

NEXO

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

Volume 7 Issue 20

February 16, 2001

Breaking Ground in Teaching Writing through the Spanish Writing Center

In the 1990s, as part of the "Initiative for Excellence in Undergraduate Education," the University of Minnesota implemented courses that would encourage and recognize writing across the curriculum beyond the traditional departments of English and Rhetoric. Although the Department of Spanish and Portuguese had long required significant writing in advanced courses taught in both Spanish and Portuguese, this central change in direction meant rethinking the way the Department dealt with student writing from a pedagogical standpoint. It also meant rethinking the way we provide students with the necessary services and tools to meet the newly articulated writing standards.

The new, central standards require students to take four Writing Intensive (WI) courses, which include an assigned total of ten to fifteen pages of 'process writing,' or formal writing that is composed and then revised based on instructor feedback. Process writing had already



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been a key pedagogical element of the department's language curriculum, and that model was extended to advanced courses designated as WI beginning Fall Semester 1999. The Director of Undergraduate

Studies (DUS), Prof. Luis Ramos-García, undertook the training of instructors teaching advanced WI courses in Spanish.

In addition to the pedagogical adjustments, it was also necessary to examine and address the

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unique needs of students working on process writing at the advanced level through Spanish. The department currently serves approximately 400 majors and 300 minors, and for most of these students Spanish is a second language. This poses unique meta-learning issues as they work through both process writing and second language issues simultaneously. Traditional writing centers

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DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES:

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Graduate Student Representatives to Faculty Meetings

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COGS

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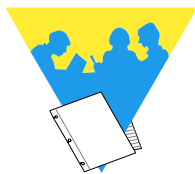
Frances Matos-Schultz
Debra Barrett (Alt.)

The Spanish Writing Center (continued from page 1)

focusing on work produced in English were clearly not in a position to assist students in this area. In 1999 the department established The Spanish Writing Center (SWC) or *Centro de redacción*, a consultation center to assist students with writing assignments in Spanish at the advanced level. This initiative was unprecedented at the University of Minnesota. For the first time in the history of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, and perhaps the University of Minnesota, there is a writing center that provides support services at the advanced level in a target language other than English. The SWC falls under the supervision of the DUS, and coordination and oversight was channeled to the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising (CUA) and has become an integral component of the Department's undergraduate advising and students services program.

The SWC is staffed by advanced graduate students who have significant experience teaching within this Department and providing various types of related service to students. During the 1999-2000 academic year, the first set of Writing Consultants (Rob Strong, Joe Fruth and Paola Marín) established the infrastructure of the SWC as well as the creativity behind its pedagogical projects. They made templates for recording information about students' visits, established a communication network to publicize the SWC, and set up a system to organize materials developed and distributed for both instructors and students. To supplement the services offered by the SWC, they designed a new WebPage and instituted the annual Writer's Workshop and Outstanding Undergraduate Papers Competition. They also implemented the biannual Senior Paper Works-in-Progress Series as a companion event to the Faculty Senior Seminar Information Sessions coordinated by the CUA.

NEXO, the departmental newsletter, will be published weekly during the 1998-9 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.



Conferences & Call For Papers

Evasion and Commitment International congress Wenceslao Fernández Flórez

Call For Papers—

The 14th, 15th and 16th of May, 2001, the University of Coruña, Spain will host the **First International Congress Wenceslao Fernández Flórez: Evasion and Commitment**. This Congress will approach the study Spanish Literature (Theatre, Poetry and Prose) in terms of its social and cultural significance (ethics and aesthetics) from the Eighteenth Century until the present. The following categories have been proposed:

- 18th C. Lit: Baroque to Neoclassicism
- 19th C. Lit: Neoclassicism to Romanticism
- 19th C. Lit: Romanticism to Realism
- 20th C. Lit: Generation of '98 to the Avant-garde Movement
- 20th C. Lit: Avant-garde to “postwar Literature”
- 20th C. Lit: “Postwar Literature” to the present
- 21st C. Lit: New horizons

Papers will be accepted on a first-come basis. Presentations will not exceed 20 minutes. Those participants who wish to present their papers for publication must keep in mind the following considerations:

1. Articles must not exceed 15 pages, with 2 cm margins, letter type Times 12, double-spaced.
2. Footnotes (Times 10) adhering to the following format: Sainz de Robles,

Federico. *Linares Rivas: Obras escogidas*. Madrid: Aguilar, 1947; pg. 17.

3. A written copy of the article and a diskette copy (Word 6.0/Windows) must be submitted **before April 15, 2001**.
4. Registration fees will be 5.000 pesetas (10.000 pesetas if presenting a paper).

Pre-Registration Form—

Name: _____
 Institution: _____
 Title of Paper: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Submit, **before April 15, 2001**, to:

Prof. Fidel López Criado
 Facultad de Filología. Campus de Elviña
 Universidad de la Coruña
 15001 La Coruña, SPAIN



Sephardic Studies Call for Papers 2001 MLA Convention

Sephardic Scribes and Manuscripts, Printers
and Presses, Bookmen and Readers

Papers addressing commercial, sociological, ideological, and other aspects of the production, distribution, and commerce in Sephardic manuscripts and/or books, holy as well as secular.

One-page abstract, brief bibliography, and vitae by **March 16, 2001**. Only postmarked submissions will be accepted. Papers may be in English, Portuguese and/or Spanish.

Mail to:
John Zemke
Romance Languages
137 Arts & Sciences
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Fax: 573-884-8171
Telephone: 573-882-6977
E-mail: ZemkeJ@missouri.edu



Conferences/Call For Papers

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Translating in and Across Cultures

MMLA 2001 Conference
Cleveland, November 1-3

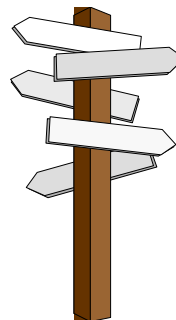
Informal Theme—

- Transculturation
- Transgendering
- Translating Race
- Borders and Translation
- Postcolonial Translations
- Pedagogy as Translation
- Translation and Technology
- Translating Film
- Untranslatability

Send session proposals or paper abstracts by
March 30 to:

Dianna Niebylski, President
MMLA
302 EPB
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-1408

www.uiowa.edu/~mmla



**News
&
Announcements**

Presentation by Luz Calvo

Candidate for Assistant Professor
Department of Chicano Studies

“Typhoid Maria: Mexican Immigration and the Semiotics of Contamination”

Wednesday, February 21, 2001, 3:00-4:00
p.m., Scott Hall Commons, Room 105.
Refreshments will be served. For questions,
call 612-624-6309.



Under the Volcano: A Celebration of Women's History

Thursday, March 1, 2001 6:00PM- 11:30PM
McNamara Alumni Center, U of M Gateway

Free with student ID. Others: suggested donation of \$5. No one turned away due to lack of funds. Refreshments will be provided.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rose Brewer, Associate Professor of Afro- American Studies

Performances by:

- Proyecto La Plena, the plena music of Puerto Rico, a fusion of African, Spanish and Indigenous roots
- Teatro Latino presents Joy Cheverria in the critically acclaimed, "Rosita's Jalapeno Kitchen"

News & Announcements

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- Theater Mu, a combination of Western and Asian Style Drumming
- The East Bank Singers, traditional Native American song, drum and dance
- Drumheart, a women's drumming group
- Xperimental Theater presents Lisa Arnold a graduate student in Theater Program with her program "ad-dendum, ad infinitum"

Raffle tickets for one dollar will be sold to benefit the Women Encouraging Women program. The program will primarily assist low-income women and first generation students to find resources and support to acquire a post secondary education.

If you have any questions or would like an invitation or a flyer please call 612-625-9837.



CARLA Fellow 2000-01 Presentation

"Informing Second Language Teaching: Lessons from Immersion Education"—

Thursday, February 22, 12:20—1:15 p.m., Folwell Hall Rm. 46. Language immersion programs seek to educate K-12 learners by teaching subject matter through a second language. Two major program types currently exist in the U.S.; they are known as one-way and two-way immersion programs. After briefly defining the core features and goals of these programs, this presentation will highlight a few key lessons that researchers and practitioners have gleaned from one-way and two-way immersion education over time. These lessons may be used to inform effective second language teaching in a variety of contexts.

Presenter: **Tara Fortune**, in her final year as a Ph.D. student in Second Languages and Cultures Education Program in the College of Education and Human Development. Her dissertation research project explores the nature of four 5th grade students' oral language use in a classroom and non-classroom immersion setting. It seeks to describe how and understand why immersion students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds use their languages the way they do. Tara has been involved with CARLA as a graduate assistant and as a leader for the immersion summer institutes.



Center for Medieval Studies

College of Liberal Arts

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Spring 2001 Colloquia

For more information about the dinners with speakers following the lecture, or about student breakfasts the following morning, please contact the Center for Medieval Studies at 626-0805 or cmedst@tc.umn.edu. All colloquia, unless specified, will be held in 229 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Dr. S.E. on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

February 22— *“Francophone Cultural Space in the 14th Century: Jeand’Arras’s Roman de Mélusine”*

Kevin Brownlee, University of Pennsylvania



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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>

2/17-NUKEWATCH: Two hundred scientists, veterans, legal scholars, journalists and anti-war activists from eighteen countries recently converged in Manchester, UK to focus attention on the health and environmental impacts of using depleted uranium (DU) weapons. John LaForge speaks about depleted uranium weapons, the Energy Department's Yucca Mountain nuclear waste plan, and the international campaign to ban uranium weapons. John is a plowshares activist on the staff of Nukewatch, an anti-nuclear power and weapons group based in Wisconsin, and is editor of its' quarterly newsletter, Pathfinder.



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

2/22—AND THE EARTH DID NOT SWALLOW HIM:

This is a touching dramatic movie about the life of a migrant farm working family. The movie shows the strains and struggles that the migrant people endure. It is told through the eyes of the young son as he tries to grow in the uncertain and always changing surroundings. The movie powerfully illustrates the poor living and working conditions of the migrant workers. 100 minutes. Movie and Discussion



Meeting the Challenge

The ninth annual conference, “*Globalization at Home: Effective Organizing in the Global Economy*” begins with Solidarity Kids Theatre’s new play, “The Mask,” and a video on recent organizing victories by Hotel Employees and restaurant Employees Local

17, introduced by HERE national President John Wilhelm. Free. 7-9:30 p.m. Weyerhaeuser Chapel, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul. Telephone: 651-696-6371.



News & Announcements

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REM 2000-2001

REM Workshop: February 23, 2001

"Report from the REM 2000 graduate student grant recipients"

You are cordially invited to hear the REM graduate students report on their recent research.

"Dress and Identity: Somali Women in the Twin Cities"

Heather Akou: Design, Housing and Apparel, University of Minnesota

"Recently Immigrated Korean Children's Experience with American Public School, Twin Cities"

Yoo-Jin Choi: Work, Community and Family Education, University of Minnesota

"The Muse and the Scientific Method: Anthropological Discourse in Cuba and Brazil, 1930-1980"

Joshua Lund: Spanish and Portuguese, University of Minnesota

Friday, February 23, 2001

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Immigration History Research Center,
Conference Room 308
University of Minnesota West Bank Campus
Elmer L. Andersen Library
222-21st Avenue South
Minneapolis
Refreshments will be served!

Call for Workshop Presentations

If you are a University of Minnesota graduate student whose work fits within the theme of race, ethnicity and migration and would like to share your research-in-progress as part of the REM spring workshop series, please contact Marilee DesLauriers, REM Project Coordinator, at (612) 626-7973 or at rem@tc.umn.edu.



Blood Wedding will be playing at the Guthrie lab until February 18th, 2001. Tickets are priced between \$18-26 and can be purchased through the Guthrie Theatre Box Office at 612-377-2224. Performances times vary with the days of the week. Evening and matinee shows are available.



U of Minnesota Human Rights Center Fellowship Grants

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Center is offering 15-20 fellowship grants of \$1,000 to \$4,500 for individuals to work for approximately ten weeks with a local, regional, national, or international human rights organization. The application deadline is March 1, 2001.

The Human Rights Center is providing fellowship grants to residents of the Upper Midwest--including students, teachers, lawyers, other professionals, community leaders, and others--to undertake practical experience in human rights organizations.

The Fellowship Program is designed to promote human rights by providing practical training in the varied aspects of human rights

News & Announcements

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work worldwide. The fellowship placement should provide both training for the individual and assistance to the organization." The University of Minnesota HRC Fellowship

Program also fosters links between communities in the Upper Midwest and

communities and human rights organizations around the world. Therefore, participants will act as human rights ambassadors of their work after the fellowship appointment, by bringing human rights concerns back to their communities in the Upper Midwest.

Grant details:

- Awards are competitive, approximately fifteen grants will be awarded for the 2000-2001 program.
- Fellowships should be approximately 10 weeks in duration
- Grants will ordinarily range from \$1,000 to \$4,500, averaging about \$3,200 and are intended to cover travel and living expenses incurred during the approximately ten-week fellowship experience.
- Applications must be received by the U of M CHR by **March 1, 2001 at 4:00pm**
- Decisions will be made by March 31, 2001

For more information and an application, please check out our website at <http://160.94.193.60/jobs/fellowships/index.htm>

To obtain an application, please contact Martha Malinski, Upper Midwest International Human Rights Fellowship Coordinator, at 612-626-0041 or via email at humanrts@umn.edu.



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)

Resource Center of the Americas

Educational programming director to lead our Common Circle, serving a variety of constituencies, from teachers to social workers to Latino immigrants and the general public. We need an educator with 3-5 years experience in a community setting, a formal institution and a nonprofit organization. Spanish language skills are a plus.

Full time. For detailed job description, call 612-276-0788 or visit www.americas.org.



The Job Market

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Lambi Fund of Haiti

Development director for small, progressive, innovative, grassroots foundation supporting the popular movement in Haiti with economic development projects. Work with two U.S.-based staffers and a Haiti-based director and staff from your home office. Grant experience, strong writing and communication skills, knowledge of Haiti or Latin America, and Creole or French. Biannual trips to Haiti. Full time. Résumé, letter, writing sample to Neil Elliott, 651-488-1062 (fax); lambi@igc.org



Ericsson School

Ericsson Community School is a K-5 school with a recent influx of Spanish speaking students. To better serve these students, we would like to have a bilingual teacher (license not required) to work with these students in our after school program. The after school classes run 3:00 – 4:45, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We would like to have someone all or any of those days. The teacher would primarily be helping students with homework but also helping them adjust to life in the U.S.

This is a paid position which includes paid prep time. The hourly rate would be based on experience but ranges from \$12.00 to \$25.00.



Americorps Vista Member

The Minnesota Literacy Council (MLC) is seeking a motivated and dedicated individual to serve at least one year as an AmeriCorps* VISTA. The position is unique in that it offers a wide range of responsibilities and a wealth of experiences. Duties include: coordinate the Summer Reading Program, grant research/writing, maintain children's literacy program network and help guide the MLD into children's literacy.

Qualifications: Excellent organization and communication skills, ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds, computer experience, BA/BS. Full-time, \$694/month, medical, \$4,725 education award or \$1,200 cash stipend.

For more information contact: Ryan Johnson, 651-645-2277, rjohnson@theMLC.org



The Spanish Writing Center

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After a successful first year, Rob Strong provided leadership and training for incoming Writing Consultants Angela Carlson-Lombardi and Amy Robinson to take the reigns of the SWC for the 2000-2001 academic year. After familiarizing themselves with the computer and web design expectations of the job and setting up new space in proximity of the Department's new One-Stop Computer and Tutoring Lab (offering computers with Spanish and Portuguese spell-check and grammar-check in space staffed by qualified tutors), Carlson-Lombardi and Robinson conducted research regarding the organization and services of other writing centers and examined how writing consultations and "teaching writing" can be handled most effectively. They developed new materials for both students and instructors and greatly enhanced the now comprehensive WebPage <http://spanishwritingcenter.cla.umn.edu> to make their work and previous materials readily available. In addition to continuing all of the supplemental services organized during

the previous inaugural year, Carlson-Lombardi and Robinson broke new ground in student and instructor outreach. They organized and conducted in-class computer-based SWC service orientation sessions in all Span 3015: Advanced Communication Skills courses (20 sections over fall and spring 2000-2001, reaching approximately 400 students directly). They also provided in-class sessions on request for a number of upper level courses to introduce students and instructors to the SWC services.

All of the efforts with the SWC to date have paid off enormously. With the consistent support of the faculty, instructors, and administrative staff who helped develop and distribute materials throughout the year, the SWC has assisted a large percentage of the

upper level students in the Department. During the fall of 2000, the Writing Consultants logged in over 300 individual student consultations in addition to their classroom outreach. The opportunity to discuss and nurture the writing process on a one-on-one basis has helped students develop important critical and analytical skills, as well as familiarize them with the mechanics of effective writing. In short, students who frequent the SWC learn not just to submit a good piece of writing but how to empower themselves toward being good writers. Beyond the hands-on work done in the office, many more students had contact with the Writing Center through the WebPage that includes an on-line dictionary and verb conjugation tool, downloadable handouts with helpful words for writing, diagnostic guides for compositions, examples of proper format, many links dealing with writing style, etc. The SWC Fall Writers' Workshop also proved very successful. Students attended short sessions ranging from how to use technology

for research, how to write in Spanish and have it sound like Spanish, formulating thesis statements, or how to avoid stereotypes when writing on cultural topics. The Fall Senior Paper Works in Progress Series promoted the work and research of outstanding final-year students working on topics combining literature, culture, social concerns, and politics, and the sessions were attended by more than 60 students and faculty.

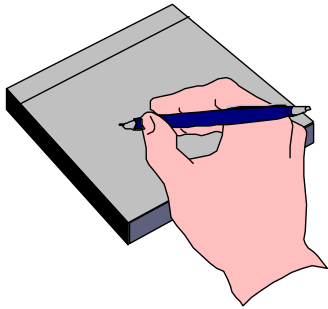
Although the services provided focus specifically on undergraduate students, the benefits available through the SWC are not limited to the undergraduate level. The SWC also reaches our graduate level in providing invaluable professional development experience for the Writing Consultants themselves. The graduate students who have taken advantage of the opportunity to work in this unique setting have benefited greatly. Each one has had the opportunity to gain significant training and experience in web development and other technologies that are highly valued in the current academic job market. Further, not only do they have the opportunity to work individually with students and spend time

Writing Center

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developing pedagogical materials for advanced courses, they have also become more mindful of the challenges that second language writers face. For these graduate students who aspire to continue working with undergraduate education, the Spanish Writing Center experience has been invaluable to their professionalization as well as for their scholarship.

—Margaret Demmessie
Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising



*International Opportunities**Fair/Photo Contest—*

Thursday, February 22, 2001. 10:00 a.m.-3:00
p.m. Humphrey Center Atrium, U. of MN.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
College of Liberal Arts
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455