

UCLA DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

UPDATES FALL 2006

Dear Friends:

I hope you will enjoy this "interim" newsletter as we shift our regular newsletter to a new publishing schedule. Here you will find some brief snippets on our new colleague Professor Jorge Marturano, on this year's Distinguished Alumnus Edward Stanton and on the many successes of our graduate students, recent alums and emeritus faculty. We must also report to you the sad news of the passing of our friend and colleague Professor Guillermo Hernández who was leading a group of students on a visit to Mexico City as part of the Department's summer program in Puebla, Mexico. He is sorely missed.

On a much happier note, I am pleased to announce the formation of a new UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese Friends and Alumni group. As, I trust, most of the recipients of this newsletter fall into one or both of these groups, I encourage you to take a moment to consider how you might like to be involved with the activities of this dynamic new organization. One fun and easy way to get started is to attend the Cash Bar which the Department will sponsor at this year's MLA Convention in Philadelphia (see insert). We look forward to seeing you there.

At the end of the year, we like to ask you to consider making a gift in support of the programs of the Department, and, especially in support of our great group of graduate students. A donation form is included with this newsletter for your convenience. Or, you can visit click the "Giving" tab from our website (www.humnet.ucla.edu/spanport/). If you are interested in making a major gift, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (dagenais@ucla.edu) or our Department Manager Caleb Na (q@humnet.ucla.edu) for more information.

I'll take this opportunity to wish all of you a most joyous holiday season.

-John Dagenais, Chair



30th Annual Symposium on Portuguese Traditions

On April 21-22, 2007, the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese will help sponsor the 30th annual Symposium on Portuguese Traditions. The Symposium is an annual forum dedicated to the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information about the language and culture of the far-flung Portuguese-speaking world, past and present. The Symposium was created and continues to be organized each year by Prof. Claude Hulet (pictured left). More information can be found on our website.

We'll see you at the MLA!

The UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese will host a cash bar at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association (MLA) in Philadelphia. Please stop by!

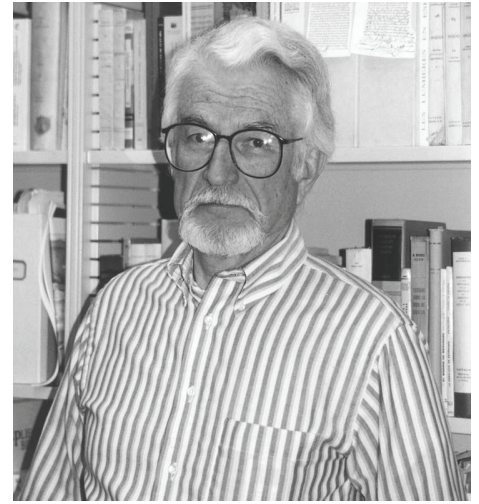
Thursday, December 28th,
5:15PM to 6:30PM
Commonwealth Hall C, Loews

Tradition of Excellence

Faculty are active and well-respected, not only in the U.S., but in Spain and Latin America. We have excellent “traditional” literary scholars as well as faculty working on film, “cutting edge” projects involving digital technology and in newly developing research and service areas such as Service Learning and Disability Studies. Some of our recent accolades include:

Carroll Johnson (pictured right), a specialist in Don Quixote, was chosen as the prestigious Faculty Research Lecturer in Spring 2005.

Outstanding record of Distinguished Teaching Awards for our ladder faculty: 2 in last three years and 4 Awards since 1998. (Verónica Cortínez, 1998, Efraín Kristal 2000, Jesus Torrecilla 2004, Elizabeth Marchant 2005).



Prof. Edward Stanton, 2006-2007 Distinguished Alumnus

Prof. Edward Stanton (Professor of Hispanic Studies, University of Kentucky) was recognized as our department’s 2006-2007 Distinguished Alumnus. After receiving his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1972, Prof. Stanton went on to achieve recognition as a leading scholar of modern Spanish poetry, literature, and popular culture. On November 3rd, Prof. Stanton gave a lecture to a capacity audience on the renowned painter, Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes entitled, “Goya’s Language.” In addition to his many scholarly books and articles, Prof. Stanton (pictured left with Prof. John Dagenais and Prof. Rubén Benítez) is also the author of “Road of Stars to Santiago”, an account of his own pilgrim journey.

New Faculty Joins Our Department

In a busy and important period of renewal, the Department has welcomed a new faculty member, and is actively recruiting for two other positions.

[Jorge Marturano](#) (Ph.D. Duke University 2006) has come as an Assistant Professor. Prof. Marturano is a specialist in Latin literature, with emphasis in Caribbean literature. His exciting dissertation “Vampiros en La Habana: discursos intelectuales, políticas de la cultura y narrativas de encierro en la República (1934-1958) is an exploration of the relationship between the discourses on culture elaborated by intellectuals, the politics of culture promoted by the State, and the narrative prose fiction of the period. We are proud to have Jorge join our faculty!

We hope to have two new positions filled by the end of Summer, 2007. One in the field of Literature of the Spanish Golden Age and one in the field of Luso-Brazilian.



NEW WEBSITE: The department is currently working on a new website. In addition to new features and a new interface, we will have a new, easier to remember, website address. Updates will be ongoing for the next several months, and although our old website will continue to be our primary source of information, we invite you to check our progress at www.spanport.ucla.edu

New Jobs for our Grads, Congratulations to ALL!!!

We wish to congratulate our recent graduates who have gone on to find the following positions...

Spring 2004

Benito Gomez CSU Dominguez Hills
Eric Mayer Central Washington University

Alessandra Santos
Suk Yong Yi

UCLA Faculty Fellow
Fullerton Community College

Summer 2004

Martin Sorbille U of Florida, Gainesville
Maite Conde Columbia University (NY)

Summer 2005

Damian Bacich Loyola Marymount
Kent Dickson Cal Poly Pomona
David Wood Lyons College, Arkansas

Fall 2004

Elisabeth Gárate Citrus Community College

Spring 2006

Yasmine Beale-Rosano Texas State University –
San Marcos
Catherine Fountain Appalachian State University
(part of U. of North Carolina)

Winter 2005

Eric Thau University of Hawaii

Spring 2005

Cristina Moon Chabot College - Hayward
Amy Rell Community College of Aurora (CO)
Jason Rothman University of Iowa

Summer 2006

Pilar Asensio Grinnell College (Iowa)
Iliana Alcántar UCLA Faculty Fellow
Chrystian Zegarra UCLA Faculty Fellow

Outstanding Teaching Assistants!

The Department has had the distinction of having three straight years of being honored for Distinguished Teaching Assistant award, and 5 of the 7 past years. (Sandra Perez-Linggi 2000, Caryl Lee-Benner 2001, Kelly Suk Yong Yi-Kang 2004, Catherine Fountain 2005, Brent James 2006 [Pictured right]).

If you would like more information on becoming a student in our department, please contact Ms. Hilda Peinado (peinado@humnet.ucla.edu) for graduate studies and Ms. Adriana Ruiz (adriana@humnet.ucla.edu) for undergraduate studies.



UCLA Spanish and Portuguese Friends and Alumni Group

The Department has launched a new Friends and Alumni group, which is led and organized by friends and alumni of the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese. On Sunday, October 15th, the department held our inaugural Opening Reception to provide an opportunity for our many friends and alumni to meet our faculty. All friends and alumni of the Department are encouraged to get involved.

For more information on this group, please contact Roberta Johnson via email (rjohnson@ku.edu).

CONTACT US: If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to join our email list-serve, which we use to disseminate information about our upcoming departmental events. If you have an email address and would like to be on this list, please email us at spinfo@humnet.ucla.edu

Guillermo Hernández (1940-2006)



The UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese is mourning the loss of one of its most eminent professors, Guillermo Hernández. Prof. Hernández died suddenly on July 16, 2006, at the age of 66.

Guillermo Hernández was a professor of Chicano and Mexican literature, an expert on the *corrido* and on many other manifestations of Mexican popular culture. That's the thing: Guillermo was so in love with Mexican popular culture from literature, to films, to music, to food. He died in Mexico City where he'd spent some years as director of the Education Abroad Program but this time he was there with a group of students he'd taken on the Summer Sessions Puebla Program. He was accompanied by his graduate student and TA, Felicitas Ibarra.

As reported in the LA Times, Prof. James Nicolopoulos, a *corrido* expert and Spanish professor at the University of Texas at Austin said, "He was one of the main motivators of current research in Mexican American popular culture... He's irreplaceable, and I don't know what we are going to do without him."

Our sincere condolences go out to Guillermo's family at this time of sorrow.

Politics of Memory: New Documentaries on the Spanish Civil War and the Franco Era

Together with the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University, the department is proud to co-host a bi-coastal film series for several new documentaries which highlight the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War and the decades of dictatorial rule which followed it. During the course of these events, directors and leading scholars have been discussing the argument that Spain must confront its past if it wishes to continue to move forward as a nation. (Pictured right, Prof. Maite Zubiaurre of UCLA, Prof. Shirley Mangini of Cal State Long Beach, Prof. Maria Donapetry of Pomona College, Director Guenter Schwaiger ("*Santa Cruz, por ejemplo*"), and Inocencio Arias, the Spanish Consul General in Los Angeles.



For more information on the documentary series, visit www.imagenescontraelolvido.com

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