

December 16th, 2008 - García Lorca

The García Lorca Foundation has a [new webpage](#) full of goodies. Check it out!

December 10th, 2008 - Sarah Cacicio has published in Asturian!

Sarah Cacicio graduated last year from our program. After graduation, she applied for a teaching position offered by a program sponsored by the Spanish government. She is now working as a High School English teacher in Mieres, Asturias (Northern Spain.)

Sarah has just written to us with exciting news: she has just published an article on the past U.S. presidential elections in [Les Noticias](#), a local newspaper. The original article was written in Spanish and was translated into Asturian, an endangered romance language spoken in Asturias. For your reading pleasure, she has sent us an English version, which we reproduce below.

Congratulations, Sarah! You should know that you can practice your Asturian with all members of the editorial board of this newsletter.

Title in Asturianu: Sí, podemos. Sí, fixímoslo.

Title in Spanish: Sí, podemos. Sí, lo hicimos.

Translation: Yes, we can. Yes, we did.

When Barack Obama won the election I felt, for the first time, proud to be American. My friend and I followed the election all night with the rest of Spain, until they announced the results at dawn. I told her she could stop telling people she was Canadian.

And it was true.

As I arrived to work, people congratulated me. My students applauded in class. The woman who sold me the newspaper thanked me for voting.

The results of this election transcend Barack Obama and the Democratic party, clearing a new path for our country. As Obama observed, we are better than what these last eight years have demonstrated. Our country comprises innumerable immigrants, languages, cultures, and ideals. We should use this singularity in order to benefit everyone, both in and outside of our nation.

What struck me most was that it was my generation, young Americans, who was able to push the campaign forward in the last moments. For once, we, along with other marginalized groups, chose hope in place of cynicism. We reached for social equality instead of racism.

This is not to say that all socio-political problems will now be resolved. Rather, history does not repeat itself. Each generation adds a new perspective, which becomes more global by the minute. Fifty years ago, African-Americans did not even have the right to vote, and today, we have elected a black president.

I cannot say exactly what Obama will change as president, but clearly change has already been set in motion. Through this election, we have reclaimed our political voice. We have questioned the current situation, taken action, and above all, taken responsibility as citizens of The United States, and of

the global world. We have learned that we are active participants in history, and more importantly, that we have the capacity to revise it.

Sarah Cacicio is an English teacher at I.E.S. Sánchez Lastra, Mieres

December 10th, 2008 - Help the Boston Puerto Rican Festival

Since 1967, Festival Puertorriqueño has organized an annual Puerto Rican in Boston. Santiago Reyito, the president of this organization, has contacted us. They need help setting up a webpage to advertise the festival. If you are looking for an opportunity to do some volunteer work, please contact Santiago (Reyito.Santiago@state.ma.us)

December 8th, 2008 - Where are our graduates (II)? Michelle Costa

Since I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in December 2002, I entered the workforce and joined Partners Healthcare working in their Clinical Trials Department. It was a good experience since I was able to work in the legal aspect of what goes on behind Clinical Trials. But, it helped me realize a couple of things: I didn't want to be a lawyer, and I wanted something more.

In 2005, I entered Emerson College and studied for a Master's Degree in Journalism specifically Print and Multimedia. Within a year, I began working as a Copy Editor for DigitalCameraInfo.com and CamcorderInfo.com both subsidiaries of Reviewed.com. It's a compilation of various websites that review electronics. It was a lot of fun and a lot of work. We often went to trade shows such as the Consumer Electronics Show, essentially the "mecca" for technogeeks.

I've since moved on from Reviewed.com, but I continue to work as a Copy Editor and Proofreader. Due to the most recent turn of events in the world politically and economically, I have had an epiphany, of sorts. There is more to life than being a cube monkey, chained to the desk 9-5, working to be a weekend warrior. In the interim, I'm working as a freelance copy editor/ proofreader.

I am forever grateful for my time at UMASS, Boston. I can honestly say that the Hispanic Studies Department was really supportive and the professors have always been there for me. As a student and even now, 6 years later, I feel comfortable going back to ask for career advice or get some feedback. My time with the program helped foster my critical thinking skills and wanting to reach out for more. In fact, the torment, I mean, challenges not to mention the good experiences of writing my undergraduate honors thesis have prompted me to start submitting applications for Ph.D. programs. Wish me luck as I enter this new chapter. If I could be half as good as the professors that I've encountered in the department, that would be an honor.

December 8th, 2008 - Sasha Cronin Perú Experience

Sasha Cronin, a recent graduate, has written to us with exciting news.



Sasha went to Perú earlier this year on a volunteer internship with Cross-Cultural Solutions. She worked for one month in the women section of a maximum security prison. "The women had no space and no resources compared to the men's quarters, yet they had to pay for room and board while in prison", Sasha reports.



The main role of Sasha's team was to try to help them come up with income generating activities and to provide some company and relief from the monotony and depression that comes along with their situation. In Sasha's words, her experience was "pretty eye-opening."

Thanks for your report, Sasha!

November 4th, 2008 - Don Quixote and his World

SPRING 2009

SPAN 530: DON QUIXOTE AND HIS WORLD

A GRADUATE COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF SPANISH (3 credits)

Prof. Reyes Coll-Tellechea

Curso para profesores de español. Examina la producción cultural y las condiciones sociales de la España de los siglos XVI y XVII partiendo de la lectura de Don Quijote de La Mancha y de una serie de estudios de historiadores y sociólogos modernos. El curso toca temas como: la Inquisición y censura de ideas; imperialismo y conquista; el auge del dinero; el problema de las apariencias y realidades sociales; individuo vs. sociedad; Reforma protestante y Contra-Reforma católica; judíos, musulmanes, pobres, esclavos, mujeres y otros marginados; función social de la literatura, etc. Thursdays 4:00-6:45. Classes will start on 1/29/09 and end on 5/7/09. For more information please contact: Professor M. Cisterna. maria.cisterna@umb.edu

October 20th, 2008 - "Judy Kegl on Four Instincts that Lead Us to Language"

On November 5, Prof. Judy Kegl will give a talk at UMass Boston. The title of her talk is "Four Instincts that Lead us to Language."

Sponsored by the Hispanic Studies Department, the Undergraduate Program in Linguistics, and the Friends of Healey Library of the University of Massachusetts Boston, the event will be from 3:30 to 5:00 at the Center for Library Instruction, Healey Library, 4th floor, UMass Boston.

The UMass Boston campus is accessible by public transportation. For directions, go to http://www.umb.edu/parking_transport/directions.html

For disability services, please contact the Customer Service at least 48 hours in advance at 617-287-4000 or via email at customer.service@umb.edu.

For further information, you can contact Luis Alonso-Ovalle (luis.alonso-ovalle@umb.edu) or Wanda Rivera-Rivera (wanda.rivera-rivera@umb.edu)



Department of Hispanic Studies Speaker Series

Undergraduate Program in Linguistics
Friends of the Healey Library

present

**“Four Instincts that
Lead us to Language”**

Dr. Judy Kegl

University of Southern Maine

"[T]he Nicaraguan case is absolutely unique in history. We've been able to see how it is that children — not adults — generate language, and we have been able to record it happening in great scientific detail. And it's the first and only time that we've actually seen a language being created out of thin air."

Steven Pinker, - Harvard professor

Wednesday, November 5, 2008 — 3:30pm until 5:30pm

Center for Library Instruction

Healey Library, 4th floor

Refreshments will be served

For additional information, please contact:

Professor Luis Alonso-Ovalle

luis.alonso-ovalle@umb.edu

Or

Professor Wanda Rivera-Rivera

wanda.Rivera-Rivera@umb.edu

For disability services, please contact the

Customer Service Center at least 48 hours in advance at
617-287-4000 or via email at customer.service@umb.edu

October 7th, 2008 - Introducing Isabela Kristina Sanaa Katzi

Michaela Katzi, one of our majors, writes with wonderful news: Isabela Kristina Sanaa Katzi was born Wednesday, September 17 (her Mom's birthdat!) at 1:48 am. She weighed 7lbs 10oz and was 20in long. Michaela had to have an emergency c-section because Isabela's heart rate was very high and



would not come down. Thankfully, everything went very well and Isabela is perfectly fine. The doctor said there was nothing to worry about, nothing causing her heart rate to jump, baby just wanted out!

Congratulations, Michaela!

October 7th, 2008 - There is Life After Graduation!

Are you wondering about what to do after you graduate? Come talk to us! When? October 15, from 2:30 to 4:00. Where? Spanish Resource Center, Healey Library, 6th floor. We will meet with Shannon Weaver Rojas, from Career Services, to talk about what you can do with your major. Come with your questions! Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

October 7th, 2008 - “Para español, oprima dos”.

The Spanish Resource Center at UMass offers for free one workshop on November 15th 2008, Saturday from 9.30 to 1:15 p.m. at UMass Healey Library (University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125-3393): “Para español, oprima dos. Estereotipos culturales en las clases de Español y en la Literatura Hispánica.”

El español ya no es una lengua extranjera en los Estados Unidos. Ejemplos que evidencien tal aseveración los podemos encontrar en diversas situaciones cotidianas. Convendría recordar la tan popular expresión de “Para español, oprima dos”, entre las opciones ofrecidas en el menú telefónico. Y más evidente aún resulta la cantidad de medios de comunicación radial y cadenas de televisión cuyos noticieros informan, en español, sobre acontecimientos sociales, culturales y políticos del mundo actual. No obstante, los usos pragmáticos del español en la comunidad no se pueden disociar de los prejuicios, concepciones y estereotipos culturales que los acompañan. A partir de esta compleja paradoja, “la del español como una segunda lengua extranjera”, proponemos desarrollar una serie de actividades para examinar la complejidad de estereotipos equívocos e infundamentados de las culturas hispánicas en los Estados Unidos. Para ello, consideramos algunas interrogantes generales: ¿cómo podríamos fomentar una crítica constructiva de los estereotipos que nuestros estudiantes traen al aula de clases? ¿cómo podríamos nosotros (los profesores) evaluar el impacto que tienen dichos estereotipos en la experiencia individual que recibe cada estudiante? ¿cómo podemos fomentar una discusión productiva de la multiculturalidad sin tener que simplificar la diferencia cultural? Nuestra meta es ir más allá del exotismo que invocan palabras tales como, el tango, la salsa, los tacos, las tapas, las corridas de toros y los narco-corridos.

Las actividades se llevarán a cabo en la mañana hasta el mediodía. Las presentaciones estarán a cargo de dos Profesoras de lengua y literatura latinoamericana, María Inés Cisterna-Gold y Wanda Rivera-Rivera (University of Massachusetts, Boston). Se distribuirán lecturas relevantes al tópico examinado y se organizarán actividades grupales que sirvan de muestra para las futuras clases impartidas por los mismos participantes.

October 2nd, 2008 - Where are our graduates? Tim Likosky

We are proud of our students and we want to share our pride with our readers. With this post, we inaugurate a new section in our newsletter. We have asked some of our students to let us know about their



whereabouts. Tim Likosky (UMass Boston 1999: B.A. History and Spanish, UMass Boston 2001: Master's Education, UMass Boston 2005: Master's Guidance Counseling/Psychology) writes to us from Boston International High School: Looking back at the time I spent at UMass Boston has made me truly appreciate what I learned there both in and out of the classroom and how these experiences have shaped much of who I am today. The eight years I spent studying at UMass Boston certainly opened my mind to new ideas and taught me the values of discipline and responsibility at

the same time. Of equal importance was what I learned in the other areas of UMass, at lunch, on the soccer field and in the lounge with other students. I was able to meet individuals from all over the world who have taught me things that I most likely would not have learned at any other university. I met people from all over the world with many great experiences who are still great friends of mine to this day who opened my mind to new cultures and ideas that I never would have dreamed of having come from a suburban town of Boston. It is these experiences and teachings that have helped me to be successful in the past few years since graduating from UMass Boston.



After graduating in 1999 from UMass with a degree in Spanish and History I began to teach Spanish at the Sarah Greenwood School, a Boston Public School in Dorchester. I spent six years there teaching Spanish to grades K-8 as well as directing several after school sports programs. I returned to UMass to complete a master's in education so that I could become certified to teach. The professors in the program were great as they lead very practical courses that allowed me to try new ideas in class and relate them to what I was doing on a daily basis as a teacher. After teaching for about four years I decided I wanted to make a change but still remain in education where I could do my best to make a difference in the lives of Boston youth. I enrolled in 2003 in the Graduate School of Education, majoring in Guidance

Counseling/Psychology. Again the program was practical and allowed me to develop my own ideas and programs as a Guidance Counselor in an urban high school. I did a yearlong internship at English High School in Jamaica Plain where I worked with students of several backgrounds and cultures. After completing the program I was fortunate to be given an opportunity at Boston International High School in Jamaica Plain. I believe my earlier experiences at UMass Boston as an undergraduate student from 1995-1999 were what really prepared me for a career in Boston as an educator.

In my current position as a Guidance Counselor at Boston International High School, one of the greatest abilities I must have is that of appreciating one's culture, background and life experiences. As I said before, I feel that my time at UMass Boston helped me to develop this ability. I came from an upper middle class Boston suburb where I went to a high school where the student body was 85% white. In that environment I wasn't given much opportunity to learn about other cultures or backgrounds firsthand. This began with my arrival to UMass Boston in August of 1995. Immediately as member of the soccer team and a student in the Hispanic Studies Department, I made friends with individuals from several countries such as Kenya, Brasil, Ghana, Japan, Colombia, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Peru, Turkey, Poland, Morocco, Dominican Republic and several more. Through time spent together with these friends, classmates and teammates I learned of their experiences in life. Many of my close friends were immigrants, parents, living here alone in Boston with family back home in their country and also students working full-time while studying. These were all great individuals with great life experiences. I really began to understand that the world is very diverse and that there is so much to learn about others, where they come from in life and what they have been through in their journey towards success. It is what I learned in those years at UMass Boston that helps to make me the best Guidance Counselor that I can be now at Boston International High School. With its diversity, Boston International HS reminds me of a smaller UMass Boston at the high school level. I appreciate greatly the career that I am involved in and truly have a passion for my current position at Boston International High School, for this I owe a

great deal to my time at Umass Boston.



I use the word Passion because I deeply believe that if you don't love what you do then you are in the wrong career. I wake up everyday with a high level of energy, anxious to get to work and make contact with our students. I have a great deal of respect for our students who come from over 40 countries and speak nearly 20 languages in all. Our students inspire me everyday as I know and understand the great challenges they face on a daily basis. I see that although many of them have a difficult life and have experienced some difficult events, they arrive to school everyday ready to learn and fight towards their future. I try to my best to make relationships with our students to get to know them and understand what they have been through, where they are coming from and where they want to go in life. Again my time at Umass Boston has helped me a great deal in doing this. I feel that I

show great respect and appreciation towards our students, something that is absolutely essential as a teacher, counselor or administrator in any school setting. Without knowing who your students are, what they go through on a daily basis and showing respect, admiration and appreciation for this, no teaching and learning can take place. I have students who are in this country on their own, who left behind parents in their country, and most commonly, students who are reunited with a parent or relative that they haven't seen or met since birth or a very early age. Several of our students are also refugees from war stricken countries who have been fortunate to have an opportunity to come here for safety and to study. Many students work full-time and send their check back to their country to a mother or grandparent just so they can have enough to feed the family. The issues our students face are not easy, to see what they do on a daily basis, studying, helping family and beginning a new life is truly inspiring. As much as they inspire me on a daily basis, I do my best to inspire them as well and help to lead them towards a bright future.

As the Guidance Counselor at Boston International High School my priority is to see that all students comfortable in and out of school. With this in place I can do my job of helping students to be as successful as possible while in high school, find appropriate after school and summer programs for them and most importantly help to devise a plan for the years after high school. The happiest day of the year for me is in June on graduation day. To see students graduate after seeing them work hard and pass through several difficult challenges in life is what makes my job more special than any other. Our students after having spent 2-4 years in the country have moved on to colleges such as Umass Boston, Umass Amherst, Salem St, Bridgewater St, Brandeis, Suffolk, Boston College, Bentley College, Ben Franklin, Bunker Hill CC and more. Seeing this every year again is what makes my job rewarding. Knowing that I have helped a student to get to this point after such great challenges and difficulties is a great feeling. It is the day to day work that we do at Boston International HS that is special. This day to day work includes ideas such as sitting to have lunch with one student or a small group, pulling students aside to have a heart to heart talk about what is going on in their life, calling parents or relatives to help the effort to ensure student success, taking a group of students to a local college, bringing in minority professionals to speak to students and much more. More important again than all of this is taking out the time to get to know our students. This speaks volumes and goes so far, when young students know that someone cares and believes in them, they believe more in themselves and develop more confidence. This is what I love to do and plan on doing for several years to come.

I hope to see future Umass graduates in education but if not, please find a career that you truly love and one in which you will be able to make a difference in the lives of others. Take advantage of the resources at Umass Boston, not only from textbooks but more importantly from classmates and professors who can share experiences with you that you won't read in any book. I urge you to get to know as many individuals as possible and to travel to other countries to learn more about the world. Diversity is the best word I can think of to describe this world we live in; we all come from different backgrounds, speak different languages and have different ideas. It is amazing what you can learn from these differences and apply it to your own life so please do this, at Umass Boston, in my mind it is the best university to do this.

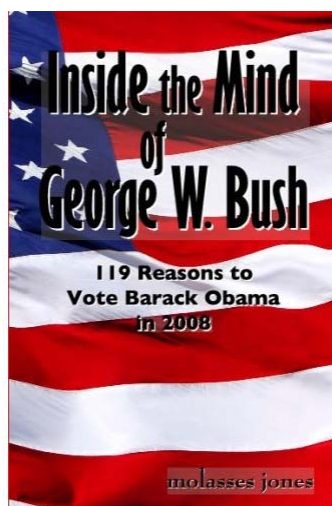
September 28th, 2008 - Internship

Shannon Seaver-Rojas, Career Services and Employment Relations Specialist of the College of Liberal Arts writes to us to inform that an internship with English High School was just posted with Career Services.

To view this great opportunity and other listings visit www.careers.umb.edu and click on the Career Services Online link.

To gain access to apply to internships posted at Career Services Online, be sure to make an appointment to speak with a Career Counselor to conduct your internship intake session. Please call 617-287-5519. If you have questions about logging onto Career Services Online, please contact Shannon (617-287-5519 or e-mail careers@umb.edu)

September 9th, 2008 - Molasses Jones on Bush's Mind



Tiffany Gouch, aka Molasses Jones, has published a book: [Inside the Mind of George W. Bush: 119 Reasons to Vote Barack Obama in 2008](#). Tiffany is an ex-student of us. Check it out!

June 9th, 2008 - Bilingual Students Needed: Part-time Jobs & Internships



The South Shore Educational Collaborative, a non-profit, organization, is offering part-time jobs and internships of special interest for bilingual students. For more information, click on the image below.

May 23rd, 2008 - Tara Skurtu and the Academy of American Poets!

Great news! Tara Skurtu, one of our majors, won an Honorable Mention for the 2008 Harold Taylor Prize sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. Two poems were selected; hers was the runner-up. The poem was selected by visiting Yale professor/poet Elizabeth Alexander. Tara received a certificate signed by Tree Swenson, the Executive Director of the Academy. Well done, Tara!

Tara has sent us the poem, so you can also enjoy it. Here it is:

Visiting Amber At The Lowell Correctional Institution

In the windowless room my mother and I remove shoes and socks
and spread our arms wide between the cinderblock wall and the locked door.
The guard takes a swallow of V8 before patting us down.
Inside, I ask Amber if this is a maximum security facility.
She nods, tells me they've got her in here with murderers,
like The Gardener. Worked at a daycare, killed a few kids there,
buried them first, before they were dead.
They gave her yard duty until she began to name
the trees she planted after the kids she'd killed.
Slicing deep into her thighs, she mortared her excrement in
and bound together the edges of her skin. Got gangrene,
is in a wheelchair now. "I don't wanna think about her no more,"
Amber says. "Seeing her every day is bad enough." I nod.

An inmate takes polaroids, two dollars each,
acrylic wall paintings in the background.
One is of an angel, feathers fanned out in a pastel sky.
"Stand here. I want you to have wings," Amber says.
She's to my right, our mother to my left. We smile big.

When I dream about my sister she's a child,
in our Florida backyard, wide-eyed and silent,
filling buckets with garden snakes and
catching strawberry-necked lizards
poised with the want of a mate.
With one hand she holds a lizard's wriggling body,
with the other she hinges its jaws open,
then closed onto the lobe of her ear.

May 23rd, 2008 - Employment Opportunity

Shannon Seaver-Rojas writes with the following information:

"For Spanish or Portuguese BILINGUAL employment opportunities please have your students check out the following site below: <http://localcareers.com>"

May 7th, 2008 - NSHP Boston Bilingual Professional Job Fair

Shannon Seaver-Rojas, Career and Employment Specialist for the College of Liberal Arts, writes with information about the NSHP Boston Bilingual Professional Job Fair (thanks!). We reproduce the information of the event below.

NSHP Boston Bilingual Professional Job Fair

From: Wed, May 21, 2008 - 10:00 AM
To: Wed, May 21, 2008 - 03:00 PM
Address:
Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton Street
Boston, MA 02199 - [map this location](#)
Phone:

(954) 678.1807

Mail: Jobfairs@nshp.org

Information:

Are you bilingual and live in the Boston area?

Do you speak English and Spanish or Portuguese?

Join us on May 21, 2008 for the NSHP Boston Bilingual Professional Job Fair.

This is your opportunity to meet with top quality employers seeking diversity in bilingual, professional candidates like you!

Bring plenty of copies of your resume and dress to impress, many employers will be hosting on site interviews.

You are encouraged to visit www.nshp.org regularly for updates on this career fair along with the updated company listing.

Confirmed participating employers:

- Alstom Power
- Digitas
- Eli Lilly & Company
- FM Global
- General Dynamics Electric Boat
- Genesis HealthCare Corporation
- National Credit Union Administration
- NSHMBA Boston Chapter
- NSTAR Electric & Gas
- Perot Systems Corporation
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- U.S. Army
- US Department of State
- Wal-Mart Stores
- WGBH

May 5th, 2008 - Patricia Anderson at ACMRS

Prof. Anderson presented her paper “The Female Law” at the Fourteenth Annual ACMRS (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) last February.

April 30th, 2008 - SPAN 409 Students Get Involved in SSEC’s Pathwayss Program Following Visit

On Tuesday, April 2nd, Leyla Hellyar and Deborah Jean Parsons of the South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC) paid a visit to the Professor Mark Schafer’s Advanced Practice of Translation class (SPAN 409). This visit was the result of collaboration between the SSEC, Dean Kuizenga of the College of Liberal Arts, Chairperson and Professor Reyes Coll-Tellechea, and Professor Mark Schafer. The SSEC is a non-profit educational collaborative that provides educational programs and services to South Shore school districts, including translation and interpreting. Hellyar and Parsons presented the SSEC’s Pathways program, through which students can serve South Shore students, parents, teachers, and schools as translators and/or interpreters while gaining valuable job experience references.

Pathways seeks to identify schoolchildren in need of services sooner and provide more cost-effective interventions. Children and families who do not speak English as their first language face significant barriers daily. To address barriers to language competency in schools, the SSEC is building a pool of professional interpreters, translators and bilingual mental health professionals who can be hired by schools for service to their school personnel and families. The SSEC is also recruiting student interpreters and translators who would like to serve South Shore schools as volunteers or interns.

During the visit, the students engaged Hellyar and Parsons in a lively dialogue about the Pathways program, the translation/interpretation profession, and their own professional hopes and concerns. Students provided the SSEC with insights about the barriers to employment experienced by immigrants, suggested ways in which to develop an evaluation system to determine the skill level of SSEC interpreters and translators, and shared personal experience and aspirations. Hellyar and Parsons learned much from the class and offered interested students an opportunity to practice translation and interpretation and to gain job experience, receive training and references to future employers in return. As one student commented, "The Pathways project sounds like an amazing opportunity for me to get involved as a student intern or even for future work." To date, five students from the Advanced Practice of Translation class have gotten involved in Pathways.

Interested bilingual students of all languages should call Leyla Hellyar, a UMB graduate and the SSEC Foreign Language Interpreter Facilitator, at 781-749-5386 or visit SSEC's website, www.ssec.org.

April 30th, 2008 - Caetano Serpa presenting at the University of the Azores

Caetano Serpa is giving a presentation at the University of the Azores on May 5. The conference is titled "A Mulher e o Trabalho" (Women and Work). During this conference a bilingual book on the same subject is going to be launched. The book was written by several invited authors and Caetano was one of them. He wrote the chapter on "Lingua como Expressão Sociocultural" (Language as Socio Cultural Expression). Congratulations, Caetano!

April 30th, 2008 - Introducing Samantha Reyes Leclair



Jessica Leclair graduated from our department six years ago. She has just finished Law School in Michigan and is moving back to Massachusetts with her husband and their daughter: Samantha Reyes Leclair, who is posing for WHASH in the picture below. Welcome back!

April 30th, 2008 - Sarah Cacicio to Spain

Sarah Cacicio has been awarded a [teaching assistant grant](#) from the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. The grant is part of a program that, in words of the [Ministry of Education and Science](#), "gives recent graduates an opportunity to visit Spain and become acquainted with the Spanish education system, teachers and students, while sharing with them aspects of your own language and culture." Congratulations, Sarah!

April 18th, 2008 - Grant

Wanda Rivera-Rivera received a Joseph P Healey Grant (Spring 2008) associated with her research project: "Prison Narratives and Historical Legacies of Militant Women During the Popular Insurgency of 1965 Dominican Republic".

April 7th, 2008 - Patrick Brand to Ohio State University



Patrick Brand, a major in our program, is one of the only two students who have been accepted into the [Hispanic Linguistics Program at Ohio State University](#). We are very pleased to announce that, as a special honor, he has been offered an endowed prize (the Bulatkin-Pardo award). The award consists of \$1,500 to support his research during his first year at Ohio State.

Congratulations, Patrick! Well done!

April 7th, 2008 - Student Awards 2008

We are very pleased to announce the student awards for 2008.

KELLI SEVERINO

María Luisa Osorio Prize, 2008

Kelli Severino, this year's recipient of the Maria Luisa Osorio Prize, perfectly represents the qualities this prize was created to celebrate: academic excellence and a commitment to gender and social issues.

In every class she has taken in the Hispanic Studies Department, Kelli's academic performance has been consistently excellent. Her fascination with "how language works, particularly how Spanish grammar differs from English grammar," has fueled her outstanding performance in linguistics classes. She has displayed an abiding engagement with gender equality issues in her course work in Hispanic Studies as well. Kelli's recent fine paper on Rigoberta Menchú grappled with the most recent academic treatments of the topics of autobiography and testimonio literatures, and sensitively discussed the issues of gender equality in Latin America which the text raises.

Kelli's concerns for social equality are not confined the classroom. She has, with her parents, been a baseball coach for many years, coaching teams of adolescent boys from Boston's inner city. She has served as both a coach and a mentor to her players, helping them with issues on and off the field. Kelli and her parents have helped the boys navigate the college application and financial aid processes, and in 2004 coached a team which won a state-wide championship. Kelli says "In the future I hope to continue coaching youth sports and working with inner-city youth to keep them off the streets."

Kelli hopes to become a high school Spanish teacher in the Boston area. She has already applied to two Masters programs, and will be pursuing a Masters of Arts in Spanish and a Master of Arts in Teaching. This vocation is a natural choice for her to continue with her academic interests and commitment to helping youths. The Department of Hispanic Studies is very proud of her and know that she will make a lasting contribution to whatever community she serves, as she has already made to the academic and cultural life of UMB.

SARAH CACICIO

Clara Estow Prize in Hispanic Studies, 2008

It is no coincidence that Sarah Cacicio enrolled as a full-time student at UMass Boston in 2005, without ever having seen the campus, despite a whimsical path to her college education. Sarah grew up just North of Boston and at seventeen, she moved to New York City to pursue a career in dance, but quickly discovered she was not cut out for the cut-throat profession. At the time, she had a peculiar poster hanging in her bedroom. It had been given to her by a very influential high school Spanish teacher, and read: "¿Ha visto Ud. España?" Sarah had not in fact, seen Spain, and without further consideration, she moved in with a family in Salamanca to study language and culture at the University of Salamanca, Spain. She came home ready to pursue an academic career in Hispanic Studies.

Over the last three years, Sarah Cacicio has maintained a full-time curriculum, a full-time waitressing job, a place in the University Honors Program, and a perfect 4.00 GPA. She is also one of the founding editors for the student-run magazine Lux. In 2008, Sarah was awarded the Merit Scholarship from the UMass Boston Academic Recognition Fund. She is the first recipient of the Clara Estow Prize.

By awarding Sarah the Clara Estow Prize, the department of Hispanic Studies recognizes her excellent academic record and her original work on three contemporary Spanish novels and how they deal with the memory of the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) and the post-war dictatorship (1939-75). Sarah's work is thoughtful, timely, rigorous and creative. She is a careful reader and an excellent writer. She credits her success to several professors at UMass Boston, who have inspired and encouraged her to develop an independent way of learning, and of living. Sarah hopes to someday teach and translate Spanish Literature. This coming year, she will work as a language and cultural assistant in a Spanish Public School. After which, armed with a new inspiring poster of Spain, she will return to the U.S to pursue graduate

studies.

KEISHA SLAUGHTER

Susan Schneider Prize in Latin American Studies 2008

Keisha Slaughter is this year's recipient of the Latin American Studies Program's Susan Schneider Prize, awarded to the graduating program concentrator with the highest Grade Point Average. Keisha arrived at UMass Boston with an interest in the history and cultures of Latin America and she attributes important personal and academic discoveries to her pursuit of those interests. She took an Intermediate Seminar that explored Latin American cuisines and culture, thoroughly enjoyed the topic, and emerged a stronger writer. A semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina fulfilled her dream of studying abroad. She found that a course in Latin American film prepared her for an immersion course in Mexican politics. As she completes her Latin American Studies concentration with a course on human rights, she has come to the realization that she has gained "an intense appreciation and understanding of Latin America, past and present." She has also discovered that her "true passion" lies in international studies and she hopes to pursue graduate studies in this area, possibly with a focus on immigration. Keisha's arrival at this realization through her study of Latin America honors the memory of Susan Schneider. The Latin American Studies Program congratulates Keisha on her academic achievements and also on the way she has integrated her liberal arts education with her life and career goals.

Graduating Students

Congratulations to all graduating majors!

Spanish

Patrick Brand

Fabiana Buchanan

Sarah Cacicio

Gloria Castro

Pamela Cataldo

Emily Costello

Gwendolyn Mackay

Yuderkis Melo

Kelli Severino

Meaghan Tansey

Latin American Studies

Victor Atehortua

Patrick Ayers

Elton Shyti

Keisha Slaughter

April 7th, 2008 - Internships at the Governor's Office Available

Christina E. Mills, Civic Engagement Liaison at the Office of the Governor, has written to us to announce this summer's [Governor's Internship Program](#). She says they are accepting applications until April 14th or until all the positions are filled. If you are a student in our major, you should check the program!

March 28th, 2008 - Next Friday, April 4th: Ernesto Livon-Grosman, "When the Politics of Paper When it Matters"

The Department of Hispanic Studies presents:

Professor Ernesto Livon-Grossman, "The Politics of Paper When it Matters"

**The Department of Hispanic Studies
Speaker Series 2008
presents**

The Politics of Paper When it Matters
A talk by Professor Ernesto Livon-Grossman of Boston College. The talk will be followed by a screening of *Cartoneros*, a documentary film about the social and cultural implications of the massive informal recycling that takes place everyday in Buenos Aires.

**Friday, April 4th at 2:30 pm
Healey Library, Room 4/15
Center for Library Instruction**

All lectures will be conducted in English. Refreshments will be served.
Co-sponsored by the Friends of the
Healey Library

For more event information, please contact Professor Wanda Rivera-Rivera at 617-287-7553.
For disability services, please contact the Customer Service Center at least 48 hours in advance at 617-287-4000 or via email at customer.service@umb.edu

Healey Library, 4th floor, Room 15
2:30pm-4pm

The talk will be followed by a movie screening of *Cartoneros*, a documentary film about the social and cultural implications of the massive informal recycling that takes place everyday in Buenos Aires.

Talk will be conducted in English. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact Professor María Inés Cisterna-Gold (617-287-7557) or Professor Wanda Rivera-Rivera (617-287-7553)

March 27th, 2008 - Announcing the Clara Estow Prize



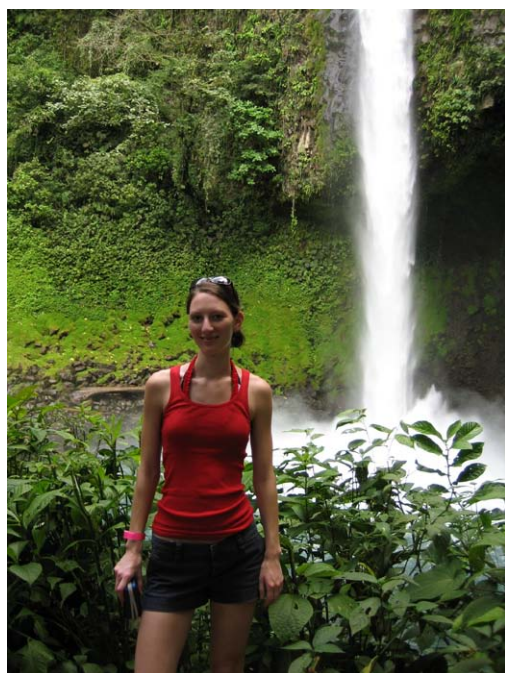
A renowned scholar in Castilian Medieval history, Professor Clara Estow dedicated four decades of her life to UMass Boston and the Department of Hispanic Studies (1968-2008). During that time, Professor Estow gathered accolades for her inspiring teaching, her generous mentoring of junior faculty, her scholarly rigor, and her dedication to improve public education in Massachusetts. Her teaching effectiveness and her capacity for mentorship were proverbial. She inspired many students to become teachers and scholars. She showed an extraordinary teaching range and flexibility. Her accomplishments in scholarship were equally outstanding. Professor Estow authored several widely respected books in her field as well as dozens of articles and essays on a number of topics. Professor Estow was repeatedly selected by her peers to represent them on the Campus' most significant committees and governance structures. She was UMass Boston's first Hispanic to lead the University Faculty Council.

In gratitude for Professor Clara Estow's tireless, generous and inspiring academic work on behalf of UMass Boston, her colleagues, upon her retirement, established a prize in her honor. The Clara Estow Prize shall be awarded to a

junior or a graduating senior who has shown excellence, determination, and inspiration in their academic work in Hispanic Studies.

March 12th, 2008 - Sasha Cronin Back From Costa Rica

Sasha Cronin, one of our students, writes about her experience in Costa Rica:



“Last summer, I traveled to Costa Rica for a month-long intensive language course. One of my primary motivations for going, (other than a love for traveling), was to improve on my Spanish speaking skills. I had taken all the grammar and conversation courses that I could, but was still very hesitant and lacking confidence with speaking skills. I knew that the best way to force myself into practicing speaking and to be surrounded by the language was to travel somewhere where Spanish was the native language. The class that I took while I was in Costa Rica was 4 hours a day, 5 days a week, for 4 weeks. The course definitely helped me to brush up on my grammar, but what really helped was the time outside of school, speaking with my host mother and other people I met. Being surrounded constantly by the language really helps you improve your language skills quickly, and is the best way to practice, because the formality of speaking in a classroom setting isn’t always the best preparation for how you will use the language in the “real world.”

I would recommend a trip like this to anyone who loves to travel, be immersed in and learn other languages, and experience new cultures. There is no better way to pick up a new language or improve upon what you already know, and you get to test many personal boundaries, learning a lot about yourself in the process. Putting yourself in an unfamiliar setting teaches you to adapt to different situations, and so much more. This kind of a trip is an invaluable experience for everyone and I would suggest taking the opportunity."



March 7th, 2008 - Second Speaker: Inmaculada Alvarez, March 27th @ 2:30pm

The Department of Hispanic Studies Speaker Series 2008, and Friends of the Healey Library present:


Havana is in Madrid?: Global Desires in Spanish and Cuban Cinema Co-Productions

a talk by Inmaculada Alvarez,
Assistant Professor, Clark University

When: Thursday, March 27th

**The Department of Hispanic Studies
Speaker Series 2008**

Presents
*Havana is in Madrid?: Global Desires in Spanish and
Cuban Cinema Co-Productions*
by
**Inmaculada Alvarez, Assistant Professor,
Clark University**



**Thursday, March 27 at 2:30pm
Healey Library, Room 4/15
Center for Library Instruction**
Co-sponsored by the Friends of the
Healey Library

All lectures will be conducted in English. Refreshments will be served.
For more event information, please contact Professor Wanda Rivera-Rivera at 617-287-7553.
For disability services, please contact the
Customer Service Center at least 48 hours in
advance at 617-287-4000 or via email at customer.service@umb.edu

Location: Healey Library, 4th floor, Room 15
Time: 2:30pm

Professor Alvarez's research focuses on contemporary Spanish and Caribbean literature and cinema, Hispanic migration across Spain and the US, film, and gender studies.

Note: Talk will be conducted in English. Refreshments will be served.

February 21st, 2008 - Hispanic Studies Speaker Series 2008 & Friends of Healey Library presents:

Reading-Performance from QUEER LATINO TESTIMONIO, KEITH HARING, AND JUANITO XTRAVAGANZA

New Directions in Latino American Culture

published by Palgrave Macmillan, October 2007

Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé will be joined in a reading from his new book by Jorge Merced, Associate Artistic Director of Pregones Theater.

UMASS-Boston, Healey Library, Room 15 @ 2:30pm

In the tradition of the Latin American testimonio, this is the story of Juan Rivera, a.k.a. Juanito Xtravaganza, a Latino runaway youth who ends up homeless in the streets of New York in the late 70s and becomes partner of the internationally famous 1980s Pop artist Keith Haring during some of the most frenetically productive years of his brief life, as told to the author and retold by him. A hybrid text—part testimonio, part linguistic and cultural analysis, and part art criticism—this is also a history of New York Latino neighborhoods during this period of devastating disinvestment and gentrification, as well as a personal, heart-felt meditation on the art of listening and the ethical limits of representing queer Latino lives.

Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, Associate Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature, and Associate Director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute at Fordham University. He is co-editor of *Queer Globalization: Citizenship and the Afterlife of Colonialism*. Talk will be conducted in English. Refreshments will be served.
For more information, contact Professor Wanda Rivera-Rivera (wanda.rivera-rivera@umb.edu)

January 30th, 2008 - Patrick Brand Won the Luise Bronner Award!

Our own Patrick Brand has received the Luise Bronner Award (\$2,600). This is a prize awarded to students engaged in language studies. Well done, Patrick!

October 23rd, 2007 - Viva Rio

Jean-Philippe Belleau, one of our faculty members, works as a consultant for Viva Rio, providing country expertise as well as social science method competence for census and rapid social appraisal. One of the main human rights NGOs in Brazil, [Viva Rio](#) has for the past two decades been working in community development and urban renovation in the context of non-conventional, armed conflict. Viva Rio has brought scholars and community leaders together to share their experience and analysis, from such countries as El Salvador, Northern Ireland, Mexico, the United States, Colombia, and several cities of Brazil. You are all invited to visit the [website](#). For the past two years, Viva Rio has expanded its activities to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The current, multimillion dollars project initiated and led by Viva Rio in Bel Air, one of the most impoverished sections of the Haitian capital, aims to entirely renovate the area, bring public services (mainly water and sewage) while providing a framework for sustainable security, in close cooperation with Haitian authorities and community leaders.

September 27th, 2007 - Luis Villanueva “Animalistic Situations”

LUIS VILLANUEVA

“ANIMALISTIC SITUATIONS”



[Luis Villanueva](#) has joined us this Fall. We would like to announce his upcoming exhibition “Animalistic Situations”. Luis is showing his most recent artworks at [Ezair Gallery](#) in New York City (905 Madison Avenue, between 72nd and 73rd streets) from October 1 to October 31. There is a reception on October 10th (6 pm to 8pm). We hope you will be able to attend.

To know more about Luis’ artwork, you can visit his website. Enjoy!
Congratulations, Luis!



September 25th, 2007 - Summer Activities

Welcome back! Our faculty has been active during this summer and early fall. Here's a summary of some of their latest professional activities:

In early June, Ann Blum spent a week in Mexico City continuing her archival research on photojournalism in the 1920s and 1930s. Then, in July, she returned to Mexico as co-coordinator and co-teacher in the Summer Institute in Mexican History, held in Oaxaca, Mexico. The Summer Institute is a month-long field seminar for U.S., Mexican and Canadian Masters and PhD students specializing in modern Mexican history. The seminar introduces the students to archives, field projects, and current trends in historiography.

In September, Ann Blum attended the XXVII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, held in Montréal, Canada. She presented a paper, "The Picture of Health: Baby Portraits, Eugenics, and the Illustrated Press in 1920s Mexico City," on a panel she organized and chaired, entitled, "Picturing Race, Gender, and Nation: Visual Cultures and Collective Identities." She also participated in a workshop, entitled "Social Citizenship and the Rights of Domestic Workers," and discussed her research on domestic labor from her perspective of family history. In her capacity as co-chair of LASA's section on Health, Science and Society, she attended business meetings of section chairs and led the business meeting of the section.

Wanda Rivera-Rivera presented a paper, "Historical Memory and Political Agency in the Testimonies of War and Prison of two Dominican Women: Carmen Josefina "Piky" Lora and Teresa Espaillet," at the Latin American Studies Associations held at Montreal, from September 5-8.

"Another View at Indefinites in Islands" by Luis Alonso-Ovalle (Hispanic Studies) and Paula Menendez-Benito (Linguistics, UMass-Amherst) was presented at the "Workshop on Different Kinds of Specificity Across Languages", held at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin from July 6 to July 7, 2007.

Susan Mraz, Hispanic Studies language coordinator, and Mary Simone, IT, Media Center Manager, presented "How Faculty Assist Students' Linguistic Competencies in Listening, Viewing, Reading and Writing Spanish through WebCT" at the International Association for Language Learning Technology (IALLT) 2007 Conference at Tufts University on June 21.

María Cisterna presented "La palabra como testigo: La construcción del secreto en *Insomnio* de Marcelo Cohen y *Maldición eterna a quien lea estas páginas* de Manuel Puig" at LASA Montreal, Sept 5-8, 2007.

Patricia Anderson is presenting a paper at the Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association conference in Calgary, Canada on October 4. The title of the paper is: "El derecho femenino en la España medieval de Alfonso X, el Sabio."

Chaiwut Chittkusol will chair a panel at the same conference, where he will present his paper "La reinterpretación orteguiana de Don Juan Tenorio como 'Übermensch' español."

May 14th, 2007 - Lux Release Party

Sarah Cacicio, one of our majors, is the editor of LUX, a student run magazine. She writes to inform that they are having a release party next Wednesday, May 16 at 3:00pm in the Campus Center (game room). For accommodations or more info, please contact lux@umb.edu.



May 9th, 2007 - Professor Clara Estow Retires



After four decades dedicated to UMASS, Boston, Professor Clara Estow is retiring. The Department of Hispanic Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and the University as a whole will miss Professor Estow.

Professor Estow began teaching at UMB in 1968. During the last four decades she has helped train multiple generations of students and faculty, holding them to the highest standards of academic rigor and, in turn, garnering accolades for teaching effectiveness as well as for her mentorship. She has consistently received excellent student evaluations and praise for her knowledge, success in encouraging students to excel, and generous and steady guidance. Many alumni credit her for inspiring them to pursue post graduate studies and professional careers. She has shown extraordinary range and flexibility, accepting teaching assignments at all levels, from first-year courses to post-graduate seminars. Her teaching has been a model of commitment to student learning, outstanding command of course material, professionalism, and consistency.

Professor Estow has maintained an active scholarly program. A specialist in Castilian medieval history, she is the author of two books and multiple articles and reviews, which have appeared in prestigious venues. Her high academic profile is evident in her frequent participation in national and international academic conferences. She has also served on the editorial board of a major journal and refereed scholarship and personnel cases at all levels. She is currently completing an ambitious book project on gold in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, which EJ Brill has expressed interest in publishing. Her scholarly achievements will continue to enhance the reputation of the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Professor Estow's service record is similarly extensive and noteworthy. She has been one of the University's leaders. She has been repeatedly selected by her peers to represent them in the campus' most significant committees and governance structures, including multiple terms as chair of Hispanic Studies, membership in collegiate and university-wide committees, College of Liberal Arts Senate, and University Faculty Council, and the Faculty Union. She chaired the University Faculty Council for two consecutive terms, during a rather difficult period of transition, for which she received praise and appreciation. Her dedicated work on behalf of the university community reflects a deep-seated commitment to and identification with the values and missions of UMB. Professor Estow's record of leadership within the department of Hispanic Studies has had an enormous impact. Clara Estow leads by example. Furthermore, her work as a mentor for junior and mid-career faculty has greatly contributed to attracting and retaining young, dedicated, and gifted teachers and researchers to UMB.

Professor Estow's tireless, generous and inspiring work on behalf of UMass Boston has been outstanding, and her departure will be deeply felt. We can only hope that she will continue helping us guide this institution into the future.

Prof. Reyes Coll-Tellechea, Chair

May 2nd, 2007 - Salvadorans Speak in UMass-Boston, May 14

War and Post-War Solidarity in a Salvadoran Town

Location: Healey Library, Lower Level, Rm 3507

May 14, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Co-sponsors: The College of Liberal Arts, Gaston Institute, Joiner Center,

Political Science Department, Hispanic Studies, Latin American Studies, Latino Studies,


Drawings by Salvadoran Refugee Children

April 17th, 2007 - Monday, April 30: James Iffland

Hispanic Studies Speaker Series Spring 2007
Re-thinking Identity Politics and Modernity in
Latin America Culture and Society Presents:

James Iffland, Boston University
"Assessing the Legacy of Roque Dalton
in Post War El Salvador"

Co-sponsored by the Healey Library's
Friends of the Library



Monday, April 30 at 4:00 p.m.
Healey Library, Room 4-15
(Center for Library Instruction)
Refreshments will be served!

For more information, please contact Wanda Rivera-Rivera at 7-7553
Individuals needing special assistance should contact Kim Trauceniek at 7-5921
at least 48 hours prior to event.

April 3rd, 2007 - Student Awards 2007

JERUSA CARVAJAL

The Department of Hispanic Studies is proud to announce that Jerusa Carvajal has received the Departmental Distinction. Jerusa's GPA is an astonishing 4.0. Jerusa has been accepted in several graduate schools and will start her

M.A. studies in Latin American Literature at Western Michigan University next Fall.

ELSA LARSON

Elsa Larson, this year's recipient of the Maria Luisa Osorio Prize, is the quintessence of the qualities this prize was created to celebrate: chiefly academic excellence and a commitment to social justice and gender equality. Among Elsa's many accomplishments at UMass Boston is her achieving one of this year's highest grade point averages in the major, a distinction rendered especially unique since she chose to complete both the literature and the language tracks of the Spanish major, the first student to do so in the last twenty years. Equally distinguished was her pursuit of the Latin American Studies Concentration and minor in Anthropology.

Elsa's social conscience developed in high school, at Fontbonne Academy, where she participated in the school's Association for Diversity in Action and the International Club. At UMB, her broad range of interests and passion led her to the Latin American Studies Program and the study of language and culture. At our campus, her engagement went beyond her course work; she was among the group of students who founded the Latin American Studies Student Organization, serving as its third president. In recognition of her commitment, she was nominated for an Honorary Student membership to the New England Council of Latin American Studies.

Upon her graduation in December 2006, Elsa was offered the first job she applied for, as coordinator of the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program at Mass General Hospital, under the direction of Dr. Igor Palacios, an eminent Venezuelan cardiologist. She modestly credits this important achievement to the excellent training in language and culture she received at UMass Boston.

Whether she chooses to pursue a PhD in Latin American Studies or a law degree, Elsa will certainly continue to distinguish herself and devote her considerable intelligence and passion to the pursuit of worthy and socially-minded goals.

ALAN SMITH

Alan Smith is this year's recipient of the Latin American Studies Program's Susan Schneider Prize, awarded to the graduating program concentrator with the highest Grade Point Average. Alan recalls that two courses on Central American societies and politics originally sparked his interest in the region, "in particular the people." He brought a passionate commitment to social justice and a real engagement with other cultures to his studies. With his characteristic energy, Alan translated his interests into action and traveled extensively in Mexico and Guatemala. Most recently, he bicycled solo around Cuba, "taking part in the lives of the people." Alan's academic interests also affirm his sense of global citizenship. He recently completed his TEFL and intends to travel and teach English throughout the world, first in Italy, where he plans to pursue a master's degree.

Congratulations for a job well done, Jerusa, Elsa and Alan! The Department of Hispanic Studies wishes you all the best in your professional careers.

GRADUATING MAJORS

A number of our majors and concentrators in Latin American Studies are graduating. We would like to thank them all for their work in the past years, and wish them the best in their careers. Let's keep in touch!

Major in Spanish

Jerusa Carvajal

Elsa Larson

Christine Terry

Eileen Soto

I-Fang Chen

Maria Pena

James Hohmann

Claudia Ortiz

Penny Price

Brittany Syer

Robert Brown

Adrian Gonzalez

Amanda Davidson

Dilma Moreno

Concentration in Latin American Studies

Alan Smith June

Elsa Larson December

Selene Garcia De Kapoor December

Eileen Soto June

Trisa Stevens August

March 27th, 2007 - Silvia Álvarez Curbelo, April 11

**War, Modernity and Remembrance:
The Puerto Rican Soldier in the Korean War
(1950-1953)**

By

Silvia Alvarez Curbelo,
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras



Wednesday, April 11 at 4:00 p.m.
Healey Library, room 4-15
(Center for Library Instruction)
Refreshments will be served

Co-sponsored by Healey Library's *Friends of the Library*
For more information please contact Wanda Rivera-Rivera 7-7553
For Disability Services: Ross Center 7-7430


All conferences will be conducted in English.
Event is open to the public

March 15th, 2007 - Ruby Cisterna Gold

The editorial staff of What's Happening in Hispanic Studies proudly announces that Ruby Cisterna Gold is here!
Congratulations, María!



March 2nd, 2007 - Néstor E. Rodríguez, next Friday



Hispanic Studies Speaker Series Spring 2007
*Re-thinking Identity Politics and Modernity in
Latin American Culture and Society*
presents
*“El que sea prieto, que hable claro: Haiti and the
Dominican Cultural Imaginary”*
by
Néstor E. Rodríguez, University of Toronto

Friday, March 9th at 4:00 p.m., Healey Library,
4th floor room 15(Center for Library Instruction)
Refreshments will be served
**Co-sponsored by the Healey Library’s
Friends of the Library**

Above photo entitled “Risas y paraguas en Dajabon” by Herminio Rodríguez

Contact: Wanda Rivera-Rivera 7- 7553
For disability services: Ross Center 7-7430

February 26th, 2007 - The Department of Hispanic Studies presents: Speakers Series, Spring 2007

March 9: ““El que sea prieto, que hable claro’: Haiti and the Dominican Cultural Imaginary”
by Néstor E. Rodríguez (University of Toronto)

April 11: “War, Modernity and Remembrance: The Puerto Rican Soldier in the Korean War (1950-1953)”
by Silvia Alvarez Curbelo (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)

Location: Healey Library, , 4th floor, room 15, Center for Library Instruction



All conferences will be conducted in English. This Colloquium is open to the public.

Time: 4:00pm

Co-sponsor: Healey Library (FOL)

Picture: "Vejigantes" by Herminio Rodríguez

For more information, contact: wanda.rivera-rivera@umb.edu

February 22nd, 2007 - Bettina Iffland, In Memoriam

A memorial service to celebrate Bettina Iffland's life was held on Saturday, February 17, 3:00 p.m., in Goddard Chapel.

Cindy Schuster, one of her students, gave an inspiring eulogy speech. With her permission, we reproduce it here: "I am very grateful for the opportunity to speak about Bettina today, and to share some of my thoughts and memories with you. It's especially good, since I live so far away, to be here physically with all of you, and to add my voice to our collective remembrance.

I first met Bettina 26 years ago, when I took a Spanish class with her in the evenings at U Mass-Boston. I remember waiting for the red line together at the old Colombia Pt. station, freezing, cursing the cold, Bettina refusing to wear a hat. That subway platform is where we began to get to know each other. It was a period of transition for me, and Bettina's class was such a joy that it inspired me to quit my soul-grinding job as a claims clerk at an insurance company and enroll full-time at U Mass the following semester. So it is no exaggeration to say that it was Bettina who ushered me through the first steps of what would turn out to be my academic passion, and my career. Our friendship evolved and deepened through the years, and in 1995, we found ourselves working together as colleagues at U Mass, and then at Tufts as well.

When I think of Bettina now, I think of her in her kitchen, in the little red dollhouse on Line St. I think of her cooking pasta in cast iron pots, sauteeing garlic in olive oil in her skillet, uncorking a bottle of red wine at her round wooden table, Cesaria Evora on the stereo. I think of her showing off the little brick path to her garden with its freshly planted basil and alyssum, laughing at the word "mulch." I think of the creaky wooden staircase, the wall of books in her study, her rugs. Perhaps because I lived in that house one summer, I feel a certain intimacy with her ordinary belongings, her linens and spoons and saucers, the objects she touched.

I think of the cobbled street leading to her other house, in Frigiliana, its terrace looking out onto the bell tower, the swallows flocking at twilight, the pots of red geraniums in the windows of the whitewashed town.

I think of going to the movies on rainy Sunday afternoons, going out for a drink and flirting with the waiters at the Algiers, having coffee at Pamplona, couscous at Argana. I think of her dancing flamenco.

I think of her compassion, her watercolors, her politics, her irreverent humor, her artistic sensibility, her outrage, her integrity, her solidarity.

Bettina was a gifted poet. About 10 years ago I translated and published one of her poems in a literary journal I was working on at the time. I'd like to share that poem with you.

Incertidumbre de domingo

A través de ventanales luminosos
se escapan los relojes
como mariposas heridas
desafiando el aire.
El recuerdo de otros domingos
vuelve con su incertidumbre,
imagen de la infancia
prisionera en un vuelo
de campanas: sonido de palomas
sangrientas.
Entonces el tiempo era
un laberinto soñoliento
jugando en trigales
maduros.
Y enero, un fuego de
amarillas muñecas sin rostros.

Uncertainty of a Sunday

Through luminous windows
clocks escape
like wounded butterflies
defying the air.
The memory of other Sundays
returns, uncertain,
image of childhood
imprisoned in a flight
of bells: sound of bleeding
doves.
Then time was
a sleepy labyrinth
playing in fields
of ripened wheat.
And January, a blaze of
faceless yellow dolls.

Finally, I think of our last visit, in November, and how Bettina relished the fresh blueberries someone had brought her. I'm sure we all remember our amazement that she had so many friends, so many people who came to see her and be with her. And I think, ultimately, that Bettina's greatest gift was the extraordinary amount of love that she was able to generate in her lifetime. And she has left that gift to all of us; she has left us each other.

May she rest in peace, and may her presence always be with us. ”

Cindy Schuster

February 15th, 2007 - Elsa Robin Larson Got a Job Right Out of College! Congratulations, Elsa!

Are you wondering why majoring in Spanish? Elsa Robin Larson, a recent graduate, writes to us with wonderful news. If you think that teaching Spanish or working as a translator are your only options, you would like to read her letter. With her permission, we reproduce most of it here:

“Hello,

I just wanted to let you and the department know that immediately following my last final exam of my UMass career I received the call for a job interview. I went to the interview and because of the education I received at UMass I was offered the job on the spot.

In a nutshell, I work for a world famous cardiologist from Venezuela who works at Massachusetts General Hospital. My Spanish skills were key in getting me this job because not only am I the one who keeps verbal contact with his Spanish speaking patients (many of whom are VIP, such as presidents and ex presidents, famous people, political figures etc. in Spanish speaking countries) but I also organize the Dr. international fellowship program, and edit different projects that the dr. is working on, from letters of recommendation, to books, abstracts, etc. in both Spanish and English.

In the month that I have been here at MGH I have been able to meet some very nice people who are very grateful for a Spanish speaker to converse with. The conversations that I have are not always medical related. I have had the opportunity to use my knowledge about Latin American politics and literature to talk to patients who are here from out of the country. This is great. because it both puts them at ease and gives me information on developing political conditions in other countries (most recently Venezuela with what has been happening with Chavez).

This job has been a great way to continue my learning experience because I can not only further my knowledge about things I learned at UMass but also put these things into practice, and learn new things as well.

Tell both the Latin American Studies professors as well as the Spanish Major professors a big thank you for me!”

February 14th, 2007 - Mark Schafer presents:

“Translating Gloria Gervitz’s

Migraciones from Spanish While It Was Being Written”

Friday, February 23, 2007

1:00pm to 3:00pm

745 Commonwealth Ave, Room 625

Free and open to the public

For more information, contact Caroline Hartevelt at

University Professors Program, Boston University

617.358.1763

February 12th, 2007 - Grants for North American Language and Culture Assistants in Spain

The Ministry of Education and Science of Spain (MEC) has opened the recruitment period for the North American Language and Culture Assistants in Spain for the School Year 2007-2008. There are around 1,000 grants available. Grantees will work during the 2007-2008 School year as English language and North American culture assistant teachers (12 hours per week). A monthly allowance of 631 euros, and medical insurance is provided. Candidates must be U.S. or Canadian citizen, must have a BA, BS, MA or MsC (or be enrolled in the final year), and have an intermediate to advanced level of Spanish.

February 2nd, 2007 - Bettina Iffland

A memorial service to celebrate Bettina Iffland's life will be held on Saturday, February 17, 3:00 p.m., in Goddard Chapel.

Reception to follow in Laminan Lounge, Olin Center.

November 20th, 2006 - La Regenta

Autum Kycia sends from Oviedo, Spain, this wonderful picture of Alimentación La Regenta to prove that, in fact, Oviedo is the classiest town on Earth.

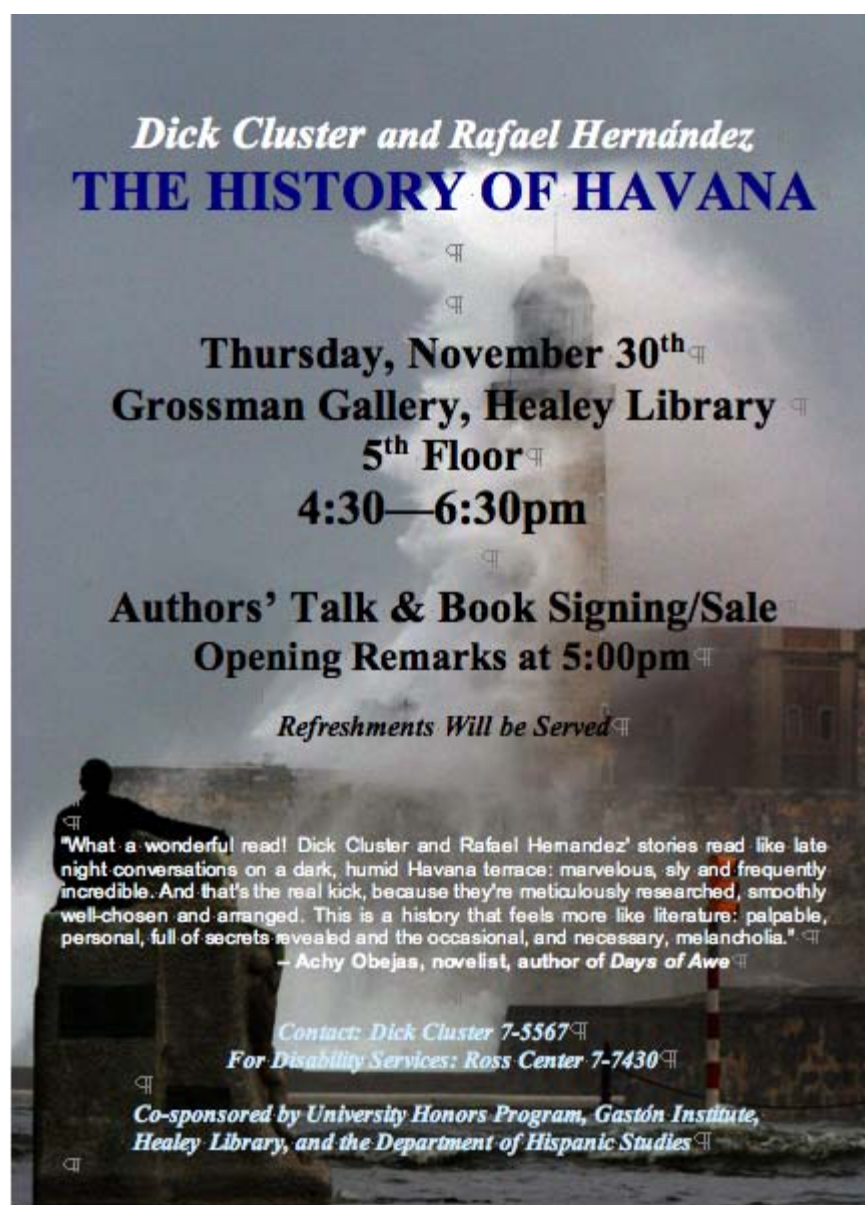


As we have reported before, Autum, a student in our department, is one of the seven recipients of a grant awarded by the Spanish government to live and work in Spain for nine months.

Thanks, Autum!

November 20th, 2006 - The History of Havana

Dick Cluster and Rafael Hernández will present their book *The History of Havana* next Thursday, November 30th, at the Grossman Gallery (Healey Library) from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



Dick Cluster was a student in our department and is currently the director of the University Honors Program.

November 9th, 2006 - Birth Announcement

Joseph Pearl (Class of '05) and his wife Liana are the proud parents of a baby girl, Isabelle Ani. She was born October 19.

Joseph has continued to teach chess at various schools throughout the region and is preparing to enter law school next Fall.

Congratulations and warm regards to the new parents.

November 8th, 2006 - Katie Conant reports from Bolivia

News from Katie Conant, a former Spanish major and Latin American Studies minor, and currently a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Bolivia:

“La Laja is a rural town of less than 300 people located in the Santa Cruz department of Bolivia. Lajeños make their

living growing and selling potatoes, maize, and wheat; all of which they cultivate during the rainy season from November to June. I have been living in La Laja as an Integrated Education Volunteer for Peace Corps since August 2005.



Given the flexibility of my project and the uniqueness of my town, I have focused much of my work on a local women's group of 15 artisans. Using k'aytu (hand-spun sheep's wool) dyed with local resources from the area (plants, sticks, barks, leaves, and a substance that forms on their bamboo ceilings over their wood cooking stoves), they produce rugs, placemats, belts, bags, and floor mats. In addition to working on health- and nutrition-related projects with these women and their families, they have asked me for assistance in small business organization and commercialization. In our meetings we have been working on such concepts through activities that promote team/group building skills, self-esteem, leadership, and ironing out issues directly related to their weavings (quality control, creating new designs, dyeing techniques, etc.). Due to La Laja's isolated location and lack of direct transport, the group sends their weavings to an artisan store in the department's capital, Santa Cruz.



Adamant about doing strictly sustainable development work during my two-year service in Bolivia, my job has not been easy. From the beginning, I made the decision to work with the people I live amongst, but have been opposed to doing the work for them. In our women's meetings we often use the phrase poco a poco to remind ourselves to be patient. That, in combination the desire to seguir adelante, makes the work most rewarding for all of us."



October 26th, 2006 - Roberto Brown's report from Matalascañas

Roberto Brown, one of our students, tells us about his new life in Spain (via Wanda Rivera-Rivera):

"well, i have finished my second week of teaching. things are going good here in matalascañas. the first couple of days in spain i experienced a new kind of stress. i had thoughts of turning back. just small things like my surf board getting lost through the airlines, living in hostals out of my suitcase, and looking for an apartment, i said to myself, what did Prof. Coll. get me into. Just kidding."

"about Matalascañas, from now until may or june, there are only 2500 people living here. in the summer, 200,000. so the very first moment i arrived, people outside of the school were like what are you doing here. i have bike, and when riding around i am garrenteed to here "helloo rob" from one of the students(grades 1 thru . there is a great little plaza with a bunch of cafes. i knew cafes to serve beer. i do dig the lifestyle here in spain, as far food, siestas (something i am still getting used: the stores close from 2 to 4 or 5) and the bottles of wine Prof. Coll mentioned you could buy for less than 5 eruos, there are good bottles for only 2 euros. the beach is only a 5 minute bike ride from my apt. it is weird looking at the beach and it not being a west or an east coast. its the south coast!

i am living with the fifth grade teacher and she is from Jaen. she is cool, loves to talk, but cenamos every night, which i love. she usually cooks and i clean. yes i do know how to make a paella. my roomates sister, brother in law and thier son came from malaga came and visited us for a couple days and she taught me.

the teachers and the directors of the school have treated me great. i have about 4 or 5 clients for classes particulares de ingles. so i do stay busy. i don't have work on fridays so it is considered un puente, long weekend. i have not traveled much yet since i been here, only to huelva. but when i first arrived to spain: granada and the free tapas, you can not beat that.

well things are good, i look forward to meeting the other guys from umass. they actually need to visit me, because so far the weather is like san diego, although it did rain the other day.

could one of u guys pass this email to Clara. thanks
vale
rob"

October 25th, 2006 - Autumn Kycia: a job well done!



A job well done: Autumn Kycia (center) with Professor Coll-Tellechea and Professor Cisterna at graduation.

October 19th, 2006 - Autum's blog

Autum is one of the seven recipients of a grant to live and work in Spain for the next nine months. She is living in Asturias, northern Spain, and has been blogging about living abroad. [Her blog](#) has several pictures of the what is the classiest town in Spain — according to the editorial staff of WHAHS.

Thanks for sharing your experience with us, Autum! And greetings from your alma mater!

October 18th, 2006 - Hello world!

Welcome to WHAHS, the newsletter of the Department of Hispanic Studies at UMass Boston.

