New Master of Arts Program

At the beginning of this academic year, we were extremely pleased to welcome the first group of graduate students into the Division’s new M.A. Program in Hispanic Studies. They are Megan Kearns, Anne Laughlin, Micah Orr, José Simonet and Camilo Suárez. Although few in number, they have performed admirably both in their graduate studies and as teaching assistants. Moreover, the social, cultural, and national diversity of these students has enriched the intellectual life of the Division. We look forward to the arrival of eight new M.A. candidates next fall, at which time the Division will include graduate students from the US, Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina, Spain, China and Ukraine. ¡Bienvenidos todos ellos!

We were very fortunate to have Olga Blanco Carrión, a visiting doctoral candidate from Córdoba, with us this past year. In addition to working on her dissertation in linguistics (“A study of English verbal complementation with reference to some verbs of mental perception or cognition: A critical-comparative approach”), Olga held an research assistantship in the Spanish Center, where her responsibilities included assisting with the organization of all the Center’s enrichment and outreach activities, as well as tutoring 300-level students in composition, grading successive drafts of student papers, facilitating a weekly tertulia for graduate and undergraduate students and guest lecturing in 300-level classes on various aspects of Spanish culture.

Faculty News

At the Division’s annual year-end party and celebration on June 7, Emeritus Professors Farris Anderson and Joan Ullman, former student Donally Kennedy, offered tributes to our retiring colleague, George Shipley. Guadalupe Fisch and León Bensadón also joined in with warm tributes to their former teacher. Farris recalled that he and George had joined the Spanish faculty together in the fall of 1967, arriving just in time to be caught up in the turbulent campus life of the late 60s and early 70s. He stressed the energy and optimism that characterized the Spanish division during those years and contrasted it to the demoralization and uncertainty of today. At the same time he applauded the Division for its tenacity and survival in the face of great adversity, accomplishments which have been due in no small part to George Shipley’s steadfast devotion to his work and to the affairs of the Division. Farris pointed out that George is the last remaining member of the faculty hired during the dramatic expansion of the 1960s, and that his retirement therefore marks the end of a major chapter in the Division’s history.

Coming from the same intellectual world, it was perhaps inevitable that Joan, the historian, and George, the literary scholar, should join forces early on and plunge into mutually beneficial collaborative work on the Spanish converso problem that had long fascinated them both. Joan characterized her colleague as a “master of logology”, and a lifelong admirer and student of autoritas and rhetoric, the art of persuasion. As she explained, far from imposing his own view, George focused on close textual analysis to teach his students the importance of the meaning and function of words in a given text or context, and how to recognize the techniques writers use to persuade us that a particular interpretation is valid or worth considering. In her own work, Joan found this exercise invaluable for gaining a fuller sense of the converso experience. As she pointed out, under George’s careful guidance, generations of students learned to be alert to hidden agendas and inverted meanings and reluctant to take anything for granted. We look forward to next spring quarter when Joan and George will offer their team taught “Literature and the Conversos” course one last time.

Donally said she first studied with George almost 25 years ago when she was an undergraduate here and later when she came back to study for her Master’s. She recalled that George was a big reason why the beginning of graduate school was such a happy time for her. “As a mentor he met you where you were with respect and gentleness. He had a light touch. He treated his students as if they were his peers—as people who might someday be more than
Faculty News (continued)

mer consumers of other people’s scholarship. He made us see that there were still a lot of interesting questions to pose about 16th century texts and that we might contribute something original ourselves. It wasn’t just that he made us feel welcome. He made us feel there was ground worth exploring here. And that doing this kind of work could be beautiful, ennobling, and delightful!”

We are pleased to welcome Assistant Professor Donald Gilbert-Santamaría, who will join the Division in September. Prof. Gilbert completed his degree in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley in 1997 with a dissertation on the poetics of the Spanish picaresque novel. He is currently making revisions to a manuscript entitled Writers on the Market: Consuming Literature in Early Seventeenth-Century Spain. The book project examines the rise of consumerism and its impact on the poetics of the novel and theater in Early Modern Spain. He comes to UW from the University of Tulsa where, in addition to classes in Spanish Golden Age literature, he also taught courses in Spanish Golden Age literature, he also taught courses in

Emeritus Professor Farris Anderson, officially retired since September 2000, continues to work in the Division on a part-time basis. He teaches one course in winter quarter (last year, advanced grammar; next winter a seminar on Benito Pérez Galdós, one of his major research interests). He also continues to serve as business manager and travel director for the Division’s study-abroad program in Cádiz, Spain. When not performing these duties or traveling, he enjoys life by reading, writing, playing and listening to music, chopping firewood, and communing

Maria Soledad Barbón (Ph.D. Cologne University, Germany) joined our faculty this year as Assistant Professor after having taught for two years at the University of Michigan. Her area of expertise is Colonial Latin American literature and culture. She recently published her book Peruaniische Satire am Vorabend der Unabhängigkeit (1770-1800) at the distinguished Swiss publishing house Librairie Droz, and is currently organizing the Annual Conference of the Northwest Society for Eighteenth Century Studies with colleagues from the English and Germanics departments.

Lupe Fisch has been participating in the Mexican Film Seminar with Professors Cynthia Steele and Cynthia Duncan (UW Tacoma), Lecturer Anne Doremus and recent PhD. recipient Emi Manini. She is currently beginning research on the topic of the devouring mother in the films of Arturo Ripstein. She has also enjoyed greatly teaching Span 206/ The culture of Oaxaca this last quarter.

Anne Doremus Chilimbi and her husband, Trishu, will be moving into their new house in the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle at the end of June. They are also expecting a baby boy and have been given a due date of November 20.

Special thanks once again to Joan Fox for all her work gathering, collating, drafting, and revising materials for the newsletter, as well as to Cecile Kummerer, for her layout savvy & assistance.

Cynthia Steele has been visiting professor at Stanford during Spring quarter and will be directing a new CHID program in Chiapas in Spring 2003. This summer she has been invited to participate in international conferences in Peru (on Politics and Performance in Latin America) and England (on Photo-Hispanic Identities). This is her last year on the MLA Executive Committee on 20th Century Latin American literature and culture. She recently published her book Letras de Humanidad, which will be released in tandem with a translation of the recently published papers on Shakespeare by W. H. Auden.

In January, Suzanne Petersen was awarded a Royalty Research Fund grant to expand and enhance her online Pan-Hispanic ballad databases. Over the next several months she will improve the user interface and enable context-sensitive search and query to retrieve versions or fragments of versions from among the 4000 oral ballads transcribed and stored in her online archive of ballad texts, many accompanied by a downloadable audio recording of the actual oral performance.
Tony Geist’s book on the children’s drawings accompanies a traveling exhibition of the drawings done by Spanish children in refugee camps during the Spanish Civil War, with the addition of children’s art from later conflicts. The show will open at UCSD in Fall, 2002, and travel to several other venues, including Dartmouth College, the University of Southern Illinois, Lehigh University, and the University of Iowa. He has given several lectures on the drawings in Spain this year.

Development

Ably assisted by Donald Summers, the energetic and visionary Development Officer for the Arts and Sciences, the Division of Spanish and Portuguese has made significant progress this year towards reaching its development goals. Most notably, we have formed a core group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, consisting of former alumni, community leaders and members of the local business community, who have been of invaluable assistance to us. Mark Masterson (’66; daughter Megan ’97), Gregg Blodgett (’76) and Michel Alvarez (CEO President & CEO, ExpoAccess Corp., Seattle/Tijuana), who graciously agreed to serve on our Executive Committee, are now heading the department’s development efforts. We are very grateful for their help in crafting a mission statement, in structuring the committees of volunteers, and in developing a plan of action. Our thanks also to all the other volunteers who have generously offered us their time and expertise! In the face of the current budget crisis, the assistance of our Loyal Supporters among the contributors who accounted for a 50% increase over the previous year in donations to the Humanities. We appreciate this support at a time when state funding of the University has fallen to record lows. A very special thanks to our donors.

Adjunct Professor Lauro Flores’ book, *Alfredo Arreguiín: Patterns of Dreams and Nature*, was published this spring by the University of Washington Press. At the same time, the Bellevue Art Museum hosted a major retrospective, traveling exhibition of the Mexican born, Seattle painter. Of this stunning, major volume documenting the artist’s life and work, a critic has said: “Easily the most serious and well-written monograph on a local artist in years, its author, Lauro Flores, a UW professor of Spanish and Portuguese, makes a convincing case for Arreguiín’s significance as a truly American – as in hemispheric- and Chicano artist.” (Matthew Kangas, The Seattle Times, Friday, April 05, 2002).

Loyal Supporters

We are pleased to note a good number of *Friends of Spanish and Portuguese* among the contributors who accounted for a 50% increase over the previous year in donations to the Humanities. We appreciate this support at a time when state funding of the University has fallen to record lows. A very special thanks to our donors.

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Donors 2001-2002

Spanish & Portuguese

Romance
Our Advisor’s Assistant, Jennifer Keene, spent a year working at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca, in Oaxaca, Mexico. Now that she’s re-adjusted to Seattle, she’s hoping to one day set up her own eco-friendly printmaking / papermaking studio.

David Miles, our new administrator, finished his first year with the Division in June. In April he and his family spent a week in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. On May 17 he volunteered at a Bike-To-Work-Day station on the Burke-Gilman Trail, counting the more than 600 riders who went by that morning.

Our Computer Specialist Cecile Kummerer welcomed a new colleague at the Language Learning Center, Mike Morris. They have introduced the new Windows 2000 file server to the UW language departments, and met with the College’s Language Technology Committee to determine priorities for teaching and research.

If You Wish to Support Your Local Division of

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE FUND:
⇒ Friends of Spanish & Portuguese Studies (discretionary fund)
⇒ Study in Cádiz Enhancement Fund (scholarships)
⇒ Study in Oaxaca Enhancement Fund (scholarships)
⇒ Susan B. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund (scholarships for study in Spain)
⇒ Other (Endowed Faculty Position, Center for Spanish Studies, Graduate/Undergraduate Scholarships, UG Internships, you name it!)

Until the Online Donation feature is enabled, please mail your contribution to:
Spanish & Portuguese Studies
Box 354360
University of Washington
This past fall quarter Basdeo Ganesh, our second year language program coordinator, directed our Study Abroad Program in Oaxaca, Mexico in which 15 UW students participated. In addition to the academic side of the program, that included 2-3rd year language classes, taught by Bas, students took full advantage of the many cultural activities available to them. Experiencing firsthand El Día de los Muertos festivities was just one of the highlights. Many of the students really got into their salsa class, and managed to practice at local clubs every week. They were an adventuresome group. During the mid-quarter 10-day break, they traveled in groups, by bus and AT NIGHT (to avoid hotel bills) from one coast to the other, visiting Huatulco, Palenque, San Cristóbol de las Casas, Chiapas, etc., faithfully recording their impressions in a journal handed in at the conclusion of the trip. Despite some recurring stomach problems that afflicted a few of the students now and then, they all had a wonderful time, made great strides linguistically, and learned a lot about Mexico and about themselves.

Next fall Jorge González will take another group of 10 students to Oaxaca, but for the first time the program will be for 2nd year students. The department encourages study abroad and we believe it will serve our Division’s interests to offer a study abroad opportunity a year earlier. This way the students return highly motivated to pursue their major on campus.

CÁDIZ 2001-2002

Tony Geist directed the program in Cádiz this year, assisted by graduate student Micah Orr. Tony recently wrote from Cádiz:

“It has been a good experience, despite the rough start occasioned by September 11th, which happened less than two weeks into the program. There were 28 students in the Fall, 31 this Spring, almost all of whom lived with families. They learned a lot of Spanish, both in the classroom and on the street. Group excursions included visits to Granada, Córdoba, Salamanca and Sevilla. Perhaps the highlight of the year was a surprise Saturday capea in Jerez, in which students got in the ring with a young fighting bull (under the capable instruction of two professional toreros). One student reported that it was ‘The best day of my life!’ Living and studying in Spain offers many challenges and just as many rewards. The satisfaction of meeting those challenges is great, and friendships formed, with Spanish students and other group members, often leave a deep mark. There were tears in many eyes as our bus pulled out of Cádiz for the long trek to the Madrid airport.”

Next year Lauro Flores, assisted by Camilo Suárez will direct the Cádiz program. Thirty-three students have signed up for fall and are now struggling to get their visa applications ready for an Aug. 31 departure.
Annual Convocation

On Friday June 7th, 2002, the Division held its annual convocation in the very pleasant surroundings of the Waterfront Activities Center. The purpose of this well-attended event was twofold: to celebrate the accomplishments of our degree recipients and to honor George Shipley on the occasion of his official retirement after 35 years of service in the department.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Emy Manini, who earned her Ph.D. degree by successfully defending her dissertation, “Pseudomemoirs: The Enunciation of Jewish Female Identity in Autobiographical Narrative from Mexico and Argentina” (directed by Cynthia Steele) at her Final Exam in March, 2002.

Equally deserving of congratulations are our 54 GRADUATING SPANISH MAJORS, many of whom received special recognition for their fine academic performance (* denotes regularly made the Dean’s List):


Additional honors go to the following students:

Dean’s Medal Finalists: Melanie Edwards, Ryan Peterson

Magna Cum Laude: Ryan Peterson

Cum Laude: Heidi Craig, Melanie Edwards, Ashley Howell, Ann Kjerulf, Alexander Robinson, Kimberly Seal, Casey Tait, David Taylor, Kristin Wintersteen

Phi Beta Kappa: Heidi Craig, Melanie Edwards, Ashley Howell, Ann Kjerulf, Michael Matesky, Ryan Peterson, Alexander Robinson, Kimberly Seal, Casey Tait

BA with Distinction (Departmental Honors): Kimberly Seal, Laura Wiseley

College Honors: Heidi Craig

Photographs by Tasha Walston
At the end of a long school year, it’s heartening to receive the occasional letter of thanks for our efforts. Below, an appreciative parent gives eloquent testimony of the importance and efficacy of the new Spanish for Bilingual/Heritage Students courses (Span 314-315-316) created by our third year language coordinator, María Gillman:

Date: Tue, 11 Jun 2002 ...
From: . . .
Señora Gillman:
El curso de Español para estudiantes hispanos fue muy eficaz y útil para mi hija [E. A. Z.] ya que despertó en ella curiosidad por leer y analizar literatura chicana y saber acerca de los problemas sociales que enfrentan los trabajadores del campo. También le brindó la oportunidad de aprender conceptos de gramática y de adquirir confianza al hablar y escribir en español.

Como madre de familia pienso que el curso estuvo muy bien estructurado pues incorporó proyectos de investigación de los sucesos actuales como fue el caso del estudio de Chiapas y la Economía Mundial. Este conocimiento hizo ver a mi hija las injusticias que se cometen en su país de origen y las dinámicas de la política mexicana e internacional. Con la lectura de La Casa de Mango Street, Elizabeth se dio cuenta de la idiosincrasia de los latinos que viven en los Estados Unidos y de su lucha por mantener su cultura.

La escritura de los ensayos fue muy benéfica pues hizo que mi hija mejorara su redacción y pusiera atención a su ortografía.

Para las familias hispanas que vivimos en los Estados Unidos es un verdadero reto mantener viva nuestra herencia cultural y nuestra lengua. Clases como ésta y profesoras como usted son necesarias para rescatar esa parte de la identidad de nuestros hijos, procurándoles una oportunidad de apreciar la rica herencia cultural de la cual son parte. [E.] disfrutó mucho de esta clase para hispanos y nos mantuvo al tanto a su papá y a mí. Señora Gillman gracias por todo su trabajo y dedicación.

Sinceramente,

[E.M.Z.]
Noche Hispana

by Jennifer Helm (‘01)

Alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the department of Spanish and Portuguese, have been meeting every fourth Tuesday since March for conversation, tapas, vino, and fun. The tertulia, which for now is happening at ‘La Marcha’, on the corner of 1st and University in downtown Seattle, is scheduled from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. to coincide with Happy Hour. However, we’re not wedded to a single location yet, if anyone has an even better spot.

Noche Hispana gives individuals the opportunity to practice their Spanish conversation skills while meeting others in the Seattle area with the similar interests. The idea for a Spanish conversation night was initiated by Michel Álvarez, member of the Division’s Advisory Board, Executive committee, and President and CEO of ExpoAccess Corporation. Gregg Blodgett and Mark Masterson, Spanish Department alumni and also members of the Executive Committee have faithfully attended and chatted with all of those who stop by to participate in Noche Hispana.

Each meeting brings new faces and new friendships and the group has developed a strong presence in just 3 months. Some recent guests who have stopped by include: Clyde Rodríguez, Microsoft; Fernando A. Martinez, Boeing and José Gomez-Eligido, Boeing, and his wife Julie. Other dropins have included a visiting student from Venezuela, a Music and Spanish Teacher at the Evergreen School, and a Spanish instructor for very young children from Bellingham.

Those in attendance have already begun to see the benefits of the group and the Division of Spanish and Portuguese hopes that this will lead to additional events to keep alumni connected. Meetings will continue throughout the summer with upcoming meetings scheduled for July 2nd and August 13th. Mark your calendars and we hope you will join us for Noche Hispana! (Dates, locations and times of this and other events are)

Spring Concert

On March 2 the Division [read Elwin Wirkala and his tenacious team of helpers] organized a very successful concert of Spanish and Brazilian music, held in the Hub auditorium before an appreciative audience of students and other music lovers. The concert featured a repertoire of popular Brazilian songs sung by “the fabulous Samia Panni, accompanied by guitar, bass, and percussion” and the “soprano non-pariel Rosa Duarte, nightengale of Granada” who sang a varied selection of Iberian classics, interspersed with a few well-chosen Guatemalan songs of the Maya. This early effort by the Development & Events Committee to enrich the classroom experience for our students added $1500 to our miniscule activities budget, thus providing seed money for future cultural events.

Barcelona Briefing

On April 3 the Division and the Spanish Center gave a pre-trip briefing at a reception for the 70 delegates heading to Barcelona in May for the week-long 2002 International Study Mission organized by the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Development Alliance. Acting Chair Suzanne Petersen arranged the event, which featured talks by Joan Ullman, Nil Sántiñez, and Eduardo Tobar on Catalan culture, history, and the contemporary political climate, as well as a slide show of the city, and a pop quiz heavy on Barça trivia. Tickets to a soccer match in Camp Nou went to four lucky winners, but all were provided a round trip ticket on the Barcelona metro (in light of the upcoming November vote on trans-

Arturo Ripstein on campus

In November Arturo Ripstein, the leading contemporary Mexican film director, will be visiting campus with his wife and long-standing scriptwriter, Paz Alicia Garciadiego. They will be sponsored by a grant from the Simpson Center for the Humanities to the departmental reading group on Mexican Cinema. At this point, a likely date for their Seattle visit is Nov. 6-10. we keep you informed via our website as plans solidify

Fall Concert

Award winning Catalanian guitarist Francesc de Paula Soler will give a performance in October, time and date to be arranged. This recital will be in two parts: the first, a panoramic view of the Spanish music for guitar, from the Baroque to contemporary music; the second, the artist will mix classical and traditional music from South America and Europe. For a description of the full program, visit the following link:

Poetry Reading

On October 29, 2002, in conjunction with the Seattle Art Museum exhibit of modern Mexican art from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection, the Humanities Center will be sponsoring a poetry reading by three Mexican writers, Coral Bracho, Tedi López Mills, and Pedro Serrano. The collection includes works by Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, María Izquierdo, José Clemente Orozco, and Rufino Tamayo. For more information, visit the website: http://www.seattleartmuseum.
Center for Spanish Studies

The Center for Spanish Studies, which operates out of a converted office on the 2nd floor of Padelford, is a cooperative initiative between the University of Washington, the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The mission of the Center is to promote the study of the Spanish Language and the appreciation and understanding of the cultures that use this language as a means of expression. During this past academic year, under the able direction of Eduardo Tobar, Paloma Borreguero and Olga Blanco, the Center has certainly carried out its mission by continuing to offer a wide variety of workshops and other events.

The Center sponsored several pedagogical workshops for Spanish Language Instructors, including "Integración del componente cultural en los manuales para la enseñanza de Español como Lengua Extranjera" and "La enseñanza de ele para chicos y chicas de secundaria." The invited speaker was from Edelsa Publications, a leading publishers in Spain.

The Center also organized many cultural events to raise awareness about issues important throughout the Spanish speaking world. In December the Center hosted a two day conference entitled "Sephardic Communities in the Americas". Invited speakers included professors from the University of Washington as well as Rabbis and members of the Seattle Sephardic community.

During Spring Quarter of this year, the Center presented a Tuesday series of four films which showcased the wide variety of music and dance found in four Spanish speaking countries, Spain, Mexico, Cuba and Argentina. These films were presented to lead up to an all-day event which began with a lecture on the origins of Latin American music and its influence on contemporary US pop culture. A series of dance workshops was held in the afternoon, and the day culminated with a dinner and dance with a performance by a live salsa band.

The Center has also had the opportunity to work closely with other departments to bring important speakers to campus. This past year’s highlight was a visit by Dr. Oscar Arias, Nobel Laureate who gave a lecture on "Peace and Justice: A Long-term Vision for the World". Another interdepartmental effort supported by the Center was a Symposium on "The Liberating Eye: The Cinema of Luis Bunuel. Invited speakers included Peter Evans from the University of London and Jean Franco from Columbia University, two of the most prominent scholars in this field.

The Division of Spanish and Portuguese and the Spanish Center were co-sponsors with the Dirección General de Relaciones Culturales y Científicas of the Spanish Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores of a reception held on June 8th, at Tango, in honor of Spanish director Julio Medem. A dozen members of the Division as well as members of the Advisory Board enjoyed welcoming Mr. Medem, who was in Seattle to present his latest film, Lucía y el Sexo at the Seattle International Film Festival, and to receive one of the Festival’s prestigious Emerging Masters awards. Those present at the reception enjoyed tasty tapas and wine and a pleasant two-hour interlude of conversation prior to the showing of the film at the Egyptian Theatre.

P.S. On June 16, Julio Medem won the best director award at the Seattle International Film Festival.
Convocation and Retirement Party (continued)

A few more of Tasha’s snapshots

GRADUATE FACULTY 2001—2002
DIVISION OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE STUDIES

Chair
Steele, Cynthia (spring 2002, Suzanne Petersen, Acting Chair)

Professors
Anderson, Farris. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish Literature, Spanish civilization, advanced grammar and translation.
Steele, Cynthia. Ph.D., University of California (San Diego); Latin American literature and society, postcolonial and feminist theory.
O’Hara, Edgar. Ph.D., University of Texas (Austin); Spanish, Latin American poetry, writing poetry and essays.

Associate Professors
Geist, Anthony L. Ph.D., University of California (Berkeley); twentieth century Spanish literature: ideology and literary form.
Petersen, Suzanne Helen. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; medieval Spanish literature.
Shipley, George A. Ph.D., Harvard University; Spanish Golden Age.

Assistant Professor
Santiáñez, Nil. Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish and European literature; literary theory; modernism and realism, theory and history of the novel.
María Soledad Barbón, Ph.D., University of Cologne, Germany. Latin American colonial literature and culture, Creole self-consciousness, and history of mentalities.