

NEXO

A Weekly Newsletter of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies
College of Liberal Arts

Volume 7 Issue 19

February 9, 2001

Bridging the Gap Between the University and Our Surrounding Community: Innovations in Undergraduate Education and Community Service

By

Margaret Demmessie,
Coordinator of
Undergraduate Advising

Under the direction of Department Chair, Prof. Carol A. Klee, and with strong support from the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Luis Ramos-García, and the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Margaret Demmessie, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Minnesota continues to forge new ground in the areas of excellence in undergraduate education and service, as well as greater community outreach. With respect to community outreach in particular, this department is becoming well known in the Twin Cities through sustained partnerships since 1995 between Kathleen Ganley's course, Span 3401: *Service-Learning in the Chicano/Latino Community*, and over twenty five organizations that work with Chicanos/Latinos. At the core of this course and the



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collaboration with service agencies outside the University is Ganley herself, as she has developed every aspect of the program and course since its inception. Service-learning courses are growing rapidly throughout the United States, and Ganley has put this

Department at the forefront of such activity in Minnesota. She is currently working on a grant funded by the Minnesota Higher Education Services on designing a service-learning course in health and human services in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies. She is also a faculty fellow with Campus Compact, a national organization that

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provides services to encourage student and institutional involvement in community and public service. For these positions, she is working with faculty in various colleges and high schools to implement service learning in their Spanish courses.

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DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES:

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Susan Campbell

Ed./Teaching Specialists Reps

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Debra Barrett (Alt.)

NEXO, the departmental newsletter, will be published weekly during the 2000-01 academic year. If you would like to contribute information (e.g., articles, announcements of special achievements, upcoming events) to future issues, please leave a copy of the material in the *NEXO* box in Folwell 34.

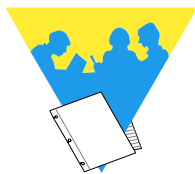
Bridging the Gap...

(continued from page 1)

Throughout each year, 150 students take Span 3401: *Service-Learning in the Chicano/ Latino Community* through the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies and volunteer collectively over 6,200 hours of service within the Chicano/Latino community in the Twin Cities area as part of their course requirements. Each student volunteers service for 45 hours at one organization, some of which include: Centro Legal, Hennepin County Medical Center, Centro (Cultural Chicano), Casa de Esperanza, La Escuelita, Aurora Elementary School, La Prensa, Latino Communications Network, El Mercado, The Resource Center of the Americas and CLUES (Chicanos/Latinos Unidos en Servicio). Ganley personally manages all service placements for students and serves as the direct liaison between the Department and each community agency.

The minimum prerequisite for the course is that students are at the advanced (3rd year) level in Spanish, and the course accommodates high advanced and even native Spanish speakers. Students are placed in an organization according to their skill level in Spanish, their major at the University and/or their interests. Those with lower- advanced skills in Spanish generally work in a school or an ESL setting. Those with mid-high advanced skills work in legal, medical or business settings. Both the students and the organizations in which they serve benefit from this program, as it provides a critical bridge between the University and the community, between the theory of academia and the practice of 'real life' beyond the classroom.

Students relate their service experience in the community by analyzing academic materials dealing with race, class, gender, education, the economy, and current patterns of power in the United States and roles of citizens within the system. One student recently reported to Ganley that he had read an article in a local newspaper, which he found denigrating to immigrants.



Conferences & Call For Papers

Applied Linguistics Section, Midwest Modern Languages Conference

November 1-3, 2001, Cleveland, Ohio

Call for Papers—

Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching Papers on the following as well as other topics related to sociolinguistics and the teaching and learning of languages are welcome. Possible topic areas:

- Teaching about language variation
- Helping students become aware of register in the second language including culture in language learning
- Teaching about gender differences in language
- Bringing research on language attitudes in the classroom

Send a one page abstract of your paper and a brief biographical statement by regular mail, fax or e-mail to:

Dr. Joyce Milambiling
University of Northern Iowa
Department of English Language and Literature
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0502

E-mail: joyce.milambiling@uni.edu
Fax: (319) 273-5807

Abstract deadline: **March 15, 2001**
(Full papers will be due at the end of August, 2001 for advance distribution)

For more information on the conference see:
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~mmla>



The International Association for Multidisciplinary Approaches and Comparative Studies related to Emile Zola and His Time, Naturalism, Naturalist Writers and Artists, Naturalism and the Cinema (AIZEN)

Invites submissions for its annual Conference
to be held at the
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia,
USA
October 4-6, 2001

We welcome proposals for papers, lectures, panels and special screenings; innovative approaches are especially welcome. Renowned scholars, Assistant Professors, Instructors, Doctoral Candidates from related disciplines (Literature, Film Studies, Philosophy, History, Women's Studies, Comparative Literature, etc.) are encouraged to submit proposals for 20-minute presentations. The suggested topic headings or panel requests are:

- New Critical Approaches to Zola's Texts/Nouvelles approches critiques du texte zolien
- Zola and the Visual Novel /L'écriture du regard chez Zola (photographie, cinéma, peinture, sculpture, architecture, etc.)

Special Session: The Dreyfus Affair and the Birth of the European Intellectual/L'Affaire Dreyfus et la naissance de l'intellectuel européen

Film Adaptations of Zola's
Fiction/Adaptations filmiques des romans de
Zola

The Middle Ages and Mythology in French
Naturalist Fiction/Moyen-Age et mythologie
dans le roman naturaliste français

Special Panel: VERITE

Zola's Influence on Naturalist Writers Around
the World/Influence de Zola sur les écrivains
naturalistes du monde entier

Naturalist Fiction and Film in the
Americas/Littérature et cinéma naturalistes
dans les Amériques

Conferences/Call For Papers

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Naturalism in Film and the Media/Le
naturalisme au cinéma et dans les médias

The Baroque, the Fantastic, and
Expressionism in Naturalist Fiction/Baroque,
fantastique et expressionnisme dans la fiction
naturaliste

Materialism and Other Naturalist Doctrines/Le
matérialisme et autres doctrines naturalistes

Special Panel: Utopia and Polemical
Discourse in Zola's Writing/Utopie et discours
polémique chez Zola

Naturalism and Ethnicity/Naturalisme et
ethnicité

Special Panel: Other Naturalist Genres:
Poetry, Drama, Essay, Documentary, Travel
Narrative, History etc./ Autres genres
naturalistes: poésie, drame, essai,
documentaire, récit de voyage, histoire etc.

Special Panel: SON EXCELLENCE
EUGENE ROUGON

Please mail your submissions or proposals
(papers may be presented in English, French
or Spanish) with a brief resume to:

Professor Anna Gural-Migdal
Department of Modern Languages and
Cultural Studies
University of Alberta, 200 Arts Building
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E6, Canada
Tel: Office (780) 492-1191/Dept. (780) 492-
4926
Fax: (780) 492-9106
e-mail: aguralm@ualberta.ca

or

Professor Robert Singer
Kingsborough Community College, CUNY
Department of English-C309
2001 Oriental Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11235,
USA
Tel: Office: (718) 368-5794
Fax: (718) 883-5339
e-mail: RSINGER736@aol.com

DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2001

For more information please visit THE
AIZEN/Excavatio Web site:
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~aizen/>

**News
&
Announcements**

"El período de transición"

**Time of Transition: The Boom and Beyond
throughout the Americas**

**A Regional Literary Conference for
Students and Faculty
Friday, April 6, 2000**

Call for Papers—

You are invited to submit presentation proposals for a conference sponsored by the English Department graduate students at Minnesota State University, Mankato, celebrating the Latin American writing movement (focusing on the years 1960-present). We welcome proposals representing a variety of responses to the literature and the culture it represents. Paper and panel topics may include (we welcome any other suggestions):

Conferences/Call For Papers

(continued from page 4)

- The Influence of the Boom Period on Post-Boom Literature
- Gender Issues in Contemporary Latin American Literature
- Gabriel García Márquez: Journalism and Fiction in Latin American Literature
- The Boom Period and Pop Culture
- Latin American Literature and Film
- Literature as a Political Vehicle



- The Boom, the Indigenista, and Folklore
- The Boom: Surrealism as Form and Technique

Individual presentations should be no more than fifteen minutes long. Panels will consist of no more than three-four presenters, with time for discussion. Please include the following in your proposal: a title; an abstract not to exceed 300 words per individual; and a brief one-paragraph statement about the presenter(s), including academic affiliation and email address. Please include audio/visual requirements for your presentation. All abstracts should be received no later than THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2001. Notification of acceptance will be sent WITHIN A WEEK OF RECEIPT of the abstract.

Submit abstracts to: Spring 2001 Latin American Conference, English Department, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 230 Armstrong Hall, Mankato, MN 56001

Fax: (507)389-5362.

Or email: angela.yorek@mnsu.edu

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.english.mnsu.edu/wintern/welcome.htm>



PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

This award recognizes exceptional service to the University, its schools, colleges, departments, and service units by any active or retired member of the faculty or staff. Such service must have gone well beyond the



regular duties of a faculty or a staff member, and demonstrate unusual commitment to the University community. A nomination for a President's Award for Outstanding Service should be submitted to the President's Award Committee. The following format is to be used:

NOMINEE: Must be an active or retired member of the University faculty or staff.

NOMINATOR: Must be an alumnus or alumna of the University or a current member of the faculty or staff.

LETTER FROM NOMINATOR: Should focus on personal knowledge of the nominee's exceptional service, i.e., innovative service to students, the University community (broadly interpreted), individual units of the University, or outreach beyond the University.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Must include nominee's address, telephone/fax number, and University background such as current job title and classification or last job title before retirement.

News & Announcements
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SUPPORTING LETTERS: Three (in addition to the letter from the nominator) from the nominee's peers in and outside the University; again, these should focus on personal knowledge as above.

NUMBER OF COPIES: 8

DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSION: **March 2, 2001**

SUBMIT TO: President's Award Committee, c/o Vickie Courtney, University Senate Office, 427 Morrill Hall, 100 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.

NOTE: Persons writing letters of nomination should know that such letters will be legally



available to the nominee upon request, even to an unsuccessful candidate who becomes aware of the nomination*. Nominators should also make sure that writers of supporting letters are aware that their letters, too, will be available on request.

The President's Award Committee, appointed by the president, recommends candidates for this award to the president. The president will have final authority to grant the award, which does not require action by the Senate All-University Honors Committee or approval by the Board of Regents.

*No disclosure is to be made to the nominee while his or her name is under consideration.



Upcoming Re-entry Event!

Students who have traveled or studied abroad are invited to the annual Re-entry Event, "Tall Tales of Travelers," on Thursday, February 15th from 4pm - 6pm in the 3rd floor Blegen Hall Lounge on the West Bank. Come hear stories of adventure and intrigue - maybe share your own - while enjoying music, free food and winning prizes. Sponsored by the Study Abroad Alumni Society (SAAS) and Global Campus.



Summer Institute 2001

Literatura Argentina en la Argentina Crítica y Creación

University of Virginia

Last year's Summer Institute in Argentina was so successful that we are repeating—and expanding—it this year. Designed for PhD students and other scholars, the program brings together some of Argentina's top writers in small group contact with the participants. The brochure (found on the *NEXO* bulletin board) will provide the details of the program, but the following are highlighted:

- Study Argentine literature with some of the country's most productive authors
- Daily classes, workshops and readings with Mempo Giardinelli, Griselda Gambaro, Luisa Valenzuela, Ana María Shúa, Rosa María Lojo, Horacio Salas
- Excursions and field trips
- Housing and meals with families

News & Announcements

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This exciting program is unique in Latin America. Students or colleagues who might be candidates for such an endeavor should contact David T. Gies, Commonwealth Professor of Spanish, at dtg@virginia.edu or the program director, Fernando Operé at fo@virginia.edu for further information.

Organized by the University of Virginia and Centro de Altos Estudios Literarios y Sociales, Chaco.



*The Center for Advanced Feminist Studies,
The Department of Women's Studies and
the Comparative Women's History
Workshop present—*

SPRING 2001: Engendering Politics



CAFS Home Page

A Feminist Studies-Comparative

Women's History Colloquium Series

Co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute

CWHW Workshops:

February 9— **MJ Maynes and Ann Waltner**,
*“Teaching Family, Women’s and Gender
 History as World History.”* 2-3:30 p.m. Social
 Sciences 710, West Bank.

February 16— **Ruth Mazo Karras**,
“Medieval Masculinity.”
 3:30-5:00 p.m. Social Sciences Bldg., Room
 710.



Talk Back Series

(sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and
 the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies)

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 12:00 Noon—1:00 p.m.
Ford Hall Rm. 400:

*“In the Midst of Theocracy: Arab Feminisms,
 Class and the Veil”* with **Marwa Hassoun**,
 graduate student in the Feminist Studies Ph.D.
 Program at the University of Minnesota. Bring
 a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided.



***“Is Cyberspace a Gendered Space?
 And Can We Make it a Democratic
 One?”*** **Susan Herring**, Assoc. Prof. of
 Information Science and Linguistics, Indiana
 University, and author of groundbreaking
 research on ethics and the gendered nature of
 computer mediated communication (CMC).
 Respondents: **Lisa Disch**, Assoc. Prof. Of
 Political Science, U of MN and **Laura
 Gurak**, Assoc. Prof. Of Rhetoric, U. of MN.

Monday, February 12, 2001, 2:00-4:00 p.m.,
 Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey

Center. In the beginning, technology experts
 told us that the Internet would be a space
 of unprecedented freedom and equality. But a
 funny thing happened on the way to the future.
 Early research showed that educated whites,
 primarily men, dominated cyberspace and that
 virtual communication reproduced the same
 social hierarchies found in “real” time and
 space. Now things have changed: more and
 more women and minorities are getting on-
 line. So while the Internet may not be utopia,
 it appears it’s no longer an old boys’ club
 either. Come join us for a lively discussion of
 what’s really going on in cyberspace!
 Reception in the Humphrey Atrium will
 follow the presentation.

For more information, visit
<http://www.isc.umn.edu/gendernet2001>
 E-mail cafs@umn.edu, or call 612-624-6310.
 Sponsored by the Center for Advanced
 Feminist Studies, the Internet Studies Center,
 the College of Liberal Arts, the College of
 Agricultural, Food, and Environmental
 Sciences, and the Office for University
 Women.



News & Announcements

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 Study Abroad Alumni Society (SAAS) and
 Global Campus.



Presentation by Victor Ortiz

Candidate for Assistant Professor
Department of Chicano Studies

“Between an Image and a Rock: The Common Ground of Displacement and Breakthroughs in El Paso, Texas”

Wednesday, February 14, 2001, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Scott Hall Commons, Room 105. Refreshments will be served. For questions, call 612-624-6309.



CARLA FELLOW from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies

The CARLA Steering Committee selected CARLA Fellows for the 2000-2001 academic year; one of them is a graduate student in the Hispanic Linguistics Program, J. Cesar Felix-Brasdefer.

J. Cesar Felix-Brasdefer is a second-year doctoral student in Hispanic Linguistics in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. His principal areas of research focus on the analysis and application of theoretical concepts to language acquisition and language variation. He is interested in issues related to theoretical syntax, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and interlanguage pragmatics. One of Cesar's ongoing interests is to relate theoretical concepts to pedagogical implications for the second language classroom. He participated as a member of the

team which revised and redesigned the Listening Comprehension section of the Graduate Proficiency Tests in Spanish and is currently a T.A. in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

As new CARLA fellows, Cesar will be presenting for the CARLA lunchtime series.

Declining an Invitation: A Cross-cultural Study of Pragmatic Strategies in American English and Latin American Spanish

Thursday, February 15
12:20 - 1:15 p.m.

Location: Nolte 140

Presenter: J. Cesar Felix-Brasdefer



Winter Tango Blast

Lessons and dance to the live music of Cha'suma with surprise guests. Argentinian Tango, waltz, milonga, salsa, chacha, mambo, samba. Northstar Ballroom. Saint Paul Student Center. February 11. 6-10pm. (6-7:30: Dance lessons provided by Four Seasons instructor Rebecca Trost). Dancing follows with *Cha'suma*. Students:\$2; Four Season studio's members \$5; General Public \$8.

This project is sponsored by the Student Union Program Activities of the U of MN, Four Seasons Studio and the Latin Cultural Student Group.

For more info log on to
<http://events.tc.umn.edu>



News & Announcements

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Resource Ctr. of the Americas





Saturday Morning Coffee Hours

Resource Center of the Americas—

Coffee hours feature a speaker, bagels and fair-trade Latin American coffee on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m., Oscar Romero Room (downstairs), Resource Center, 3019 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. \$4 (\$3 for members). For more information, call 612-276-0788. For a half hour before and after each coffeehour, participate in our letter-writing campaign; the Resource Center provides everything necessary for contacting U.S. corporate and governmental officials about their Latin American policies (612) 276-0788, ext. 23. <http://www.americas.org>

2/10—THE SEEDS OF GLOBALIZATION: GENETIC ENGINEERING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US:

As concerns about the safety of genetic engineering rise here in the United States and around the world, agricultural economies are suffering from increased dependence on multinational companies re-writing the rules of agricultural trade to include

genetically engineered seeds. Gabriela Flora, program associate at the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy recently spent six weeks in Brazil and Argentina meeting with farmers, seed companies and environmental activists and will speak on the current crisis in Latin American agriculture in relation to genetic engineering.



THURSDAY NIGHT MOVIES

The Resource Center of the Americas presents a weekly bilingual (Spanish-English) program of educational

videos and discussions with a built-in language exchange, enabling both native English and Spanish speakers to teach and learn from one another. Most movies will have subtitles, so everyone can participate regardless of their language level. 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Oscar Romero Room, Resource Center of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis. Come early and enjoy dinner in our café. And stop by our letter-writing table to make your voice heard by government and corporate officials. These events are FREE. Questions? Call Kazi at 612-276-0788 x.18Community

2/15—ERENDIRA:

A young girl is forced into prostitution by her grandmother after she accidentally burns down their home. When the young lady later falls in love, she and her lover plot the murder of her grandmother so that they can be together. This film, full of magical realism, is based on a story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. With Irene Papas. By Ruy Guerra. 103 minutes. Movie and Discussion in Spanish.



Town Hall Forum on Colombia with Senator Paul Wellstone

Sunday, February 11

3:00 p.m.

First Universalist Church

3400 Dupont Avenue, South Minneapolis
(Free and Open to the Public; FFI 612-276-0788 ext. 10)

Senator Wellstone will discuss his recent fact finding trip to Colombia in early December. The purpose of his trip was to assess the effects of the \$1.3 billion dollar US aid package known as Plan Colombia. In Colombia the Senator traveled with US Ambassador Ann Patterson and others, meeting with human rights

News & Announcements

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workers in Bogota and Barrancabermeja, one of the country's most conflictive areas. He witnessed a coca eradication operation and met with several high ranking U.S. and Colombian political and military representatives. Senator Wellstone was one of only three senators to vote against Plan Colombia last summer when it was approved and he continues to insist on respect for the human rights conditions contained in the package.

Luis Gilberto Murillo, former governor of the state of El Choco, Colombia, will be joining the Senator. Mr. Murillo was forced to abandon his promising career and seek refuge in the United States following his kidnapping by paramilitaries and threats on the life of his family. An Afro-Colombian, Mr. Murillo was the youngest person ever to win a gubernatorial election in his country. He is an outspoken advocate for the environment, the rights of the indigenous and those of African origin. A person of striking intelligence and integrity, Sr. Murillo is quickly distinguishing himself as one of the most important Colombian voices for peace in the US.

There will be ample opportunity for questions and answers.

Sponsored by:

Unitarian Universalist Social Justice
Committee
Resource Center of the Americas
KFAI Radio
Colombia Support Group of Minnesota



The Job Market

Further details regarding all jobs listed in this newsletter are located on the *NEXO* bulletin board near instructor mailboxes (4D-E-F)

The University of Iowa

[Assistant Professor of Andean Literature]

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese of the University of Iowa is seeking applicants for a tenure-track assistant professor of Andean literature. Teaching load of four courses per year in Spanish American literature and culture. Salary will be competitive. Ph.D. required by August 1, 2001.

Screening begins **March 7, 2001** for appointment beginning fall 2001. Interviews of finalists will be conducted the week of March 26, 2001.

Send letter of application, CV, and three letters of recommendation to Professor Daniel Balderston, Chair, Department of Spanish and



Bridging the Gap...

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He wrote a response to the newspaper, soon to be printed, with information he had learned from the course and through his experience in the community. He told the instructor that before taking this course, he never would have responded to such an article. Now, he said, he has come to have a deeper understanding about immigrants, understand the value of service to himself and the importance of actively engaging in his role as a citizen in this country.

While this dynamic program is clearly a vital component of the education and developmental advising provided for our students, it also contributes to scholarly research within academia itself. Research has, for example, indicated that there is a consistent correlation between second language achievement and students' attitudes and motivation. In a recent study of students in Spanish 3401 conducted by Frank Morris, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, it was concluded through both qualitative and quantitative analysis, that the *Service-Learning in the Chicano/Latino Community* class can be employed as a pedagogical tool in enhancing

motivation and promoting positive attitudes towards second language learning and culture.

Numerous students have found their service to be so valuable in enhancing their Spanish language skills and getting to know the Chicano/Latino people and culture that they have continued volunteering long after the semester has ended. One student stated, "I took a lot of classes at the University but I got



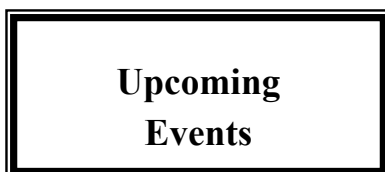
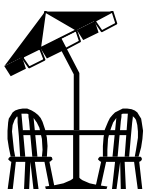
the most out of this service-learning course. It not only opened my eyes to the world/community around me, but it influenced my future career path." Careers have begun from students' service in a number of cases. Just a few examples include one past student who is now a paralegal at Centro Legal, another who is the editor of the new bilingual magazine in the Twin Cities, *Vida y Sabor*, and another who is now a research assistant with the Pediatrics Unit at Hennepin County Medical Center

The community partners have also found the relationship with the students from *Service-Learning in the Chicano/Latino Community* to be very beneficial to their organizations. As stated, many have formally employed students from the course following the program. Numerous others have written notes thanking Ganley for the work her students have done and looked forward to long and rewarding partnerships together. One director at The Neighborhood House commented that students from Spanish 3401 are the best-prepared and

dedicated students that she ever had to teach ESL at her organization.

A key factor in the continued success of this program is making sure that students are aware of the benefits and options of taking this course, and ensuring that it continues to fit well with academic planning and requirements both within and outside the Department. The Department Chair, DUS, CUA and Ganley herself have taken care to ensure that the course fulfills College of Liberal Arts Liberal Education requirements for both Cultural Diversity and Citizenship and Public Ethics, providing students from across the University the opportunity to fulfill these requirements through a hands-on course that directly links them with the diversity of our local community. In addition, the course fulfills elective requirements for both majors and minors in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies Studies.

This service learning course has broken ground toward a number of new initiatives and innovations planned for development within the Department over the next several years. It is truly an exemplary model in keeping with two of the most important missions of this institution and department: excellence in undergraduate education, and deep commitment to greater community outreach.



CARLA LUNCHTIME SERIES—

“Declining an Invitation: A Cross-cultural Study of Pragmatic Strategies in American English and Latin American Spanish.”
Thursday, February 15, 12:20 - 1:15 p.m.

Loca-

tion: Nolte 140. Presenter: **J. Cesar Felix-Brasdefer**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
 Department of Spanish and Portuguese
 College of Liberal Arts
 34 Folwell Hall
 9 Pleasant Street S.E.
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455