival (FACSEA/FFRI) at UF. In summer 2004, she was a recipient of a CES travel grant and worked as coordinator of activities and taught French I at the PRC. In summer 05, she will continue her research and writing in France, thanks to the support of the Conner scholarship.

**Cynthia Lees**, a doctoral student in French, presented a paper at the American Council on Québec Studies Conference in Québec City (November, 2004) entitled "Le Nouveau Monde de Julien Vallières dans "L'Enfant chargé de songes." In April, on the UF campus, she will read "Acadian Identity—real or virtual?" at the 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium sponsored by RLL and the France-Florida Research Institute. Finally, in July, she will present a paper entitled "Teaching Reading at the Intermediate Level: Classic Film Clips and Lively Discussion" at the American Association of Teachers of French Conference in Québec City.

Many of our graduate students have reached major milestones over the last year, which we would like to recognize in this venue. The following students received the Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures: **Diana Serrano** (Spring 2004), **Gary Baker**, **Fernando Ojeda**, **Laura Ruiz**

(Summer 2004), **Giovanna Summerfield** (Fall 2004) and **Donald Rosenberg** (Spring 2005). Students who completed their qualifying examinations for the Ph.D. included **David Petrosky** (Spring 2004), **David Billa**, **Miguel DeFeo**, **Erica Fischer-Dorantes**, **Sophie Ganachaud**, **Ericka Parra**, and **Alegría Ribadeneira** (Fall 2004). Finally, the following students completed their M.A. degrees in Spanish or French: **Dania Abreu**, **Nicole Benevento**, **Jaime O'Dell**, **Melanie Van Steenburgh**, **Karina Vázquez** (Spring 2004), **Vanessa Bueno**, **Claudia García**, **Víctor Jordán**, **Sarah Kraemer**, **Violeta Lorenzo**, **David Nolen**, **María Parés**, **Alejandro Quin**, **Eider Sainz de la Maza** and **Verónica Tienza Sánchez** (Fall-Spring 2004 - 2005).

## Alumni Updates

In the fall semester of 2004, **Nicole Benevento** began work as a full-time Instructor in the Beginning Spanish language program in the Modern Languages Department of South Dakota State University. In the fall she taught three sections of first-year Spanish, and assisted the chair with an independent study on Spanish vocabulary, grammar and cultural knowledge as it relates to the health professions. Using this experience, she designed a new course, "Spanish for the Health Professions," which she is currently teaching. She also serves as faculty advisor of Sigma Delta Pi National Hispanic Honor Society, promotes Spanish to visiting high school students, and is coordinating a study abroad trip to Granada, Spain for the summer. She also recently gave a presentation at the South Dakota World Language Association.

The Department regrets to announce the untimely death of **Danielle Bro**, who received her Ph.D. in Romance

## Alfonsina Lorenzi Memorial Scholarship Fund



The "Alfonsina Lorenzi Memorial Scholarship Fund" is

accepting donations in memory of a graduate student in Spanish from Italy. Ms. Lorenzi passed away in 1999 after a battle with cancer. The scholarship awards a graduate student who shares Alfonsina's zeal with a cash prize. To make a contribution to this fund, please refer to the last page of this newsletter. Make your check payable to "The University of Florida Foundation," and note "Alfonsina Lorenzi Memorial Fund #6049" on the left hand bottom of your check.

Languages and Literatures in 1999. The news of Danielle's passing evoked some moving messages from her former faculty members. Dr. George Diller writes: "Danielle had a most uncommon gift with texts. Her readings - oral and written - of prose and poetry were sensitive and illuminating for students and professor alike. In the courses she took with me, and in long individual literary discussions with her, I considered her as a full equal for her literary skills. Had circumstances permitted her to take up a career at the university level, I am sure that she would have rapidly gained international distinction. Her passing marks a sad moment." Dr. Bernadette Cailler adds: "I remember several conversations I had with Danielle over the years. I was present

Continued on page 11

**Alumni updates, cont'd.**

at her PhD defense. What an impressive intellectual she was! Few people I know understand poetic language the way she did. I also remember congratulating her on her beautiful French. The power of her mind, the precision of her language and reasoning, the strength of her convictions were precious gifts to all of us. She will be remembered with respect and affection.”

**Martha Castañeda** has completed her Ph.D. in Second-Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology at the University of South Florida, and has also just accepted a tenure-track position at DePaul University in Chicago.

**Juan Gómez Canseco** reports that, after he graduated from RLL in 2000 with an M.A. in Spanish, he was hired as an assistant professor of Spanish by Santa Fe Community College (Gainesville, FL) where he earned tenure in 2004. At SFCC, he teaches mostly beginning Spanish for students who need to fulfill their foreign language requirement, but this semester he has added a new course, “Survival Spanish for Health Care Professionals”, in an effort to better serve the needs of our student community. He sends special greetings to Dr. Pharies, his M.A. thesis director, and to Dr. Joaquim Camps, from whom he received excellent professional training.

In July 2004, **Joe Johnson** (Ph.D. French, 1999) accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of

Foreign Languages (French & Spanish) at Clayton College & State University in southern Atlanta, after having spent four years at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, GA. Although he had just been promoted to Associate Professor at GSW, Joe believed that the position at Clayton State had a lot more potential in almost every respect. His recent publications include a half-dozen translations of French graphic novels, and he is credited as the editor of *The Adapted Victor Hugo* (New York: NBM Publishing, 2004), a graphics rendering of fifteen poems by Hugo. Joe is giving talks at the spring 2005 meetings of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and he recently accepted an invitation to become an Associate Editor for all things French with *Seventeenth-Century Notes*.

**Ernest J. (“Ernie”) Lunsford** received his Ph.D. in Spanish from RLL in 1974. He is now Associate Professor of Spanish at Elon University (North Carolina), where he has recently co-authored (with Patricia V. Lunn of Michigan State University) a textbook for advanced college-level Spanish classes, entitled *En otras palabras: perfeccionamiento del español por medio de la traducción* (Georgetown University Press, 2003).

Our former Ph.D. student, **Pamela F. Paine**, has been promoted to Associate Professor of French with tenure at Auburn University.

**Thank you!**

We extend special thanks to those who contributed to Romance Languages over the past year:

- Mr. Gregg B. Arum
- Ms. Barbara I. Bohuny
- Mr. Carter Boydston
- Mrs. Aileen Conner
- Ms. Roanne Coplin
- Paul R. & Carolyn B. DeLargy
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