



# THE NEWSLETTER



## Department of World Languages and Literatures



*One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.*  
- Frank Smith -



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### CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Dear friends of the World Languages and Literatures Department,

We are bidding farewell to another school year and I would like to share with you some of its highlights to keep you abreast of the developments in the Department.

Among the most significant events this year is the retirement of one of our most respected professors - Dr. Joseph Solodow will be leaving us in August after over 20 years of dedicated and outstanding research, teaching and service to the Department, the University, and the profession. Dr. Solodow's journey has been truly remarkable. We congratulate him on his many achievements and wish him happiness in his retirement.

Dr. Erin Larkin is stepping down as the Coordinator of the MA in Romance Languages at the end of this year. Dr. Larkin has been instrumental in getting this new program off the ground. She wrote the program proposal, recruited students for the program, shepherded multiple new and modified courses through the approval process, created many promotional events, and ensured that the MA in Romance Languages is off to a good start. During her coordination, over 20 students were accepted into the program and at least 3 students were able to graduate each year. Thank you, Erin, for all the efforts that you have contributed to ensuring the success of the program! Dr. Ruben Pelayo has been elected the new Coordinator of the MA in Romance Languages. We wish Dr. Pelayo the best in his new endeavor.

I also would like to acknowledge the work that has been done this year by Dr. Ilka Kostka who came to SCSU in May 2012 and has been instrumental in coordinating the Foreign Language Certification program, teaching classes in TESOL and German. We are happy that she will be contributing to both programs on part-time basis.

I am delighted to announce our new hire for Foreign Language Certification position – Dr. Christine Rapp Dombrowski. Some of you may know Dr. Dombrowski as a long-term adjunct professor at Southern. She has taught German at SCSU and has made significant contributions to program building. She will now be teaching courses on Foreign Language Teaching Methods, doing classroom observations, and coordinating the Foreign Language Certification program. Welcome aboard, Christine!

It would be amiss not to mention that two of our colleagues – Dr. Resha Cardone and Dr. Sobeira Latorre have been granted tenure and promotion to the level of Associate Professor this year. Please, join me in congratulating them on this accomplishment!

In addition to personnel changes, several exciting academic events took place this year. Pia Barros – a prominent Chilean writer and humanist came to Southern campus. We are very grateful to Dr. Resha Cardone for organizing the visit, securing the money to support it, and ensuring most exciting workshops and lectures by Pia Barros. We also welcomed to campus two of our colleagues from Spain – Dr. Elena Ortiz and Dr. Lluïsa Gea Valo. Their visit helped us familiarize ourselves with the structure of our counterpart in the Spanish exchange – Jaume I University in Castellon de la Plana, Spain. We are getting ready to welcome the first group of exchange students to our campus in August and hope that we will also have students who are interested in participating in this exchange in Spain. Another visitor to the department was the prominent applied linguist and language educator Dr. Meg Gebhard from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her talk “Scaffolding L2 Language and Academic Literacies: An SFL Perspective” introduced the audience to the concepts of Systemic Functional Linguistics, developed the concept of genre for language teaching, and provided opportunities for hands on analysis of various texts in relation to teaching languages. All of these visits were generously supported by Faculty Development grants.

I am proud to report that our faculty has been exceptionally productive this year. Many of our faculty members have presented at national and international conferences, published extensively, and were awarded multiple grants. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Pina Palma on the publication of her manuscript entitled “Savoring Power, Consuming the Times: The Metaphor of Food in Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature” by Notre Dame University Press.

We have celebrated many successes of our students this year. Special congratulations go to winners of the departmental awards. This year Miguel León was selected for F.J. Zilli Award; Douglas Relyea is nominated for Marguerite Fortier Smirnoff Memorial Endowed Scholarship; Gabriella Russo will be awarded Therese C. Petto Scholarship; Rebecca Emily Dube; Tess Christian Simchoni; and Enis Bukalo have all been selected to receive German Book Awards. Well done!

Our undergraduate students continue to have opportunities to travel abroad. France, Germany, Italy, and Spain have wonderful summer and exchange programs. If you are interested in visiting these countries, developing your proficiency in a world language, and getting to know cultures first hand, please, see Professors Arboleda, Eilderts, Palma and Schmitt for more information on these programs.

The two graduate programs in the Department continue to flourish. Both the MA in Romance Languages and the MS in Bilingual Education/TESOL have brought in new students, offered new courses, and celebrated graduations with our alums.

While the Department has had a successful year, we are looking ahead to determine what is best for our students. We are developing courses that would help undergraduates meet LEP requirements at Tier 1, 2 and 3 as well as make it easier to pursue a major or minor in a language. At the graduate level, we are upgrading our course offerings in the MS TESOL program and conducting intensive recruitment efforts for MA in Romance Languages.

In conclusion, I want to thank all my colleagues and all of our students for their hard work this year. It is your efforts that make this Department a success! Please, know that our doors are always open and we are happy to see you in the Department of World Languages and Literatures!

Elena Schmitt, Chairperson  
Department of World Languages and Literatures

## Dr. Joseph Solodow's Retirement Celebration



Professor Solodow gave a farewell and thank you speech at his retirement party

After more than 20 years of dedicated and outstanding research, teaching and service to the department and the university, Dr. Solodow officially retired in August 2013.

Colleagues and friends gathered at Carmine's Tuscan Grill in Westville on May 11 to celebrate Joe's retirement, and to wish him all the best on his new journey!

The party was full of joy, friendship and memories. Speeches were given, stories told and poems read in addition to good wine and delicious food! At the end, Joe received a Kindle Fire as a gift for his retirement. (Jian Wu)



Professor Ecklund told stories of the past



## FRENCH SECTION NEWS:

This year, the French section saw changes, new additions, and several events take place both on and off the SCSU campus.

Early on in the fall semester, Dr. Linda Olson hosted a welcoming reception for the section's new faculty member, Dr. Luke Eilderts, who came to us after two years as a visiting assistant professor at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Olson brought together students and faculty not only to sample bite-sized chicken cordon bleu, homemade crêpes, baked brie en croûte, as well as many other dishes, but also to exchange ideas about the place and future of the French program at Southern. Dr. Eilderts was thrilled to see so much enthusiasm for the program and said he looked forward to working with students and faculty in the future. A big thank you goes out to Dr. Olson who arranged the event.

Dr. Eilderts' commitment to the importance of Study abroad led him to continue the tradition of joining Professors Camille Serchuk (Art) and Thuan Vu (Art) in Paris for July 2013. Currently, there are six SCSU students signed up for Dr. Eilderts' course on French Language and Culture. During their month in the French capital, students will stay at the Cité Universitaire on the left bank, south of the famous Quartier latin and near the ultra-modern Bibliothèque nationale de France. Students will have the opportunity not only to visit, but also to learn about the evolution of the French capital through art, architecture, and cultural exchanges. Some of the highlights of the trip include visits to the Louvre museum, the Palace of Versailles, the Museum of Immigration, a picnic in front of the Eiffel Tower on Bastille Day, and many others. Dr. Eilderts looks forward to sharing images and student experiences in next year's department newsletter after they return from the City of Light.

The French Club has been very active this year, planning weekly meetings, game nights, and

volunteering in the community. The officers this year were Shelli Stevens (president), Raysa Florentino (vice-president), Angelique Boucher and Jessica Yapangui (Secretaries), and Thomas Cowden and Tommy Theodore (Treasurers). Elections were held at the close of spring semester and next year's officers will be Hafssa Chbihi (president), Jessica Yapangui (vice-president), Justine Belda (secretary), and Raysa Florentino (treasurer). During the fall and spring semesters, members participated in bi-weekly gatherings where they planned service and social events, and watched and discussed French news via the Internet all while sharing baked goods, cheeses, and Perrier.



Michelle "Shelli" Stevens, Hafssa Chbihi, Justine Belda

The French club hosted a bake sale that was held in the Adanti Student center on March 21, 2013. Thanks to everyone who donated or bought our baked goods. We had a very successful fund raising campaign and the club plans to use the money to buy sashes for graduating members of the club.

On April 13, 2013, the French Club prepared lunch for residents at the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut located at 501 George Street in New Haven next to Saint-Raphael Hospital. The Ronald McDonald House provides at little to no cost a "home-away-from-home" for families with seriously ill

children, many of whom travel great distances to seek the medical care their child so desperately needs. French Club members cooked pasta in red sauce, meatballs, and garlic bread. This was accompanied by a mixed salad of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots with a variety of dressings. They ended their meal with freshly baked chocolate chip and sugar cookies to the delight of the residents. Members then met afterwards for lunch at Atticus Café and Bookstore in New Haven where they spoke French in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

For spring 2013, Dr. Olson was awarded a sabbatical release to begin work on her book-length project entitled “Purgatory in Medieval and Renaissance French Literature.” This book will fill gaps in both French literary studies as well as in the larger field of medieval and Renaissance *mentalités*. In providing an extensive corpus of works concerning Purgatory written in the vernacular for lay people, we will better apprehend significant aspects of reality and of spirituality within the majority of the populace. These texts are typical of those most often encountered by medieval folk, and

are therefore interesting and important as sociological and historical documents. They help us to understand how individuals perceived their universe, what meanings they ascribed to their lives, and what expectations they had for rewards or punishments after death. Further, these texts contribute meaningfully to what Dr. Olson

sees as a generalized evolution from generalized fear and dependence toward increased optimism and autonomy. These latter, newly-emerging traits have long been seen as heralding the Renaissance. Her “new” texts contribute evidence for the validity of this drastic paradigm-shift between historical epochs, for they are both witnesses to and proponents of the increased empowerment and valorization of the individual within late western medieval society. As individual lay people gained increasing control of certain aspects of religious observance—to the point of “buying” eternal salvation, as some saw it—this control, in helping to ensure their eternal felicity, also desensitized them to the horrors of traditional penitential literature, which became heavily parodied in Catholic countries and repudiated in Protestant lands.

This year also saw the passing of one of our most memorable and beloved students, Sean

Whalley. Dr. Connie Ecklund, professor emerita, was with him during his final hours. His love of all things French as well as his courage in the face of his illness was an inspiration to all who knew him. The French section would like to dedicate this year



Michelle "Shelli" Stevens, Luke Eilderts, Jessica Yapangui,  
Tommy Theodore

to the memory of Sean. Below, please read Victor Hugo's poem, “Demain, dès l'aube,” which we include here in Sean's honor.

Demain, dès l'aube, à l'heure où  
blanchit la campagne,  
Je partirai. Vois-tu, je sais que tu  
m'attends.

J'irai par la forêt, j'irai par la montagne.  
Je ne puis demeurer loin de toi plus longtemps.

Je marcherai les yeux fixés sur mes pensées,  
Sans rien voir au dehors, sans entendre aucun bruit,  
Seul, inconnu, le dos courbé, les mains croisées,  
Triste, et le jour pour moi sera comme la nuit.

Je ne regarderai ni l'or du soir qui tombe,  
Ni les voiles au loin descendant vers Harfleur,  
Et, quand j'arriverai, je mettrai sur ta tombe  
Un bouquet de houx vert et de bruyère en fleur.

Please contact either Dr. Linda Olson (olsonl1@southernct.edu) or Dr. Luke Eilderts (eilderts11@southernct.edu) with any questions about French at Southern.

-Luke Eilderts, Assistant Professor of French



Sameul Hylwa, Douglas Relyea, Luke Eilderts, Michelle "Shelli" Stevens

**FRENCH**

## ITALIAN SECTION NEWS:



Annie Tullo, Amelia Mirsky, Samantha Rudewicz, Elisabetta Corrado, Gabriela Russo, Delanie Cook and Paul Gramolini were inducted into the Gamma Kappa Alpha Honor Society in November 2012

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the SCSU chapter of *Gamma Kappa Alpha National Italian Honor Society* welcomed nine new members. Faculty celebrated with family and friends of the student-scholars at an induction ceremony and reception that took place in Engleman Hall. In one of several community events, the honor society visited the Yale University Art Gallery in February; Professor Pina Palma guided students and faculty through highlights from the early Tuscan Renaissance collection.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, students from Professor Larkin's *Italian Modernisms* seminar went to



the Beinecke Rare Book Library in New Haven. There, they explored the Marinetti collection, and got to examine first-hand diaries, speeches, letters, photos, and original drafts of *manifesti* by futurist writers and artists that they have studied during the semester. Students were encouraged to return by collection curator, Tim Young, to continue



Graduate student Linda Latimer examines papers from the Marinetti collection at the Beinecke Rare Book Library in New Haven

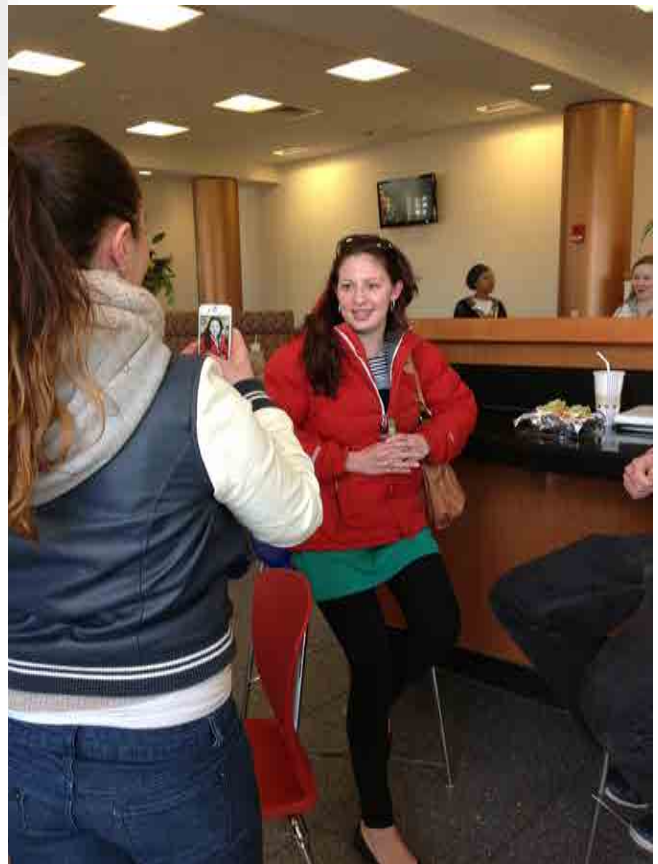
As part of a group project, Dr. Vitale's *Italian Composition* class polled students and faculty across the campus to ascertain beliefs about Italian culture and how it is perceived in the community. They filmed the interviews, and will present their conclusions in a multi-media project, which will be posted on the *Italian at SCSU* Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ItalianatSCSU](http://www.facebook.com/ItalianatSCSU)).

-Erin Larkin, Assistant Professor of Italian

italian  
if9!9u



Professor Pina Palma guides Italian Honor Society students through highlights of the early Renaissance collection at the Yale University Art Gallery



Italian minor Amelia Mirsky filming a student's answers to her poll

## SPANISH SECTION NEWS:

The Spanish section had a productive and exciting year! This year, the Spanish section welcomed Dr. Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco and Dr. Miaowei Weng as Assistant Professors of Spanish specializing in Contemporary Peninsular literary and cultural studies. The section is also happy to announce that two of our current full-time faculty members, Dr. Resha Cardone and Dr. Sobeira Latorre, were granted tenure and promotion to the level of Associate Professor. Two new coordinators served as the section's leaders this year: Dr. Rafael Hernández is currently serving as the Coordinator of the Spanish section, while Dr. Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco is the Coordinator of the Spanish Basic Language Program. Both Professors Sosa-Velasco and Hernández started the 2012-2013 academic year by welcoming everyone during the fall semester orientation meeting for our part-time faculty in Spanish on August 25, 2012. After a delicious breakfast co-sponsored by Pearson, the orientation's program included an introduction by Professors Hernández, Sosa-Velasco, and the World Languages and Literatures Department Chairperson, Elena Schmitt, a presentation on foreign language teaching and technology given by Lab Director, Dr. Jian Wu, and a discussion of the Spanish Basic Language Program and curriculum led by Professors Hernández and Sosa-Velasco. The orientation ended with a training workshop for our new part-time faculty members.

On December 7, 2012, the Spanish section held the *Sigma Delta Pi* initiation ceremony. Professors Carlos Arboleda, Resha Cardone, Luisa Piemontese, and Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco welcomed the following members to the national collegiate Hispanic Society: Jeffrey Arbeláez, Kyle Ebdon, Alexander Ehrenreich, Anthony Gómez, Jessica Materin, Katie O'Brien, Emily Uleano, and our new colleague Dr. Miaowei Weng. *Sigma Delta Pi* is devoted to maintaining academic excellence in Hispanic studies and supporting the Hispanic community

and its culture. According to Dr. Weng, "becoming a new member of this community through the initiation ceremony *ritually* recognized and confirmed my imagination of myself as a Hispanist and connected me to the group of 'we.' This confirmation and connection has brought along with it to me a strong sense of responsibilities for promoting Spanish language and culture." In the last two years, we have welcomed twenty-two people to *Sigma Delta Pi*, including undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members. Juniors and seniors who are majoring in Spanish are invited to contact the chapter advisor, Dr. Resha Cardone ([cardoner1@southernct.edu](mailto:cardoner1@southernct.edu)) to learn more about *Sigma Delta Pi* and its benefits and nomination procedures.

At the beginning of the spring semester, Dr. Sosa-Velasco held a Faculty Development Workshop on Teaching for our part-time faculty in Spanish. Professors Schmitt, Piemontese, and Sosa-Velasco presented three 20-minute micro-teachings in Russian, Silent Way, and Catalan, followed by an open discussion about foreign language teaching methodology.

From February 26 to February 28, 2013, the preeminent Chilean fiction writer and activist Pía Barros, winner of the Altazor Prize for her book *El lugar del otro*, spent three days at SCSU interacting with our faculty and students. During her visit, Barros talked to students enrolled in HON240 and WMS100/SPA398 about the Chilean feminist movement and her participation in it, directed a writing workshop in which the students enrolled in these courses composed stories that resulted in the on-line publication, ¡Basta! *Estudiantes de SCSU contra la violencia de género*, and presented a bilingual reading of her latest work in a book-launching ceremony. Barros also met informally with one of our part-time faculty members in the Spanish section, Cristina McQueeney, who is writing her MA thesis about Barros's work. The section would like to thank Dr. Resha Cardone



for organizing Barros's visit to SCSU and providing Spanish to English translations, along with Jane Griffith, at many of the scheduled events. The events were a complete success and there was an enthusiastic response to Barros's visit. Some attendees asked for "More please! More resistance work; more student writing workshops!" while others said: "I enjoyed the escape from traditional learning and was happy to have my creativity embraced and accepted;" "An excellent example of the power and urgency of the spoken and written word;" "It was a very collaborative effort. Given the time limits, a great deal of information was provided, along with powerful insight." Everyone coincided in the need of organizing more events like these ones: "Let's do it again!" Barros's visit was co-sponsored by the Minority Recruitment & Retention Committee, Office of Faculty Development, Honors College, Women's Studies Program, and the Department of World Languages and



From left to right, top to bottom: Diana Laroe, Laura Brunetti, Resha Cardone, Rochelle Hebert, Courtney Baird, Jake Grubman, John Charpie, Sarah Rizzuto, Katherine González, Tricia Lin, Alex Ehrenreich, Pía Barros, Patricia Zapata and Shayza Villafane



Pia Barros, Maria Cristina McQueeney, and Resha Cardone

During the academic year, two of our full-time faculty members, Carlos Arboleda and Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco, were elected Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively, of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP-CT). This year's AATSP-CT spring conference, which took place on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Fairfield

University, brought together academics, students, artists, and media personalities to engage in a critical dialogue on the topic of "Mulataje y mestizaje cultural: El quehacer pedagógico contemporáneo." On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Catherine Murphy presented her documentary *Maestra* and the Orquídea de Colombia Group, directed by Phanor Terán, danced Colombian folkloric dances. Murphy's film features nine women who, as young girls, taught on the Cuban Literacy Campaign of 1961. More than 250,000 volunteers (many under 18 and over half women) taught 700,000 people to read and write in one year in Cuba. *Maestra* explores this story through the personal testimonies of the young women who went out to teach literacy in rural communities across the island - and found themselves deeply transformed in the process. According to Catherine Murphy, "this film is not just about literacy, it is also about youth empowerment and women's empowerment and about what is possible. It is about young people who threw themselves into an impossible task, and helped to build a new society." On April 20<sup>th</sup>, thirteen panelists from all of the Americas, especially from Colombia and Venezuela, read

papers in the conference. The plenary lecture, “Mulataje Cultural y Educación,” was given by Dr. Alejandro Ulloa Sanmiguel, from Universidad del Valle (Cali, Colombia). Two of our full-time faculty members, Dr. Rubén Pelayo and Dr. Luisa Piemontese, and two of our part-time faculty, Marilin Sarria and Jordano Quaglia, also presented at the conference: “Las mulatas en la obra de Gabriel García Marquez: voz, amor y magia,” “Muwallad: El mulataje en *El Conde Lucanor*,” “¿Hay racismo en Cuba?,” and “Razas y mestizaje en *Cholos* de Jorge Icaza,” respectively. The ATTSP-CT conference was co-sponsored by Fairfield University, Quinnipiac University, Red Iberoamericana de Pedagogía REDIPE, Central Connecticut State University and Southern Connecticut State University. The conference presenters shared experiences with colleagues and students, made new contacts, strengthened existing relationships, and shared their ideas and the latest knowledge about “mulataje,” “mestizaje,” and education. The conference proceedings will be published in the upcoming bulletins of REDIPE.

Under the direction of Dr. Carlos Arboleda, a total of thirty-three students will be participating in the 2013 SCSU Summer Program in Salamanca, Spain. Seven of our students were awarded a SGA Scholarship to attend the Colegio de España in Salamanca: Olivia Grace Ryan, Erica Nicole Martino, Cody Catherine Yacavone, Gina Ann DiVirgilio, Jackson Oliver Stonier, David Solomon Kowal, and Laura Jeanne O’Brian. The award recipients were chosen through a competitive selection process based on a demonstrated good GPA in their undergraduate studies. The scholarship will be used to defray study abroad costs, including program tuition, room, and board, insurance and international airfare, among other travel related expenses. For more information about the study abroad Summer Program in Salamanca, please contact Dr. Arboleda [arboleda1@southernct.edu](mailto:arboleda1@southernct.edu).



Rubén Pelayo giving his paper entitled “Las mulatas en la obra de Gabriel García Marquez: voz, amor y magia”

“To an author with international recognition for his books on Gabriel García Márquez, nothing can compare to spending time with the Nobel Laureate”, says Professor Pelayo. The picture shows them walking together in Mexico City during the Spring Break of 2013. Meeting him in person, for the third time, is far more significant than just reading about him, says the professor.

The Spanish Section held a one-day retreat on May 9, 2013. During the retreat, we identified ways to continue updating our curriculum at all levels, from basic language courses to upper-level classes for majors and minors and our graduate offerings. Our efforts seek to increase the presence of the Spanish language on campus and in the New Haven community at large.

Please contact either Dr. Rafael Hernández ([hernandezr3@southernct.edu](mailto:hernandezr3@southernct.edu)) or Dr. Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco ([sosavelascal1@southernct.edu](mailto:sosavelascal1@southernct.edu)) with any questions about Spanish at Southern.

-Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Coordinator of the Spanish Basic Language Program

# Spanish

## LATINO COMMUNITIES IN CONNECTICUT:

In Summer Session B of 2012, Luisa Piemontese developed and implemented a curriculum for SPA210 based on a book written by Guadalupe Ramos, a journalist originally from Mexico who immigrated to the US and is now living in Stamford, CT and writing for local Latino newspapers. Her book is entitled *Historias para contar de este lado del río* (*Stories to Tell From This Side of the River*), and is a non-fictional collection of 36 short stories about local Latino immigrants

who have been successful in CT. The individuals featured in the book represent various fields, such as education, politics and government, medicine, film, sculpture and painting, gastronomy and the culinary arts, literature, theater, entrepreneurship, and community service. Students in SPA210 used the stories to perfect their reading skills while learning about real people with real struggles. They had the opportunity to meet and talk to Guadalupe Ramos about her life, her work, and many important issues regarding the Latino communities in CT. Also, many of the people featured in the book are still around locally and are very accessible. As a final project, students were asked to contact one of the people featured in the book, interview them, and complete a presentation regarding their life and work. This was a very successful course, in which students were able to use their language and culture skills to communicate first-hand and learn about the local Latino communities in Connecticut.

-Luisa Piemontese, Professor of Spanish



SPA210 group with Guadalupe Ramos on the day of her visit to SCSU



## M.A. IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES PROGRAM NEWS:

The MA in Romance Languages—which offers advanced training in literature, language and cultural theory to students of French, Italian and Spanish—hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Open Class event to welcome future graduate students on April 17, 2013. In the first portion of the evening, WLL faculty Dr. Sobeira Latorre and Dr. Erin Larkin opened *Culture of Expression*—one of the program’s core seminars—to prospective students. After a discussion on that week’s assignment—theoretical readings on food culture—the class took a more informal

turn: current students shared dishes they had prepared, which represented various countries of study, and future MA students got to hear about their experiences in the program, as well as meet graduate faculty and learn more about the department and its course offerings. The event was a success, thanks to the efforts of current graduate students and the participation of WLL faculty. Do you know of someone who might be interested in graduate studies in French, Italian, or Spanish? Let them know about the MA in Romance Languages at SCSU! Questions? Email program coordinator Dr. Erin Larkin at [larkine3@southernct.edu](mailto:larkine3@southernct.edu).



Third Annual Open Class Event to promote the M.A. in Romance Languages

# MA in Romance Language

## **SCSU's TESOL and TAT Program in the K-12 School Districts:**

SCSU's TESOL Program is regularly connected to CT's K-12 public school communities through its federally-funded Training for All Teachers Program. With its most recent previous grant and with its current 5-year grant, the TAT program has funded over 30 scholarships to local K-12 content teachers who wish to pursue a cross-endorsement in ESL, and has offered professional development training on "Best Instructional Practices for English Language Learners" to over 400 teachers.

This past year, that TAT program found itself facing the intersection of two unusual challenges:

- TAT scholars who had completed or nearly completed their MS degree were obligated to "pay it forward" by offering some sort of "training" experience to other mainstream teachers. But the scholars had not yet determined exactly how they were going to meet this final commitment to the program.
- Upon completion of the 10-hour professional development training, mainstream teachers regularly express concern that they will not have enough time or guidance to adequately modify their curriculum to make their instructional units comprehensible to new or intermediate EL students.

This intersection was just the catalyst needed to create a unique resolution to both of these challenges. The solution was to offer week-long Curriculum Institutes.

Under the guidance and supervision of TAT Program Manager, Marisa Ferraro, nine of our TAT scholars pulled together teams of teachers within their own school, grade level, and discipline with the intent to dedicate one full week of summer to the modification of their own instructional unit. Each team met on their own, at the location of their choice. The TAT scholar served as team leader and professional trainer, guiding their peer colleagues in the practice of sheltered instruction, a practice whereby teachers make their course content comprehensible to new language learners and create varied opportunities for the students to produce target language about the course content, both orally and in written form.

Think of the difficulty our world language students have struggling with content during the early stages of their second language development. Recent immigrants do not have the luxury of waiting until their new English language is further developed to tackle content; they are required to work with course content as soon as they arrive. This is a daunting task, not only for the student, but also for the teacher. Together, in discipline teams, teachers from various schools in New Haven dedicated 1-3 weeks, revising current curriculum and developing new materials, so that, come the new school year, their EL students would also be able to access the course content.

Following is a table of MS/TESOL TAT scholars who led the teams, and the curriculum topics which they worked on, one topic per week.

# TAT CURRICULUM INSTITUTE TEAM LEADERS

Team Leader	Grade	Curriculum Unit Topics
Chris Bowman, Monica Bunton, Michael Soares	2	A Guide of Instructional Practices for Teachers
		Country Culture Cards (to distribute for teachers)
Melissa Cardonita	3	Animal Heroes
Katie Checko	K	Feelings Unit
	2	Writing Personal Expository
Leslie Lopez	2	Nutrition Science Unit
		Solids Science Unit
		Solids & Liquids Science Unit
Judy Leach	5	Sound & Light
Maggie Stevens	6	Explorers
		The Elements of Fiction in "No More Dead Dogs"
	7	A Post Card from Latin America
Cora Munoz	2	Period 1: Letter Writing
		Reading
Ricky Padro	H.S.	Algebra I & Algebra II
		Precalculus
Jennifer Brown	7	An Investigative Unit on the Metric System
	3	Rocks & Minerals: Moh's Hardness Scale

## Student Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of three group members: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the boxes with "YES" or "NO" to identify the characteristics of these minerals.  
Then use this information to try to identify a mystery mineral.

QUARTZ					
	Fingernail 2	Penny 3	Knife 5	File 6.5	Quartz 7
Scratches object					
Is scratched by object					
CALCITE					
	Fingernail 2	Penny 3	Knife 5	File 6.5	Quartz 7
Scratches object					
Is scratched by object					
FELDSPAR					
	Fingernail 2	Penny 3	Knife 5	File 6.5	Quartz 7
Scratches object					
Is scratched by object					

The point where the specimen shifts over from being scratched by the object to scratching the object indicates the hardness of the given mineral. Record the observed hardness for the three minerals tested.






QUARTZ \_\_\_\_\_

CALCITE \_\_\_\_\_



It is difficult enough to try to make content comprehensible for ELs with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade topics, as illustrated in the proceeding page from Jen Brown's unit on Rocks and Minerals.

Imagine then, the challenge it is for high school teachers who are dealing with abstract concepts all day long. Below is one page of Ricky Padro's unit on Algebra II that illustrates the work involved in making course content comprehensible for the language learner in the classroom.

<b>Function Family</b>				
<b>Function Name</b>	<b>Lead Variable</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Shape of Graph</b>	<b>It has a...</b>
<b>Linear</b> (steady rate)	$x^1$	$y = 4x + 7$	Line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• slope</li> <li>• y-intercept</li> </ul>
<b>Quadratic</b> (area, height of falling objects)	$x^2$ (x squared)	$y = 3x^2 + 5x - 8$	Parabola 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vertex</li> <li>• max or min value</li> <li>• y intercept</li> <li>• zeros</li> </ul>
<b>Absolute Value</b> (rebounding)	$ x $ (absolute value of x)	$y =  x + 6  - 1$	V - Shape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vertex</li> <li>• max or min value</li> <li>• symmetry</li> </ul>
<b>Cubic</b> (Volume)	$x^3$ (x cubed)	$y = 2x^3 - 7x^2 + x$	Varies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inflection Point</li> <li>• local max</li> <li>• local min</li> <li>• x- intercept (zero)</li> </ul>
<b>Exponential</b> (Population Growth & Decay)	$n^x$ (n raised to the x power)	$y = 50(1.07)^x$	Curve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• variable exponent</li> <li>• initial amount</li> <li>• growth factor</li> <li>• Horizontal Asymptote, <math>y = 0</math></li> </ul>

While the TAT staff only happened upon the idea of these week-long, independent Curriculum Institutes, in response to the unexpected intersection of several challenges, the net results were some of the most satisfying community collaboration that we have experienced to date. New teachers, previously untrained in sheltered instruction, learned hands-on how to modify instructional materials for their ELs. TAT scholars met their scholarship commitments to “pay it forward”. And EL students throughout New Haven reaped the benefits of these creative efforts as they worked with the instructional units during their fall and spring semesters.

PS: The TAT program is currently working to turn their ELL curriculum library into a virtual library, so that materials such as the ones developed in the Curriculum Institutes will be available to all content teachers.

-Lorrie Verplaetse, Professor, Coordinator of TESOL & Bilingual Education

TESOL and TAT

## LANGUAGE LAB NEWS:

In the summer of 2012, supported by the state bond funds, the Foreign Language Lab acquired two Apple iPad Learning Labs. Each iPad learning lab has 13 iPads on a cart that can travel to a regular classroom to turn the room immediately into a lab. The iPad lab is also equipped with a teacher's MacBook Pro, an Optoma PICO projector, a JBL Onbeat loudspeaker, and Kids Gear Volume Limiting headphones, all in one cart. In the Fall semester of 2012, we started using the iPad lab in EN D149 and in the Spring semester of 2013, we expanded the use of the portable lab also to EN C132.

The immediate benefit that the iPad labs have brought to the department is to allow us to open more class sessions that require lab time. As a result, some classes, which we were not able to offer in the past due to the limited availability of our two regular computer labs, can be offered now. Most importantly, the iPad learning labs have brought new and exciting learning and teaching experiences to students and teachers.

The new technology also brings new challenges to our teachers. Due to the different setup and compatibility of the iPad labs as compared to the regular computer labs, teachers cannot do things exactly in the same way any more. They need to change their teaching practice to take advantage of the mobile features of the iPad labs and to encourage more cooperative learning. They need to explore new teaching approaches and styles that will work well with the new technology and our students, a generation born and growing up with the new technology.

We have gained valuable experiences over the past year in using the iPad learning labs.

Some of the applications gaining popularity among instructors and students include Recorder Pad, Story Kit, Puffin web browser, VoiceThread, and SchoolShape. We will continue to explore new applications for the iPad learning labs and their use for language learning and teaching. For the new academic year, we are planning to add 10 iPad minis to one of the carts so that we can let every student have an iPad even in a big class if that is what the instructor desires.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, we conducted a technology forum on iPad learning labs and new tools. Kayo Yoshikawa, Rafael Palacios and Jordano Quaglia shared their experience in using the iPad labs. Luisa Piemontese and her intern Seth introduced Duolingo, a crowd source language learning tool that can be used on iPads, smartphones, and other similar mobile devices. James Garofolo gave a demonstration of SchoolShape and the class activities he created with SchoolShape for his class.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, we conducted a workshop on using the Smartboard in EN D149. Participants learned how to use the basic features of the Smartboard. They also learned how to use the Smartboard for interactive language teaching and learning activities designed with programs such as Smart Notebook, Quizbreak and Prezi. After the workshop, many participants expressed interests in learning more about those programs, particularly Prezi and Quizbreak.

Another program, which has been gaining popularity over the past year among instructors, particularly the French instructors, is Lingt, an online tool for

designing listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. Many instructors gave a very high mark to the tool for its ease of use and effectiveness for designing activities and providing feedback to students. It is a good replacement of LabRecorder, a program outdated by the new computer operating system.

SchoolShape, designed by a British company, is a powerful language Lab program that can be used in both a regular

lab and an iPad lab, and may eventually replace TestFabrik, a program becoming outdated and not compatible with the iPad labs. We currently have a trial license for the program and are planning to officially start using it in Fall semester 2013.

Jian Wu, Foreign Language Lab Director

## Foreign language lab



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