
Language Studies Department

Professor Elsa M. Gilmore
Chair

During academic year 2001-2002, the Language Studies Department enjoyed a very productive year. Faculty research continued to illustrate a broad range of interests spanning literature, linguistics, cultural studies, and pedagogy in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. Faculty publications this year appeared in prestigious refereed journals in the U.S. and abroad, and faculty members presented their work at many distinguished national and international congresses, where they also served in positions of intellectual leadership directing sessions and seminars. As a foremost scholar in the work of Caribbean author Maryse Conde, Associate Professor Marianne Bosshard was honored with a special invitation to participate in an international congress honoring Conde's contribution to French letters. Professor Sharon Voros served on the Modern Language Association's Executive Committee on 16th and 17th Century Spanish Drama. She also served as director of the prestigious Hispanic Classical Theatre annual conference in El Paso, Texas.

The following record highlights the research of the Language Studies faculty during the past academic year. It includes ongoing long-term projects, publications, and scholarly presentations.

Sponsored Research

Femmes de Guadeloupe et de Désirade: Portraits Littéraires et Réels [Women of Guadeloupe and Désirade: Literary and Real-Life Portraits]

Researcher: Associate Professor Marianne Bosshard
Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

In this book-length project, the researcher analyzes the portrayal of Guadeloupean women in literary works by the three most prominent contemporary Guadeloupean women writers: Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, and Gisèle Pineau. Aside from their literary works, each of these authors has published a document dedicated to the quest for identity on the part of francophone Antillean women. In *La parole des femmes* (1993), Maryse Condé discussed the self-image of women in the works of several francophone Caribbean women novelists. In *Femmes des Antilles: Traces et Voix* (1998), Gisèle Pineau, in collaboration with the journalist Marie Abraham, documented the fate of women during the periods of slavery, colonialism, and post-colonialism. Simone Schwarz-Bart did likewise, directing an encyclopedic document entitled *Hommages à la femme noire* (1989).

The researcher developed a project concentrating on the critical analysis of female protagonists of Guadeloupean origin as they appear in the literary works of these authors. In a second phase, the researcher will collect a number of real-life testimonies by Guadeloupean women, spanning a time period of approximately 100 years, from 1900 to the present. The researcher believes that it is of great interest to juxtapose literary portraits with real-life ones, paying attention to possible literary stereotypes in order to determine whether or not these stereotypes have evolved.

France's Minority Language Theater and Global Culture

Researcher: Associate Professor Audrey Gaquin
Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

The purpose of this project was to study some of the ways in which France's minority cultures attempt to enrich European and global discourse while strengthening minority culture and building community. The first part of this study, an article on the minority language theater's use of the grass roots carnival tradition to critique mainstream French culture and to express the minority culture's different identity and values, was published in April 2001 in *Text and Presentation*. During travel in France in June 2001, the investigator continued research on the ways in which minority language theater companies combine

their commitment to the minority culture and their exchanges with the French and the wider European community. The researcher interviewed three minority language theater directors: Roland Delannoy, director of the Flemish Volkstoneel voor Frans-Vlaanderen; Gilbert Llong, director of the Catalan Grup Ultrera; and Anne Clement, director and writer for the Occitan Compagnie Clement. The researcher also spent a day at rehearsals for the Compagnie Clement's new summer production, the multilingual play *Ramon de Perilhos*. On returning to the U.S., she began working on the application of the theories of Mikhail Bakhtin concerning dialogism and heteroglossia to the theater, in particular to the bilingual or multilingual productions of the minority language theater, as a framework for a study of the global discourse of minority theater.

Horacio Quiroga: Self-Made Myth

Researcher: Assistant Professor Todd S. Garth

Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

This project aims to reveal the extent to which master short-story writer Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay, 1878–1937) made use of his own biography and legendary reputation, in his fictional writings, to establish an enduring mythic identity for himself in both Argentine and Uruguayan cultural consciousness. The researcher examined archives in Argentina and Uruguay, visited numerous sites important to Quiroga's literary corpus and to his biography, and consulted with several Quiroga experts in the U.S. and abroad.

In Search of Juan de Flores: A Genealogical Inquiry

Researcher: Assistant Professor Joseph J. Gwara

Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

The researcher launched a genealogical investigation into the life of Juan de Flores, royal chronicler to the Catholic Monarchs and author of numerous courtly works, including the two sentimental romances *Grisel y Mirabella* and *Grimalte y Gradisa*. A preliminary survey of extant documentation suggested that the most promising sources of information on Flores were the multivolume *nobiliarios*, or genealogies of Spanish nobility. The researcher examined four of these, totaling approximately 10,000 pages, allowing him to construct genealogical tables for several families with which Flores was affiliated (Acuña, Álvarez de Toledo, Osorio, Quiñones). A draft description of relatives was then prepared, with key information including dates of birth, marriage, and death. The re-searcher uncovered links between the writer and a certain Álvaro Flores, lord of "la torre de Florez" in Las Babias, who married Brazaida de Quiñones and served in the Granada campaigns. The researcher also completed a systematic analysis of references to Flores in published documents from the Simancas archives.

Relationships Between Scores on the Self-Concept Scale and Gender, Ethnic Background, and Academic Performance for a Sample of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy

Researcher: Associate Professor Chie M. Paik

Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

This study investigates the relationship between scores on self-concept scale and gender and ethnic backgrounds (Caucasian Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans), and academic achievement for a sample of midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy. Researchers have long discussed the role of environment on the development of self-concept. Certain environments are more likely to foster positive self-concept, whereas others appear to diminish it. Findings in a previous study indicated that midshipmen at the Naval Academy displayed lower self-concept when compared with normative data drawn from a sample of college students elsewhere. The present study, still in progress, investigates how: (a) midshipmen representing various subgroups within the Naval Academy score on the self-concept scale and (b) scores on the self-concept scale relate to their academic achievement.

**Bridging the Gap between Literature, Science, and Technology:
A Study of “The Garden of Forking Paths” and *Victory Garden***

Researcher: Assistant Professor Perla Sassón-Henry
Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

The main objective of this research is to study the intricate relationships between “The Garden of Forking Paths,” by Jorge Luis Borges, and the Borgesian hyperfiction *Victory Garden*, by Stuart Moulthrop. Although these two literary pieces were created at different times to be read in different mediums, their structures embody many of the traits of chaos theory. Building on prior research, the researcher turned her attention to chaos theory, bifurcation theory, and their relevance to the understanding of these stories. She seeks to link three topics never studied together before in Latin-American fiction: Borgesian literature, hyperfiction, and science.

The Mexican Picaresque

Researcher: Assistant Professor Robert S. Stone
Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

This is the second part of a multi-year project on the emergence and trajectory of the picaresque novel in Mexico, which will result in a series of articles or a monograph on the subject. Last summer, the researcher worked with Mexican picaresque novels which might be deemed literary, i.e., those which approach the genre from a knowing and allusive perspective and which assume a certain level of sophistication in the reader. This summer, the researcher intends to investigate works which are more didactic in nature, i.e., those which seek to educate and direct the reader to a particular point of view as he or she identifies with picaresque protagonists. For Mexico, the fundamental work of this kind is Lizardi’s *El periquillo sarniento* (*The Itching Parrot*, 1816), and subsequent examples include Díaz Covarrubias’s *Gil Gómez el insurgente* (*The Rebel Gil Gomez*, 1858), Muñoz’s *Vámonos con Pancho Villa* (*We Ride with Pancho Villa*, 1931) and Zapata’s *El vampiro de la Colonia Roma* (*The Vampire of Colonia Roma*, 1985). All of these works are to some degree politicized, meaning that they engage in a dialogue with readers about what it means to be Mexican at a given moment and place in history, while indicating a preferred path for social development. After analyzing these texts, the researcher proposes widening the definition of the picaresque novel.

**A Woman Writer of Seventeenth-Century Spain:
Leonor de la Cueva y Silva, Poet and Dramatist**

Researcher: Professor Sharon D. Voros
Sponsor: Naval Academy Research Council (NARC)

This project assesses the writings of a seventeenth-century Spanish woman writer, Leonor de la Cueva y Silva, and the intellectual climate in which she developed her literary talents. She has a collection of poetry and one extant full-length play, *La firmeza en la ausencia*. Thanks to a sabbatical leave during the fall of 2001, the researcher was able to conduct archival research in Spain, locating previously unknown documentation on the writer and her family in the Diocesan Archives of Valladolid, the Archivo Histórico Nacional, the Archivo de la Universidad de Valladolid, and the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid. Armed with new information, the researcher formulated an hypothesis regarding the author’s family, especially the literary influence of her uncle, the lawyer, dramatist, and poet Francisco de la Cueva y Silva. Two chapters of this book-length study are now complete: “Leonor de la Cueva y Silva and Her Family Context” and “Dramatic Works of Leonor de la Cueva y Silva and Her Uncle Francisco.” Well known in literary circles of his day, her uncle was highly praised by both Lope de Vega and Cervantes. In addition, the researcher managed to locate the manuscript of Francisco’s unedited play, *La farsa del obispo don Gonzalo*, which influenced Leonor’s only extant theatrical work. Francisco’s revenge drama *La tragedia de Narciso* also resonates in *La firmeza en la ausencia*. Having gathered documents and literary works in Spanish archives and libraries this year, the researcher is currently drafting an assessment of the personal history and literary production of this important female author.

Independent Research

Relationship among Communication Apprehension, Academic Self-Concept, and Academic Achievement for a Sample of Japanese High-School Students

Researchers: Instructor Shinobu Anzai and Associate Professor Chie M. Paik

For a sample of 197 high-school students attending a college-preparatory high school in Japan, the study investigated the relationship among communication apprehension (CA), academic self-concept (SC), and academic performance. Correlations between Classroom Communication Apprehension scores, the Dimensions of Academic Self-Concept scores, and self-reported GPA showed a positive relationship between SC and academic performance and a negative relationship between SC and CA. The findings render further support for the widespread belief in the interrelation of CA, SC, and academic performance.

Annie Cohen

Researcher: Associate Professor Marianne Bosshard

In January 2001, the researcher was invited to contribute an essay on Annie Cohen, a contemporary French woman writer of Algerian Jewish origin, to an anthology of Jewish French and Francophone women writers whose works confront issues of Jewish identity. The researcher chose to analyze a poem from Cohen's *La Rivière des Gobelins* (1999). Situating the work in the context of Cohen's oeuvre, she proceeded to discuss specific topics linked to the author's Jewish identity, including internal and external exile, the motif of Ahasver (the "Wandering Jew"), and Cohen's self-proclaimed "geographic writing" in search of missing links, origins, and roots. The anthology will appear in the fall of 2002.

Myth and Emblems in Calderón de la Barca

Researcher: Professor María E. Castro de Moux

A study of the meaning and function of alchemical symbols and images in the theological and mythological plays of seventeenth-century Spanish writer Calderón de la Barca. This study draws from art, history, theology, philosophy, and science of the seventeenth century.

Exploiting the World Wide Web as a Linguistic and Cultural Corpus

Researcher: Associate Professor William H. Fletcher

To help realize the promise of the World Wide Web for language learners and scholars, this researcher has developed tools and techniques to exploit the Web as a vast linguistic and cultural corpus. His KWICFinder software automatically conducts a search, retrieves online documents, and produces a keyword in context (KWIC) concordance of the user's search terms. Currently 403 beta testers in 38 countries are providing feedback on this software. During this period, KWICFinder was modified to add features, improve efficiency and robustness, and maintain compatibility with online search engines.

New initiatives target several goals. Webpages contain a significant amount of "noise," *i.e.*, formulaic and other language which does not form a cohesive text. To identify characteristics of useful documents and to determine how similar the language of those documents is to other genres of English, the researcher analyzed 7294 unique webpages. His preliminary results indicate that document size is a powerful predictor of "textuality" - both very short and very long webpages are more likely to consist primarily of noise - and that simple n-gram analysis can help eliminate redundant documents automatically. His analysis further revealed that the language of "medium-sized" webpages is strikingly similar to that found in other genres. For this investigation, he developed two programs: *nGram*, which finds and tallies all sequences of *n* words in a corpus, and *ReviewFiles*, which enables an investigator to view, assess, categorize and discard text files rapidly for corpus analysis. In addition, the researcher investigated using the spelling and grammar checkers from word processors to reject anomalous texts and to normalize the spelling of ill-formed documents. Finally, he is prototyping a model for scholars and instructors to disseminate KWICFinder search reports and to compile online searchable corpora of web documents.

Une France Plurilingue?

Researcher: Associate Professor Audrey Gaquin

Since the decree of France's Conseil Constitutionnel forbidding the French government to ratify the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, the Jospin government, minority organizations, and European institutions have all announced initiatives concerning France's minority languages. These initiatives prolong the debate between the defenders of unity and indivisibility of the French people and the advocates of diversity and of a special status for minority languages and cultures. This project focuses on proposals for changes in the Constitution of the Fifth Republic made by the national organization "Pour que vivent nos langues" and its affiliates in Brittany, Alsace, Corsica, Occitania, and Flanders, as well as the measures in favor of minority languages taken by Jack Lang, Minister of Education in the Jospin government, and the activities organized by the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages in support of minority cultures throughout Europe during the European Year of Languages in 2001.

Jorge Luis Borges's Construction of a Mythic Self

Researcher: Assistant Professor Todd S. Garth

This project aims to examine the development of a mythic identity for the authorial voice in the formative work of Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina, 1898–1986). The project focuses on three principal books published by Borges between 1928 and 1936 as well as correspondence, manuscripts, and supporting material from that period. The research centers on Borges's development of a mythical authorial voice capable of articulating Argentine culture and tradition on an international dimension equal to that of Europe. The researcher examined archives and manuscripts at the Harry Ransom Center for the Humanities at the University of Texas at Austin. He plans to examine documents in Virginia (University of Virginia), Argentina (via the Internet), and Europe (principally Spain).

The "I" of Buenos Aires: Macedonio Fernández, the Martínfierrista Generation, and the Age of Yrigoyen

Researcher: Assistant Professor Todd S. Garth

This is an ongoing project to publish the researcher's doctoral dissertation as a monograph. It aims to reveal how avant-garde writer Macedonio Fernández (Argentina, 1874–1952), whom critics have largely viewed as a hermetic, metaphysical writer, in fact responded directly to the social, political, and material context of early twentieth-century Buenos Aires.

Horacio Quiroga: The Mythic Father Undone

Researcher: Assistant Professor Todd S. Garth

This article, submitted to *Hispanic Review* for editorial consideration, examines the writings by Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay, 1874–1936) for and about children as a means of understanding the author's attempts to create for himself a mythic "father voice." This voice was integral to the authorial identity Quiroga fashioned for himself, an identity designed partly to influence permanently the education and ethical formation of Argentine and Uruguayan youth, thus gaining for himself transcendence in the literary and educational culture of the region. The article analyzes some of Quiroga's best-known short stories of the Argentine outback along with his children's fables, his less-known writings for children, and his correspondence. It concludes that Quiroga found himself circumscribed in his objectives by the very mythic voice he had successfully constructed for himself. The author's last writings for children demonstrate his awareness of the limitations he had imposed on his authorial voice. In these last writings, Quiroga contradicts many of the extreme criticisms he had earlier penned regarding the education of youth. The last short story he is known to have written also suggests that Quiroga shifted his quest for transcendence from seeking fame as a pioneering father to exploring a more intangible kind of permanence in Rio de la Plata culture.

The Theater of Mario Martín

Researcher: Professor Elsa M. Gilmore

This ongoing project is a critical edition of plays by Mario Martín, a recently deceased, New York-based Hispanic playwright who exemplifies the bilingual and multicultural theater practice of that city. The researcher has collected materials for the critical introduction and selected the play manuscripts. As of this writing, she is working on transcribing and annotating the first of three scripts to be included.

Older Women, Younger Men: Discourses of Love, Power and Nation in Cruchaga's *Apablaza's Widow* and Wolff's *Paper Flowers*

Researcher: Professor Elsa M. Gilmore

This article explores the prophetic function of two separate Chilean plays in reference to the history of Chile. The researcher argues that the protagonists of each drama (well-heeled older women infatuated with lower class younger men) personify a socioeconomic system on the verge of collapse. Cruchaga's 1918 drama precedes the election of President Alessandri, who first introduced a truly democratic agenda to his nation; Wolff's *Paper Flowers* (1968) virtually forecasts the triumph of Salvador Allende's socialist coalition. Both dramas depict nearly maternal female protagonists and their betrayal by the young men they love and promote at their own expense. In both cases, the power shift in the protagonists' relationships parallels the abandonment of older forms of matriarchal authority and the imposition of new patriarchal power as part of an inevitable historical transition of power from one social class to another. However, both dramas share a conservative view, according to which historical change toward capitalism in one case and toward socialism in the other is judged to involve more loss than gain for the characters and for the nation at large.

Comic Strip as Discourse of Globalization in de la Parra's *King Kong Palace*

Researcher: Professor Elsa M. Gilmore

This study focuses on Marco Antonio de la Parra's play *King Kong Palace* and its meta-theatrical use of North American comic strip characters and techniques. Before the end of the Cold War, some Latin American intellectuals viewed First World comic strips as vehicles for the ideological penetration of local cultures (Ariel Dorfman's *How to Read Donald Duck*, Julio Cortázar's *Fantomás* and the *Multinational Vampires*, etc.). The researcher contends that *King Kong Palace* prolongs the evolution of this view into the post-Cold War era. In de la Parra's play, the presence of Tarzan, together with the reliance on such comic strip strategies as plot tie-ins, character crossovers, and railway view scenes, symbolizes the death of Third World literature and culture under the onslaught of globalization. The play's elements are shown to be consistent with Fredric Jameson's view of a postmodern world in which past national history, identity, culture, literature, etc., have been rendered inaccessible. The final scene further stresses the play's generally pessimistic view, as it coincides with Francis Fukuyama's forecast of a stagnant global future in which history itself comes to an end.

Fontanes Novelle *Ellernklipp*: Ein Märchen mit Doppeltem Rollentausch [Fontane's Novella *Ellernklipp*: A Fairy Tale with A Double Exchange of Roles]

Researcher: Professor Sylvain Guarda

Ellernklipp (1881), often ignored by critics mainly because of its puzzling mixture of crime story, ballad, and fairy tale, still remains an elusive work in Fontane's scholarship. However, a close analysis of Fontane's concept of time in the novella shows that the three seemingly conflicting narrative modes are intrinsically woven into one another to produce a fairy-tale atmosphere. In explaining the double exchange of roles underlying the novella, the researcher contends that *Ellernklipp* should not be viewed as an enter-taining crime story in ballade style, but as a lustration in nineteenth-century fairy-tale garb.

A Critical Edition of *La historia de Grisel y Mirabella*, by Juan de Flores

Researcher: Assistant Professor Joseph J. Gwara

The researcher continued work on this edition of Flores's most popular romance. The volume includes transcriptions of three manuscripts (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vat. Lat. 6966; Biblioteca Colombina, MS 5–3–20; Biblioteca Trivulziana, MS 940) and eight printed editions (ca. 1495, 1516, 1524, 1526, 1529, 1533, 1561, 1562). An analysis of approximately 3,000 variants yields a stemma with three redactions, representing the author's original and two independent anonymous revisions.

Observations on the Text of *Grimalte y Gradisa*

Researcher: Assistant Professor Joseph J. Gwara

The sentimental romance *Grimalte y Gradisa* (ca. 1475), long considered to be Juan de Flores's most ambitious work, exists in three witnesses which transmit variant versions of the text: (1) Biblioteca Colombina (Seville), MS 5–3–20, ff. 90r–101v; (2) Biblioteca Nacional (Madrid), MS 22018; and (3) Biblioteca Nacional (Madrid), I-382 (Lérida: Henrique Botel, ca. 1495). An analysis of these texts shows that the Colombina manuscript preserves the version closest to Flores's original and that the other witnesses transmit a degenerate reworking of an authorial original, arguably by Alonso de Córdoba. The researcher calls for a new critical edition of *Grimalte y Gradisa*, given that all modern editions are based on Alonso de Córdoba's unauthorized revision. Submitted to *Romance Philology* for editorial consideration.

Juan de Mena's *Coplas de los siete pecados mortales*: Second and Third Continuations: A Critical Edition and Study

Researcher: Professor Gladys M. Rivera-LaScala

This book includes the first critical edition of the Second and Third Continuations of the *Coplas de los siete pecados mortales*, left unfinished at the time of Juan de Mena's death. An intertextual analysis of the main poem and its three continuations is included. The first chapter contains a comparative study of the four works based on themes, imagery, meter, and rhyme. In the second chapter, the author gives detailed descriptions of the manuscripts and sixteenth-century printings used to establish the base text. A corrected version of the continuations in modern script follows. Editorial, literary, and linguistic notes comprise the next section, which ends with a glossary of medieval Spanish terms and one of proper names. Included in the volume is an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary source materials on Spanish and European didactic poetry of the fifteenth century.

Writing Portfolios: Teaching Learning Strategies and Self-Assessment

Researcher: Professor Gladys M. Rivera-LaScala

The researcher analyzed writing portfolios from the Advanced Spanish courses at the U.S. Naval Academy for which she serves as coordinator, evaluating their use in developing self-directed learning and assessment among the students. She produced handouts of sample self-assessment, peer-assessment, and instructor-assessment sheets containing criteria-referenced rubrics developed following certain National Standards guidelines and from the portfolio project of the National Capital Language Resource Center.

This type of project is applicable to both the high-school and college environment. Portfolios, in general, provide a multidimensional approach to assessing student progress over time. Most importantly, they do so by having students participate actively in their own learning process and in the assessment of their outcomes. I hope to show how these writing portfolios afforded my students training and experience to examine their own learning process in the areas of written Spanish and in the formal analysis of cultural and literary texts. This work was presented at the 2002 Conference of the Maryland Foreign Language Association, and an article summarizing this research is being prepared.

Implementing an Introductory Latin-American Literature Course in Spanish Taught via Teleconference and Blackboard

Researcher: Assistant Professor Perla Sassón-Henry

While the distance-learning discussion in Spanish has focused mainly on language acquisition and the learning of Spanish for specific purposes, literature courses can benefit from these technologies as well. This instructional model permits smaller foreign-language programs to round out their offerings and tap into the specialized expertise of colleagues elsewhere. This paper reports on a pilot study whereby two Vermont State Colleges offered a joint course in the fundamentals of literary analysis in Spanish through a variety of short stories, thus enabling the students to complete their minor in Spanish. This article sets out to prove the significance of this type of teleconferencing/long distance learning course, as well as its linguistic value for the students and for the two institutions belonging to the same state system. The experimental results suggest that an approach combining teleconferencing and web-based activities is most advisable for courses on the fundamentals of literary analysis in Spanish. Pedagogical as well as institutional implications are discussed.

Eve's Patrimony: Women and Law on the Calderonian Stage

Researcher: Professor Sharon D. Voros

This book-length study combines the methodology of semiotics with archival research on Pedro Calderón de la Barca's secular and religious drama in which key feminine roles provide clues to the interpretation of the works. The researcher examined supporting/ secondary roles, often overlooked in interpreting the play text. Concepts from the French semiotician A. J. Greimas, especially adjuvancy and opposition, have proved useful in examining characters of subordinate rank, often marginalized figures of seventeenth-century Spanish society. However, the researcher has also discovered that legal issues regarding these marginalized figures, often women, inform the dramatist's depiction of women on the stage. One such issue is Salic Law, of French origin, in which a female character is denied dynastic succession. While not the law of the land in Spain, Salic Law appears in several Calderonian plays. The term "Eve's patrimony," coined by Calderón, involves the legacy of Original Sin that his female characters reject. While Calderón is not a feminist, he insists on the notion of Free Will and questions deterministic notions of female subjects as inherently weak, inferior, or incapable of learning or virtue. The researcher presented a paper on women and law last year and was able to consult law books in the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid in the fall of 2001. Future study will incorporate both secular and religious legal concerns as they involve women on the stage and the philosophical ideas voiced.

Pedagogical Application of Phonological Insights into the Mandarin Pinyin System

Researcher: Assistant Professor Jenny Zhijie Wang

This study addresses issues and concerns arising from teaching the Mandarin *Pinyin* system based on insights from the researcher's earlier analysis of the Mandarin syllable structure. The traditional approach to the *Pinyin* system tends to overwhelm students by its complexity, especially regarding the syllable rimes. An alternative approach is being introduced to highlight the nature and function of the three prevocalic glides, by regarding them as part of the syllable onsets instead of part of the rimes. This brings the 400+ Mandarin syllables (regardless of tone) into a more systematic pattern and makes the learning task easier.

The [ATR] Constraint on Cantonese Vowels

Researcher: Assistant Professor Jenny Zhijie Wang

This study aims at a systematic phonological analysis of the vowel system of Cantonese, the second largest dialect of Chinese, which is spoken in Hong Kong and China's southern provinces, as well as by a great number of earlier Chinese immigrants to different parts of the world. The study follows both from the researcher's own proposal of an [ATR] constraint to account for the tense/lax alternation of Cantonese non-low vowels and from the phonetic and phonological evidence supporting this constraint. It attempts to show that this phonological constraint is universal rather than language specific, insofar as it captures phonological naturalness reflecting the relations between lax vowels and their neighboring post-vocalic velar conso-

nants. It also argues for the impact of phonological patterning on phonological representation by showing that certain phonetic symbols selected to represent Cantonese vowels turn out to be inadequate, due to lack of appropriate phonological analysis.

Publications

Journal (Refereed) Manuscripts

BOSSHARD, Marianne, Associate Professor, "Entretien avec Maryse Condé sur le 'Prix des Amériques insulaires et de la Guyane,'" *Etudes francophones*, 16.2, pp. 33–40 (2002).

In 1999, at the initiative of Maryse Condé, a new Caribbean literary prize was created. It was aimed at abolishing linguistic divisions by recognizing a work (poetry, essay, novel, theater) written in any of the Caribbean languages. The interview took place after the nomination, in June 2000, of the first winner of the prize, Neil Bissoondath, the nephew of Nobel Laureate V.S. Naipaul, for his novel *Tous ces mondes en elle* (2001). During the interview, Condé answered many questions concerning the creation of the prize, the composition of the prize committee, the controversial relationship with the donor of the prize, the difficulties encountered during this first round of debates leading to the nomination of the winner, and its precarious future.

FLETCHER, William H., Associate Professor, "Concordancing the Web with KWicFinder," Selected Papers from the American Association for Applied Corpus Linguistics, Third North American Symposium on Corpus Linguistics and Language Teaching, Boston, MA, 23–25 March 2001, in press. Available at <http://www.kwicfinder.com/FletcherCLLT2001.pdf>

This article outlines tools and techniques to exploit the Web as a vast linguistic and cultural corpus. After a snapshot of the dimensions and diversity of the Web in late 2002, this paper surveys the capabilities and shortcomings of major web search engines and characterizes typical user search behavior. Next it describes KWicFinder, a free search tool optimized for language professionals programmed by the author to make online research more efficient and effective. KWicFinder automatically conducts a search, retrieves online documents matching the user's query, and produces a keyword in context concordance of those documents for rapid evaluation. Then the author details many of the considerations which went into designing KWicFinder and the challenges of maintaining it. Next, the usefulness of the Web as a source of linguistic data is discussed and illustrated with a number of examples and with preliminary results from an analysis of 7294 webpages. The article closes with a discussion of future challenges and directions for web concordancing.

FUJIMURA, Clementine, Associate Professor, "Adult Stigmatization and the Hidden Power of Homeless Children in Russia," *Demokratizatsiya*, 10, pp. 37-47 (2002).

This article focuses on the plight and hidden power of homeless children in Russia, adult attitudes towards them, and the main cultural hurdles they have to surmount in order to survive in Russian society. It is a project which developed as a result of earlier research conducted on the Russian concept of childhood and attitudes towards orphans. This research indicates that Russian parents and educators believe in certain principles of education that apply to all children; however, in practice, not all children are valued as equals. The ideal concept of childhood as a stage in life untainted by adult problems does not apply to all children. Even though Russian parents and educators view childhood as potentially the most joyous time of life, many children, abandoned by families, are victims of Russia's social crisis, and barely survive on a day-to-day basis. Relatively few adults concern themselves with the future of these children and so the infrastructure to support these children is lacking and, in some cases, absent. As a result, a rising number of children seek solace amongst themselves, in groups and gangs.

GILMORE, Elsa M., Professor, "Character, Memory and History in Josefina Leyva's *Rut, la que huyó de la Biblia*" [*Ruth, the Woman Who Fled From the Bible*]. In *Entre el exilio y la memoria*, ed. M. Krakusin. New Orleans: University Press of the South, pp.193–207 (2002).

Using V. Propp's analysis of the folktale and A. Globe's study of the Book of Ruth, the researcher shows that Leyva's contemporary novel shares many of the formal, protagonist-related features of the ancient Book of Ruth. Among these are a concentric "ring" form, character functions, and a socially significant frame. Leyva's *Ruth*, like her biblical predecessor, is a doubly marginal being because of her gender and of her real or metaphoric status as a foreigner. In the Book of Ruth and in Leyva's novel, the protagonist's choice of fertility or barrenness symbolizes her adoption/rejection of her new society, and in both texts the destiny of the immigrant/outsider becomes identified with the future of the entire social group. The study concludes that Leyva's narrative is articulated in ways which often coincide with the biblical tale, but with significant reversals as to the character of the protagonist. These alter the narrative's temporal focus from prophetic in The Book of Ruth to memorial in the novel. This contrast is analyzed in the context of traditional and contemporary concepts of historiography.

GILMORE, Elsa M., Professor, "German Luco Cruchaga," *The Dictionary of Literary Biography, Latin American Theater Volume*, (Adam Versenyi, ed), Columbia, SC: Brucoli Clark Layman Publishers, in press.

This full-length article provides a critical introduction to the dramatist now considered to be the founder of the modern Chilean theater, and to his classical plays *La viuda de Apablaza* [*Apablaza's Widow*], *Bailabuén*, and *Amo y señor* [*Lord and Master*]. The researcher situates these dramas at the cusp of the literary transition between inherited European forms (naturalist plays in the French style and sainetes descended from the Spanish tradition) and a new drama which reflects Chilean identity in its form, contents, and language. This literary transition is analyzed within the context of Chile's transformation from an agrarian to an urban society, and related to other economic, demographic and artistic infrastructure developments. The article includes the first ever published biographical outline of Luco Cruchaga and a systematic bibliography of his works and of literary criticism.

GILMORE, Elsa M., Professor, "Picaresque Traces in Matías Montes Huidobro's *Esa fuente de dolor*" [*That Source of Sorrow*], *Anales Literarios*, 3.3, pp. 46–60 (2001).

The researcher argues that the winner of the 1997 Café Gijón prize, *That Source of Sorrow: The Games of Love in Prerevolutionary Havana*, incorporates a repertoire of literary strategies normally identified with Lazarillo de Tormes and other classical Spanish picaresque novels. These common strategies are shown to relate to analogous historical circumstances which prevailed during the eras which provide the novels' settings: Charles I's Spain and 1950's Cuba. The researcher brings to bear a variety of theoretical studies of classical and contemporary picaresque narratives to analyze Montes Huidobro's text. Particular attention is given to characterization (representative of social strata), narrative voice (first person, implied author versus narrator-protagonist), narrative modality (confessional), plot structure (circular, episodic), and thematic repertoire (the making of the rogue and his struggle for survival, essence versus appearance, social corruption, etc.) On the basis of this analysis, the study concludes that the picaresque elements in Montes Huidobro's novel are part of the barrier which the text erects between its readers and any possibility of nostalgia for Cuba's prerevolutionary past.

GWARA, Joseph J., Assistant Professor, "'La muger y la sardina, de rostros en la ceniza': An Old Spanish Proverb in *Grisel y Mirabella*," *Juan de Flores: Five Studies*, (Joseph J. Gwara, ed.), London: Queen Mary & Westfield College.

The researcher argues that this rare proverb, found only in *Grisel y Mirabella*, is a variant of "Out of the frying-pan and into the fire." It was generally applied to women who refused to obey their husbands.

KNUTSON, Elizabeth M., Associate Professor, "The Natural and the Supernatural in Zola's *Therese Raquin*," *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Literatures*, 55.3, pp. 140–54 (2001).

Critics have remarked upon the apparent incompatibility between Zola's scientific intentions in writing *Therese Raquin*, and the gothic, fantastic dimension which permeates the novel. The protagonists are defined as the product of a particular temperament and environment, according to the principles of naturalism. However, the discourse of the novel consistently evokes the supernatural in its description of their pathology. While Zola emphasizes the physical, material nature of the couple's motivation and seeks to impose this interpretation upon the reader through explicit commentary, he describes their suffering in the aftermath of the crime in terms which evoke the fear and dread of a horror tale. As a metaphorical discourse, the supernatural in effect explains the horror of the physiological phenomena. The supernatural thus serves to dramatize the scientific message, making it spectacular. The article explores this surprising relationship between two discourses and paradigms, with reference to Freud's notion of the uncanny and shared thematic elements of naturalism and the fantastic.

SASSÓN-HENRY, Perla, Assistant Professor, "Bringing the Maya World to the Intermediate Spanish Literature Class," *Community Colleges Humanities Review*, Special Issue on the Maya, 22.2, pp.131–35 (2001).

This article describes the relevance of introducing Mayan literature into an intermediate Spanish literary course. It emphasizes the importance of a multidisciplinary approach which integrates the geography, history, and culture of the regions from which Mayan stories emerged. The article recommends the inclusion of Mayan stories, with special emphasis on Mayan and Guatemalan legends and fables.

STONE, Robert S., Assistant Professor, "*Con arte se vence todo*: Images of the English in Lope de Vega," *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, 54, pp.249-269 (2002).

This study investigates ten little-known plays by Lope de Vega, Spain's most prolific playwright of the Golden Age. Each of the plays includes either English characters or settings, and the purpose of my research was to ask to what extent these reflect Spanish attitudes toward the English in an era during which England was producing a good deal of anti-Spanish propaganda. The results show Lope de Vega to be surprisingly sympathetic to England in the wake of the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Still, what is revealed is interesting insofar as it shows how Spain viewed itself on the world political and historical stage.

VOROS, Sharon D., Professor, "Performance and Our *Comedia* Tradition." In *Siglo XXVII: Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, 1–9 March 2002*, Virginia Ness, ed.) El Paso, TX: Chamizal National Memorial, pp.6–7 (2002).

As Presenter of Plays and Discussant for the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas, the researcher contributed this short article on the significance of performance in understanding Classical Hispanic Drama. Experiencing the *comedia* on the stage deepens and broadens our comprehension of this rich cultural tradition with its diversity of poetic forms, themes, and characters. Yet the *comedia* (a term that refers to a theatrical work in general) also involves such enduring questions as individual rights, the abuse of power, honor, and self-determination, issues that provide keys to understanding human conflict and struggle in this period. Every year, the Chamizal National Memorial holds the only theater festival in the Spanish-speaking world exclusively dedicated to the Golden Age. This festival attracts both national and international theater companies and represents a cherished treasure of Hispanic culture.

Books and Book Chapters

BOSSHARD, Marianne, Associate Professor, "Maryse Condé: *Desirada* ou l'ironie du sort," in *Maryse Condé: Une nomade inconvenante*, (Madeleine Cottenet-Hage and Lydie Moudileno, eds.), Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe: Ibis Rouge, pp. 149–56 (2002).

This book was officially presented to Maryse Condé in New York on 27 April 2002 at a ceremony honoring her many important contributions to Francophone literature. Internationally known authors and critics, including René Depestre, Myriam Warner Vieyra, Ernest Pépin, and Régis Antoine, contributed to these "Mélanges offerts à Maryse Condé." In her essay, the researcher analyzed several aspects of Condé's novel *Desirada* (1997): the author's concept of "métissage culturel," the symbolic significance of the title, the recurrent theme of the "enfant non-désirée," and the socio-political history of a Guadeloupean island by the same name which served as partial background.

FUJIMURA, Clementine, Associate Professor, *Russia's Abandoned Children: Having A Voice*, Greenwood Publishing Group, under contract.

This book is the culmination of anthropological research conducted on the subject of Russia's abandoned children from 1990–2001. The book takes as its premise that Russian notions of childhood conflict with the childhood encountered by certain segments of the population, leading to stereotyping and marginalization of children at risk. Despite the difficulties encountered by such children, many of them develop into empowered individuals who think differently about themselves than does society at large. The researcher concludes that, in order to truly help orphans and street children in Russia, a new approach to working with such children must be developed, one which does not view them as victims. Throughout the book, it is shown that these "victims," abandoned children, see themselves as victors and independent individuals, misunderstood by the society which attempts to rehabilitate and help them. Steps needed to help these children are discussed.

FUJIMURA, Clementine, Associate Professor, "Integrating Diversity and Understanding the Other at the U.S. Naval Academy," *Anthropology in the U.S. Military: Coming of Age in the 21st Century*, (Meg Harrel, ed.), New York: Palgrave Macmillan, in press.

The modern military has traditionally embraced scientific development and technological innovation as keys to superiority and victory in warfare. The U.S. Naval Academy's curriculum reflects this philosophy by focusing on the so-called "hard-sciences," such as engineering, thereby excluding subjects such as anthropology. Qualitative studies in general have taken a back seat to quantitative studies. This paper discusses the culture behind attitudes held by traditionalists at the Naval Academy towards course offerings in cultural studies and anthropology. Responses to cultural studies have included skepticism and cynicism, connoting a general disdain for the study of ethos and emotion and of cultural and individual diversity. Stereotyped as "softer," cultural studies are expected by midshipmen to be easy courses. Moreover, these "less rigorous" sciences were in the past not considered important. As today's military grapples with changes in its demographic makeup, however, the Naval Academy is slowly integrating more interpretive social sciences into its course work, in the hopes of enhancing its understanding of diversity at home and abroad.

Conference Proceedings

CASTRO DE MOUX, María E., Professor, "La estatua de Pandora: la leyenda del *golem* en Calderón de la Barca@ [AThe Statue of Pandora: The *Golem* in Calderón de la Barca@]. In *Calderón 2000. Homenaje a Kurt Reichenberger en su 80 cumpleaños*, edited by Ignacio Arellano. Actas del Congreso Internacional IV Centenario del nacimiento de Calderón, Universidad de Navarra, Septiembre, 2000. Kassel: Edition Reichenberger, pp. 321-332, 2002.

This work is a study of the alchemical and philosophical knowledge underlying Calderón's portrayal of the mythical character Pandora.

Reviews

BOSSHARD, Marianne, Associate Professor, review of Maryse Condé, *Célanire cou-coupé* (2000) and *La Belle Créole* (2001), in *The French Review*, 75, pp. 1335–36 (2002).

In this double literary book review, the researcher analyzed two novels by Condé in the context of her recent literary production. In the discussion of the first work, she concentrated on topics such as the experience of colonization, the experience of the Antillean diaspora, and the quest for identity. Also important is the fact that many of Condé's novels, such as this one, depart from a "fait divers." In the case of this novel, it is the sacrifice of an infant girl—a practice influenced by voodoo and sorcery not uncommon in Guadeloupe up to the early twentieth century. The second novel, as the researcher pointed out, should be understood as a counterpart to an earlier novel, *Traversée de la Mangrove* (1989). Whereas the author, in *Traversée*, tried to capture the diversity of Guadeloupean society in a cohesive, mostly positive sense, she explored all its centrifugal, negative forces in *La Belle Créole*, despite the deceptively picturesque title that promises an exotic adventure.

FLETCHER, William H., Associate Professor, review of Martin Durrell, *Using German Synonyms*, LINGUIST List: Vol-12-2035. Available at <http://linguistlist.org/issues/12/12-2035.html#1>, 2001.

GILMORE, Elsa M., Professor, review of Marco Antonio de la Parra, *Heroína. Teatro repleto de mujeres [The Heroine. Dramas Full of Women]* (1999), in *Latin American Theatre Review*, 35.2, pp. 159–60 (2002).

This review of the most recent volume of six plays by Chilean dramatist Marco Antonio de la Parra calls attention to the ever-present ambiguities of the late-20th century whence the plays emerge. By focusing each violent plot upon the body of a female protagonist, the dramas make a powerful comment on the numbing effects of a postnational world and a frontierless global economy upon culture and ethics. Likewise, they are largely self-referential, as they aptly describe their own heroine-like effects upon their audience.

SASSÓN-HENRY, PERLA, Assistant Professor, review of Nancy Levy-Konesky and Karen Dagget, *Así es*, (3rd ed.), *Modern Language Journal*, 86, pp. 297-298 (2002).

Presentations

ANZAI, Shinobu, Instructor, and PAIK, Chie M., Associate Professor, "Relationships among Communication Apprehension, Academic Self-Concept, and Academic Achievement for a Sample of Japanese High-School Students," International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology [IACCP], 5th European Congress, King Alfred's College, Winchester, England, 10 July 2001.

CASTRO DE MOUX, María E., Professor, "La Representación de Cristo en Juan de Timoneda, Juan de Borgoña y Bartolomé Murillo" [The Image of Christ in Timoneda, Borgoña and Murillo], Association for Hispanic Classical Theater [AHCT], Annual Convention, El Paso, TX, 6–9 March 2002.

FUJIMURA, Clementine, Associate Professor, "Integrating Diversity and Understanding the Other: Anthropology at the U.S. Naval Academy," American Anthropological Association, Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 30 November 2001.

GAQUIN, Audrey, Associate Professor, "Heteroglossia and Communication in Anne Clement's *Ramon de Perillos*," Comparative Drama Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 26 April 2002.

GARTH, Todd S., Assistant Professor, "Horacio Quiroga, Voice of the Mythic Father," Modern Language Association of America, Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, 27 December 2001.

GWARA, Joseph J., Assistant Professor, “‘La Muger y la Sardina, de Rostros en la Ceniza’: An Old Spanish Proverb in *Grisel y Mirabella*,” 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, 2–5 May 2002.

GWARA, Joseph J., Assistant Professor, “Juan de Flores: Senti-mental Fiction and Historiography,” 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, 2–5 May 2002. (Session organizer)

KNUTSON, Elizabeth M., Associate Professor, “Cultural Receptivity: Self and Other in Foreign Language Learning,” American Association of Teachers of French [AATF], Annual Convention, Denver, CO, 8 July 2001.

PAIK, Chie M., Associate Professor, and Michael, William B., “Relationships Between Scores on the Self-Concept Scale and Gender, Ethnic Background, and Academic Achievement for a Sample of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy,” 32nd Annual Conference of the Northeastern Educational Research Association [NERA], 24 October 2002.

PAIK, Chie M., Associate Professor, and ANZAI, Shinobu, Instructor, “Relationships among Communication Apprehension, Academic Self-Concept, and Academic Achievement for a Sample of Japanese High-School Students,” International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology [IACCP], 5th European Congress, King Alfred’s College, Winchester, England, 10 July 2001.

PAIK, Chie M., Associate Professor, “Psychometric Evaluation of the Japanese Version of an Academic Self-Concept Scale for a Sample of College Students: Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analyses,” International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology [IACCP], 5th European Congress, King Alfred’s College, Winchester, England, 10 July 2001.

SASSÓN-HENRY, Perla, Assistant Professor, “A Tale of Two Sites: Teaching Introduction to Literature in the Foreign Language Classroom Via Teleconferencing and Web Based Technology,” Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium [CALICO], Annual Symposium, Davis, CA, 27–30 March 2002.

STONE, Robert S., Assistant Professor, “New World Connections in Zurbarán’s *Immaculate Conception*,” Association for Hispanic Classical Theater [AHCT], Annual Convention, El Paso, TX, 6–9 March 2002.

VOROS, Sharon D., Professor, “Portraits, Money, and Power in Golden Age Spanish Drama,” Modern Language Association of America, Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, 28 December 2001. (Session chair)

VOROS, Sharon D., Professor, Siglo de Oro Spanish Theater Festival, Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso, TX, 1–9 March 2002. (Presenter of plays and round-table discussant)

VOROS, Sharon D., Professor, Golden Age Spanish Drama Symposium, Association for Hispanic Classical Theater [AHCT], Annual Convention, El Paso, TX, 6–9 March 2002. (Conference director)

VOROS, Sharon D., Professor, “Leonor de la Cueva y Silva and Her Uncle Francisco: The Staging of Dreams in *La tragedia de Narciso* and *La firmeza en la ausencia*,” NorthEast Modern Language Association [NEMLA], Toronto, Canada, 12 April 2002.

WANG, Jenny Zhijie, Assistant Professor, “The [ATR] Constraint on Cantonese Vowels,” North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, Tucson, AZ, 15 May 2002.
