We’re back after a year’s lapse, looking forward to letting you know what has been happening in Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Washington.

We continue to grow. Two new assistant professors have joined our faculty recently. Kevin Donnelly came to the department from the Ph.D. program at NYU in the fall of 2006. He works on Latin American Colonial Literature, with particular interest in the configuration of the city in the 18th century. Ana Fernández Dobao joined the department this past fall. She comes to us from Santiago de Compostela via Montréal to direct our Spanish language program. Additionally, Donald Gilbert-Santamaría has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. Congratulations to all three!

You will also see new faces in the main office. Three new staff members have joined the department in the last year: Advisers Suzanna Martínez and Lani Phillips, and secretary Gabriela Pirralho. We are delighted to welcome them. Elena Johns and Jennifer Keene have moved to other positions within the university and Leona Phillips left the UW. We thank them for their years of service to the department and wish them all the best.

Perhaps the biggest news is that we have more than doubled the number of Spanish majors in the last two years, from 100 to 246! Our new major curriculum requires study abroad or experiential learning in the Seattle area, by which we further our mission of creating global citizens who understand that they must also give back to their communities.

Many readers of this newsletter are veterans of the department’s study abroad programs and will be happy to know that they continue to thrive, with record enrollments in Cádiz and Oaxaca projected for next year. Our summer c-term program in Ecuador remains popular with students at all levels. We have opened a new program for first-year Spanish in León, Spain. Now in its second year, the program by all accounts is a resounding success.

The León program is one outcome of the visit of a delegation from Castilla y León in 2005. On that occasion President Emmert signed an agreement of cooperation with the autonomous government of CyL, out of which has also grown an endowed León Professorship in the department. Fall 2008 will also see the arrival in Seattle of ten interns, financed by the Fundación de la Universidad de León y la Empresa, a private-public partnership. Several of them will work in Spanish and Portuguese Studies and others will intern with businesses and cultural institutions in the greater Puget Sound.

After several years’ negotiations, the Spanish government opened a branch of the Instituto Cervantes in our department in the fall of 2006. It is only the fourth such center in the United States, joining New York, Chicago and Albuquerque, and the first...
Letter from the Chair

on the West Coast. The Instituto Cervantes is Spain’s equivalent of the Alliance Française, the Goethe Institute, or the British Institute. Its mission is the diffusion of the Spanish language and the culture of Spain and Latin America. We are very fortunate to be piloting this new program at the UW. Carmen Flores Plá replaced José Ignacio Callén as local director in December 2007. You can read about the Instituto Cervantes at: http://www.cervantes.es/.

Our M.A. program continues to attract strong students from the US, Spain and Latin America, and in recent years our graduates have been accepted to prestigious doctoral programs at Brown, Princeton, Berkeley, NYU, Harvard and Columbia, among others. Meanwhile, we are actively working with the Graduate School and the Deans Office to launch a Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies in the department. We greet this as an opportunity to create a doctoral program for the 21st century, and hope to admit our first class in fall 2010.

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One of the department’s missions is to bring cultural events from the Spanish-speaking world to the university and the greater Seattle community. Since our last newsletter we have enjoyed many of these. In spring 2007 we hosted a reading by Nuyorican poet Martín Espada, for the Second Annual Bob Reed-Abe Osheroff Lecture, and in December we sponsored a performance of Malaspina, from an opera by José Luis Greco about the Spanish explorer who first established European contact with the Pacific Northwest. February of this year was also musically rich for us, with the performance of Nacho Duato’s Compañía Nacional de Danza in the Meany, and back-to-back flamenco workshops by Diego del Gastor and Cañizares. In March our Mercedes Palau Baquero on Spanish exploration in the Pacific Northwest; and a talk by artist Gonzalo Martín Callero on art as a form of language throughout history.

I believe we are progressing toward great things. As we move to complete the first decade of the 21st century, the department continues to grow and prosper. We appreciate your support and encouragement as we work to reach more students, develop future teachers and scholars, and connect to the broader community of Seattle, Washington State, and the world. Thank you and stay in touch.

Un cordial saludo,

Anthony L. Geist
FACULTY NEWS

Kevin Donnelly, Professor of Colonial Studies, attended the Colonial American Studies Organization conference in Quito, Ecuador in June 2007 and the Latin American Studies Association conference in Montreal, Canada in September 2007. He recently completed a co-authored volume on convent writing and an article on an eighteenth-century history of the city of Potosí. Prof. Donnelly is currently working on a full-length manuscript on eighteenth-century intellectual culture in the Spanish American colonies, focusing specifically on the ways that a unique, distinctly American mode of knowledge is used to articulate Creole political interests. He is also developing a broader range of pre-twentieth century Latin American-focused courses.

Beyond her duties as Program Coordinator of the third year language classes, Senior Lecturer Maria Gillman has continued to expand the Heritage Language Program. In 1999 she pioneered the first university level program in the state of Washington aimed at students whose first language is Spanish, yet were educated in English, and whose needs are very different than students learning Spanish as a second language. This year she collaborated with the Center for Applied Linguistics by providing a profile of the program. She also consults with teachers who want to implement a heritage language program in their schools and conducted a workshop series for high school teachers with heritage learners.

As Divisional Director of Experiential Learning, Maria was able to provide students with real world experience. The program offers students the opportunity to participate in an Experiential Learning project, in which they combine academic course work with service to the Spanish-speaking community in places such as the Centro de la Raza and the Mexican Consulate. Please visit our Experiential Learning page.

Maria also serves as liaison between the Division of Spanish and Portuguese and the Center for Spanish Studies. In that role she collaborated with Dr. Josefa Baez, to provide monthly workshops to teachers in the state. She was an evaluator for the “Certamen literario “Escribo en español”, sponsored by the Center for Spanish Studies. She also attended a Conference “Legacy: Spain and the United States in the Age of Independence, 1763-1848”, sponsored by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, The Ministry of Culture of Spain and the Embassy of Spain in the United States in September, 2007 in Washington D.C.

As part of her outreach with the community, Maria continues to be the producer of a radio clip “Cápsulas culturales, literarias y del uso de la lengua”, sponsored by the Consulate of Mexico.

She also continued as Director on site of the program that she began in 2003 for the Summer Institute for K-12 teachers in La Antigua Guatemala with 28 participants.

Maria made two presentations at The Washington Association of Foreign Language Teachers (WAFLT) October, 2007 in Yakima, Washington: “Un poeta de la generación del 27: Los exilios de Luis Cernuda” and “Redacción libre dirigida para Heritage Learners”.

Senior Lecturer Maria Gillman

She received the 2008 Keith Crosbie Professional Growth Award granted by the Washington Association of Foreign Language Teachers. She used the award to fund her research project, “The Train of Dreams or Nightmares” which later evolved to another conference presentation: “The Other Border”. These were studies of the hardships along the borders of Mexico and Guatemala among immigrant youth from Central America traveling alone to reach the United States.
Dr. Ana Fernández Dobao joined the Spanish and Portuguese Studies Division in September 2007 as an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Spanish Language Program. Fernández Dobao received her PhD from the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in 2005, with a dissertation entitled "The Use of Communication Strategies by Spanish Learners of English: A Study of the Collaborative Creation of Meaning, Language and Linguistic Knowledge". She conducts research in the field of second language acquisition and her areas of interest include sociocultural theory, activity theory and task-based research. She has published several articles in these areas and is now working on a project on the use of the first language as a cognitive tool in second language learning. She presented a first paper on this issue in March 2008 at the annual conference of the American Association for Applied Linguistics. As Language Program Director, Ph.D. Fernández Dobao is responsible, in collaboration with the first-year language coordinator, for the training and supervision of the Spanish Teaching Assistants. She teaches the Methodology of Spanish Language Teaching seminar and Spanish linguistics courses. In winter 2009, she will be offering a graduate research seminar on Classroom interaction and second/foreign language acquisition.

Donald Gilbert-Santamaría had an article come out this year in the British journal, The Bulletin of Hispanic Studies. "Love and Friendship in Montemayor's La Diana" is part of a larger book length project that examines representations of friendship in Early Modern Spain. Another article, "Maravall's Post-Hegelian Roots" has been accepted pending revisions for publication in Modern Language Quarterly. He recently submitted a third article, "Guzmán de Alfarache's 'Other Self',' for inclusion in the edited volume, Friendships "New Begun": Discourses of Early Modern Friendship. In other news, Gilbert-Santamaría teamed up in the winter quarter with former UW instructor Anna Witte for a student production of three short plays from the Spanish Golden Age. Performed before sold-out crowds on two nights in March at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre, he hopes that this marks the return of a long tradition of theatre production in the department. Finally, he was extremely relieved to discover that his tenure bid had been approved this year, an accomplishment that would not have been possible without the generous support of his colleagues.

Professor Leigh Mercer had a remarkably busy year in the department, teaching courses on 19th-century theater, cultural studies, and Spanish film, and starting her position as Program Coordinator for the division's M.A. in Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies. Ph.D. Mercer published three articles this year, two in Studies in Hispanic Cinemas on the topic of Spanish silent film, and another in The Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies on the role of dueling in the lives of 19th-Century Spanish gentlemen.

Furthermore, she continued to develop her book manuscript, Out and About: Gender, Class and Urban Space in the 19th-Century Spanish Novel. Building on a paper she delivered at the 2007 MLA Conference, Prof. Mercer is currently composing a new article on the representation of domestic violence in Rosalía de Castro’s La hija del mar. Professor Mercer would also like to announce what was perhaps her biggest “project” of the past year -- the birth of her son Eliot in June 2007.
Teaching Associate Christina Zubelli attended the workshop "Diversity in the Classroom", offered by the UW Teaching Academy. The workshop was facilitated by Luis R. Fraga, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement, Office of Minority Affairs and Office of the Provost. Attendees discussed classroom diversity-related issues and shared their experiences in handling challenging situations.

As a professional translator, Zubelli participated in the American Translators Association 48th Annual Conference held in San Francisco, with more than 150 educational sessions. The Portuguese language seminars provided opportunities to discuss Portuguese and English contrasts in writing, neologisms, and other language trends. The seminars allowed for closer interaction with colleagues from Brazil, Portugal, and the US.

Christina Zubelli also taught an intensive Portuguese language course to a group of Study Abroad Program students who were going to do research in Brazil in Spring 2008. Other teaching activities included conversational Portuguese and Sanskrit courses through the UW Experimental College.

Just prior to accepting her Teaching Associate position last Autumn, Zubelli completed her work with the Microsoft team that developed the Portuguese spellchecker and thesaurus for the next version of Microsoft Office.

Leon Bensadon is teaching, since Spring 2007, Spanish 313, a Spanish for Business course focusing on Hispanic markets and their business practices and cultures. This course was originally created by Joan Fox but, due to her intense involvement with her first-year level duties, was kindly passed over to him. As part of his preparation for said course, he participated in the Eighth Annual Spanish Language Faculty Development Program in Ávila, Spain "Teaching Spanish for Business: A Global Approach" June 10-15, 2007, sponsored by the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER).

He is also the recipient of the 2007-2008 Business Language Proposal Grant, sponsored by the Global Business Center/CIBER, University of Washington.

He was recently confirmed to participate in the UW Teaching Academy's Institute for Teaching Excellence (ITE), to be held at the Olympic Natural Resources Center in Forks, WA from Sunday, June 15 to Friday, June 20, 2008.

Associate Professor Suzanne Petersen continues to expand and enhance the functionality of her primary research endeavor, her interactive, web-based Pan-Hispanic Ballad Project which now houses some 9000 old and modern ballads, including about 30 audio recordings by the original singers/reciters and several hundred new versions of Portuguese and Catalan ballads.

This summer she will work on implementing cartographic display of ballad data from the Iberian Peninsula, North Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean Sephardic traditions.

También, Edgar recibió algunas invitaciones y participó en las conferencias siguientes: Entrega del Premio Reina Sofía a Blanca Varela y presentación del volumen antológico, Madrid, Palacio Real, 14-15 de noviembre de 2007;

"Realismo mágico literario: su ayer, su hoy y su mañana", Seminario pedagógico del Capítulo Juan de Fuca, de la AATSP / Center for Spanish Studies, en Lakeside Upper School, 9 de febrero de 2008.

Uno de los puntos culminares del año escolar fue el recital de fin del taller de creación (SPN 410), 4 de junio de 2008.
The 300 Level
Throughout this year, a new project has been initiated to renovate the core of the 300 level language courses – SPAN 301, SPAN 302, SPAN 303 and SPAN 310. An entire new curriculum will be developed and implemented beginning with the next academic year (2008-2009).

The new 300-level series aims to provide students with the communicative and analytical skills they need to succeed in the literature, culture and linguistics courses that compose the major and minor in Spanish studies. This new program is also intended to respond to the challenges that our students face in their present and future lives, preparing them to be active members of a global society in which the Spanish language is gaining a stronger presence and an increasingly significant role.

The language program on the web
A new web page for the Spanish language program has been developed this year. This web page provides a new site for students and instructors to share the information and materials they need for their classes. It also offers the instructors a wide variety of updated and organized teaching resources and should become a forum for Teaching Assistants, Teaching Associates, and Lecturers to share experiences, ideas, and all sorts of language-related materials. The web site is still in its piloting phase and at the moment is only accessible to the Teaching Assistants. It will be accessible to students and the rest of the teaching community in September 2008. Thanks to Patrick Blaine for his effort on this project!

(By Ana Fernández Dobao)

Two Workshops on the Teaching of Writing
A recent survey conducted within the Division to ascertain how faculty are spending their time showed that for many of us the most time-consuming and frustrating component of our work is composition correcting. To help us rethink our strategies for teaching and responding to student writing and to help us implement changes in our writing programs, the Division held two workshops this year considered so successful by Professor John Webster, the Director of Writing at the University of Washington, that he hopes they will serve as models for other groups on campus.

The workshops were the culmination of a year of study, experimentation and discussion by Frances Gilroy, Natalia Morales, Phillip Markely and Donally Kennedy, recipients of the 2006-2007 4x4 Faculty Grants for Writing-Integrated Course Design. During the first workshop on November 30, 2007, we focused on common mistakes we make in our assignment design, why we need to 1) provide our students with lots of low-stakes writing practice, 2) pitch assignments to skill levels and 3) integrate writing assignments into the larger course goals. At our second workshop held on January 18, 2008, the faculty presented assignments they had redesigned based on our earlier discussion.

On ways to respond to student writing, Afterwards, Professor Webster shared research on ways to respond to student writing, how to weight content and grammatical precision in evaluations of student writing and strategies for managing the workload.

The workshops generated excitement about writing and represented the first time in recent memory that faculty from all ranks of the Division have sat down together in a workshop format to discuss problems common to our teaching and to exchange teaching ideas and experiences. According to Professor Webster, “this truly was one of the most successful department seminars I’ve witnessed from the 4x4”.

(By Donally Kennedy)
Ecuador

The Ecuador: The Meeting of Cultures program has been going strong for the last five years. Last summer, 13 students participated in this program, which combines academic activities with tours of Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, and a four-day trip to the interior of the country.

Academic activities take place at the Escuela Equinoccial in the heart of the Mariscal area, and they include two daily hours of Spanish instruction. Students then go to Salsa lessons. Additionally, we offer weekly lectures on the main theme of the program: the fact that Ecuador is a mestizo or mixed country. It is the result of the mixture of European and indigenous blood, culture, religion, and worldviews. In the words of a former participant:

“The exploration seminar to Ecuador was a phenomenal experience. When I arrived in Quito my expectations of what I was to encounter were for the most part unknown. Every part of the trip allowed me to explore different portions of Ecuadorian society, language and culture. The informal and in turn much more enjoyable.

My class would often leave the school and go to a nearby cafe instead of studying in the school. The best part however of course was spent in the clubs at night were beer was cheap and the dancing was better than any place you will find in the states. Overall the trip was great and I am grateful to have had the opportunity.”

This year our program will expand to include between 16 and 20 students.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Jorge González (panta@u.washington.edu) or Frances Gilroy (francesg@u.washington.edu).

(by Jorge González)
Cádiz

As director of the Northwest Cadiz Program, Professor Petersen reports that enrollments continue to grow despite the devalued US dollar that has required substantial tuition increases in recent years, making study abroad in much of the world more difficult for our students. This fall five students from Western Washington University, Eastern Washington University, and Seattle University will join forty-four UW students headed to Cadiz for the fall semester. Given the unfavorable economic situation, this record number undoubtedly owes much to the glowing reports from the enthusiastic group of students who just finished their spring ’08 semester in Cádiz.

According to testimony by students Erin Higgins, Stephanie Smallman and Eli Williams in 2007:

“Our arrival in Cádiz in August was the beginning of an unforgettable experience. Thirty-three of us, from the University of Washington and Western Washington University, traveled the twenty-plus hours halfway across the world. We started out as strangers, not knowing those sitting around us or what to expect during the next four months.

Meeting our host families after arriving in town was hectic – imagine forty Spanish women, chattering away in rapid Gaditano (Spanish in Cádiz is practically a separate dialect) snatching up their respective students. Needless to say, we were all a little intimidated. However, the discomfort faded quickly as we were welcomed into their families. It truly was remarkable how soon we felt at home with these virtual strangers. The people of Cádiz are remarkably kind, friendly, and never too busy to help, even when several explanations of how to find Plaza San Juan de Dios are necessary.

Getting involved in the daily life of Cádiz was a great way to feel more at home in Cádiz. Probably the best way of doing so was by making Spanish friends. They provided us with local insider knowledge of Cádiz and invaluable language practice. Several of us got involved by joining local gyms, taking classes in dance and guitar, and even finding the time to volunteer. Experiences like these really enhanced our time in Cádiz.

Classes at the Universidad de Cádiz began in mid-September (which cut significantly into our time at the beach! J). We were given a variety of classes to choose from, all with considerate, helpful professors. Taking classes in Spanish on various academic subjects was a fantastic way to improve our Spanish abilities and learn something interesting simultaneously.

Rita and Avram, the program director and assistant director, were wonderful assets to the program. They were there to help us with absolutely anything, be it a question about a class or a recommendation on where to go for tasty tapas. Along with being good sources of information, they became good friends and confidants.

Even though we missed our friends and families back home, leaving Cádiz was by far the hardest part of the trip. All of a sudden, everything we had known for the past four months was going to be left behind. It was difficult to uproot again and leave all those great experience, memories, and friends behind. Cádiz is an enchanting city - we all eagerly await the day we can return.”

(by Suzanne Petersen)
Every fall quarter 2008, the Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies takes a group of up to 25 200-level students to the city of Oaxaca, in southern Mexico. Oaxaca is a beautiful, sunny, Colonial city of approximately 263,000, known for its rich ethnic mix and vibrant cultural life.

Students live with host families and study local culture and Spanish language for a quarter at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca (ICO). In addition, participants learn about Oaxaca’s magnificent ruins, visit textile, woodwork, and pottery villages, experience the bustling activity of Oaxaca’s markets, and witness the elaborate ceremonies of the Days of the Dead (Día de los Muertos, Oct. 31-Nov. 1). After the ceremonies, students are free to travel in small groups for 7-9 days to nearby cities and beaches such as Puerto Ángel, Puerto Escondido, Taxco, Mexico City, or San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. They then return to the Institute in Oaxaca to complete the second session of the quarter. Beginning and ending dates of the quarter are the same as those for Autumn Quarter on campus.

(by Ganeshdath Basdeo)

EVENTS

Spanish Golden Age

On March 14 and 15, students from Anna Witte and Donald Gilbert-Santamaria’s Spanish 449 course presented fully staged productions of three short plays from the seventeenth century. The performances provided the public with a rare opportunity to see live theater from the Spanish Golden Age in Seattle, and gave students in the department a unique opportunity to explore the process of theatrical production. Selected to highlight the breadth of Spanish theatrical work in the period, the plays included two entremeses, the anonymously penned Entremés de los romances and Miguel de Cervantes’s Retablo de las maravillas, as well as a serious allegorical piece by the Mexican poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Anna also choreographed a baroque dance piece that served as the night’s opening act and further dazzled the audience with her singing of a specially arranged traditional Spanish ballad. Our own Tony Geist surprised everyone with a cameo appearance at the end of the first play in which, sword in hand, he showed off his considerable leadership skills. Set construction and no small amount of moral support was provided by Suzy Petersen whose living room, once again, was transformed into a center of building activity throughout the month of March.

The performance was underwritten by a generous grant from the Center for West European Studies. In addition to providing financial support, Karen Boschker from CWES along with Josefa Báez-Ramos of the Spanish Resource Center organized a workshop for teachers on the plays a week before the performances. The Mexican Consulate and María Gilman helped with publicity, arranging television and radio interviews. Finally, the Ethnic Cultural Theatre supported us with much needed extra rehearsal time while the School of Drama’s Costume Shop generously offered unprecedented access to their period clothing, without which this performance would scarcely have been possible.

(by Donald Gilbert-Santamaria)
Graduation Ceremony

On June 13, 2008 the Division of Spanish & Portuguese Studies held its annual convocation in the Waterfront Activities Center on the Montlake Cut to celebrate the graduation of our students. The guest speaker and recipient of the Third Annual Luis Fernando Esteban Public Service Award was Senator Margarita Prentice, honored with numerous awards and recognitions for her service in the legislature, including the /2008 Friend of Education Award/from the Washington Education Association.

Many of our graduates brought family and friends to meet the department’s staff and faculty. Many honors and accomplishments were recognized and applauded, awards handed out, and food and wine made this evening a joyful event for all who attended.
Congratulations to the Spanish B.A. recipients of 2007-2008!

Jessica Erin Aguirre
Candis Danielle Anderson
Taisha Dawn Atkin
Kara Leigh Aubert
Heather Naomi Barto
Darci Marie Bazan
Meagan Elizabeth Beckmeyer
Amy Lynn Bernard
Daniel M. Brewer
Kirby Elizabeth Brittain
Jocelyn Capdevielle
Emily Rachelle Chadwick
Collette Ho-Lai Chan
Dorothy Lauren Cicero
Stephanie Alexis Cochran
Jordan Mark Collier
Amanda Megan Craig
Shannon Lee Davey
Erica Jean Fagerstrom
Katie Nicole Fischer
Janelle Elizabeth Franco
Allison Elaine Gardner
Ismenia N. Gaviria
Meryl Ann Goodwin
Asiha Maryann Grigsby
Amy Julienne Guest
Crystal Renea Gunder
Matthew Timothy Hadreas
Kailey Ann Harem
Kathleen Dorothy Ann Hatch
Angelica Mata Hernandez
Rene Hernandez
Laura Lydia Hill
William Alden Hixenbaugh
Robert Alan Hulsman
Jordyn Rae Jacobson
Nicole Kristina Javurek
Erica Marie Johnson
Lillian Catherine Jones
Talya Deena Karr
Samuel Joseph Knight
Laura Kathryn Kushner
Hillary L. Larsen
Katherine Ann Lawyer
Gilberto Kenneth Lopez
Olivia Iona Magnano
Lee Knight Maloney
Tara Jean Martin
Megan Ella May
Roxanne Reilly McGray
Ann Margaret McRill
Markus David McVay
Eric Joseph Nelson
Holly Opal Noel Newton
Ngoc Thienn Thi Nguyen
Kathryn Lee Nutt
Lauren Ashley Paulus
Kathryn Christina Peebles
Trang M. Pham
Veronica Pietrzak
Courtney Lorraine Plummer
Alexandro C. Powsang
Amy Elizabeth Rankin
David Michael Rascon
Kathryn Elizabeth Reynolds
Jessica Nicole Rodenhauser
Ilana Seder Rosen
Jilliana May Salo
Alyssa Marie Santos
Mackenzie Joyce Schock
Sara Elisabeth Semitic
Kathleen Rose Snyer
Jennifer Jacqueline Sovey
Julia Irene Szilard
Kumi Tanaka
Emily Anna Thompson
Sienna Jean Thorgerson
Rachelle Noemy Tomushev
Tanya Rachel Trask
Daniel Michael Tremblay
Rachel Chloe Uttech
Amanda Monique Valencia
Tiffany Joy Varesko
Iris Madeline Velarde
Stephanie Terese Vera
Catherine Jolie Vincler
Olga Sergeyevna Vnodchenko
Kimberly Mauro Wolf
Andrea Kathleen Wood
Lauren Stephanie Woodman
Robert Lewis Yates
Kei Yonker
Pamela Zavecz
Bailey Elizabeth Zydek

Nominated for Phi Beta Kappa
Cum Laude (minimum 3.76 overall GPA anticipated)
Magna Cum Laude (minimum 3.87 GPA anticipated)
El Center for Spanish Studies está ubicado en Padelford Hall, B-202, y forma parte de la Division of Spanish and Portuguese, en UW.

¿Qué hacemos en el Center for Spanish Studies?
Apoyamos la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de la lengua española y de las culturas en español.

Por eso, en nuestros fondos, http://depts.washington.edu/spnrectr/referencias.htm, cuyo servicio de préstamo es gratuito, hay material bibliográfico y audiovisual en español (libros, películas, música) a disposición de cualquier persona interesada en acercarse a las culturas en español. Las revistas como Materiales y Mosaico son gratuitas. Venga a ver si le interesa alguna de estas publicaciones.

También ofrecemos diversas actividades de perfeccionamiento en el español http://depts.washington.edu/spnrectr/actividades.htm: cursos-talleres didácticos gratuitos –generalmente, los sábados por la mañana--; una Tertulia en español, dos días de la semana; un Taller de Redacción para el nivel 300; asesoría de carácter lingüístico, cultural y turístico; visitamos a estudiantes y maestros en las escuelas del estado de WA para hablar de aspectos de la cultura en español – canciones, cine, teatro, etc.-; a través de nuestra lista de correo electrónico distribuimos informaciones, ofertas de trabajo relacionadas con la comunidad hispana o para hablantes de español; además, participamos en congresos de diversas asociaciones del estado de WA–WAFLT, AATSP– y ofrecemos sesiones de trabajo y presentaciones sobre distintos aspectos de la lengua, la cultura y el arte en el mundo hispano.

No deje de ponerse en contacto con nosotros si cree que podemos servirle de orientación en su interés por el mundo en español: spnrectr@u.washington.edu; teléfono 206 221 6571.

Directora: Dra. Josefa Báez-Ramos, Ph.D.
The Instituto Cervantes is a worldwide non-profit organization created by Spain in 1991 to promote and teach the Spanish language and to spread the culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. From its headquarters in Madrid, the Instituto Cervantes runs a network of more than seventy teaching and cultural centers throughout the world.

The opening of the Aula Cervantes in Seattle in 2007, the first antenna of the Instituto Cervantes on the Pacific Coast, marked the first step of an ambitious project of expansion of the Cervantes Institute in the United States. Located in the Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Washington and working in conjunction with New York’s Cervantes headquarters, the Aula Cervantes is being introduced academically and culturally within the university community.

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The exhibition Correspondents in the Spanish civil war (1936-1939), the Celebration of the day of the book, the participation in the 33ª annual Seattle International Film Festival or the sponsoring of the Compañía Nacional de Danza in Meany Hall, are some cultural events made possible in part by the Instituto Cervantes in Seattle.

The Aula Cervantes of Seattle can offer a multitude of products to universities with Spanish departments, to high schools and community colleges in addition to local companies. During the opening year, the Aula Cervantes in Seattle paved the way for the application of the AVE (Aula Virtual de Español) to be used as educative reference material in the Spanish learning at the University of Washington through a partial-attendance method that combines classes with a language teacher, and work done independently by the student on a computer outside of class time. The Instituto Cervantes proposes the use of its Aula Virtual de Español as one tool of instruction online.

The Instituto Cervantes is also responsible for the setting of the only official accredited certification of the degree of competency and command of Spanish as a foreign language recognized internationally: the Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE) examination, issued by the Instituto Cervantes on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Science of Spain.

The DELE certifies the level of ability achieved by candidates regardless of where and when they have carried out their studies of Spanish. Besides the Castilian standard, any Hispanic linguistic standard will be considered valid for the Diploma, as long as is adhered consistently by candidates.

The Diplomas in Spanish are basically an added value which reinforces and complements the programs of statutory education of foreign languages in many countries and institutions, and they are also instrumental in aiding personal promotion in academic and professional spheres. Examinations take place twice a year (May and November) in the University of Washington. The next examination date will be on November 22nd. You can register for the November 2008 exam from September 1st until October 10th.

Director Carmen Flores Plá
Abraham Lincoln Brigade veteran and lifetime social activist Abe Osheroff died on April 6 at the age of 92. A self-described radical humanist, Abe loved inspiring young people to pursue a life of activism. On several occasions in the last decade he taught a course on “The Spanish Civil War, Origins and Aftermath” in the department. His passing is a great loss to us all. Adiós, Abe.