



THE POLYGLOT



*A newsletter with updates, ideas, and information
from the BSC Foreign Languages Department*

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FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

Dear all,

I would like to welcome everyone to a new and exciting academic year! This coming spring the Department will be offering Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole and Reading in Portuguese for the first time. Other new courses also include a speaking-intensive SYS titled *Screening Forbidden Desires* taught by Professor Leora Lev. The new Portuguese Minor has been approved by College governance and will be effective in Fall 2007. The *Club de Español* organized a series of stimulating club activities such as the *Hora del Café* where students spoken only Spanish during their meeting.

This fall Spanish Secondary Education minors enrolled in EDHM 424 were treated to a highly informative series of lectures given by local and regional experts in foreign language education. The *Lecture and Workshop Series on Foreign Language Teaching Strategies (Spanish)* was organized by Professor Duilio Ayalamacedo and sponsored by the DFL. It had the participation of experts such as Susan Griffin (Boston University), Tino Villanueva (Boston University), Douglas Morgenstern (MIT), Debbie Rusch (Boston College) and Luisa Piemontese (Southern Connecticut State University).

On December 5th Professor Leora Lev read from her book *Enter at Your Own Risk: the Dangerous Art of Dennis Cooper* at the Brookline Booksmith. Professor Snook published a scholarly article in the highly regarded *Hispania* journal. Check out more faculty achievements inside!

I wish you all success in your academic endeavors. Happy Holidays!

Dr. Fernanda L. Ferreira

Acting Chair, Foreign Languages Department.

STUDY ABROAD IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

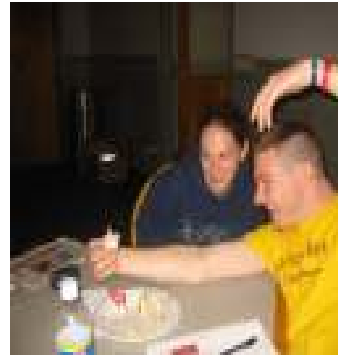
By Nancy Connolly

Last July, I went to Guadalajara to improve my Spanish comprehension. I felt very welcomed by my program, Cultural Experiences Abroad. I studied at the University of Guadalajara, where there was a center for international students referred to as CEPE (*Centro de Estudios para Extranjeros*). Everyday was an adventure as my classmates and I traveled through Mexico. I visited the pyramids at *Guachimontes*, the beaches in Puerto Vallarta and the old city of *Guanajuato*. I lived with a Mexican woman and a student from the United States. The *señora* treated us like family and was always very caring. Throughout my five weeks in Mexico, not only did my Spanish improve, but I also met people who have now become close friends. I am glad I made the decision to study abroad and I am looking forward to doing it again!



CLUB DE ESPAÑOL EVENTS!!

The *Club de Español* held its annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration on Thursday, November 2nd in One Park Ave. Spanish music played throughout the event and guests enjoyed food such as beef fajitas and nachos. Some activities included jewelry-making and coloring of *Día de los Muertos* pictures.



El Club de Español meets every other Thursday at 3:30 PM in the Hingham Room (210) at the Campus Center. You don't have to speak Spanish to come! This year's officers are Stefanie Mercadante (President), Santara Sen (Vice President), John Matson (Treasurer), and Anna Fegan (Secretary).



On Tuesday, December 6th, 12-2PM, the *Club de Español* is sponsoring a **Coffee Hour** for interested students at One Park Ave. This is a Spanish-speaking event! Please come to practice your speaking skills! Interested in participating in more events by the Spanish Club? E-mail Stefanie at smercadante@bridgew.edu

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor d.o.j. ayalamacedo will be on sabbatical leave this coming Spring and Fall of 2007. While on sabbatical he will be conducting research in Europe and Latin America and will be presenting a series of invited lectures on themes of his specialty in various European and Latin American cultural and academic institutions. ♦

Professor Fernanda L. Ferreira. This past summer Dr. Ferreira wrote a book review of Milton Azevedo's *Portuguese: a Linguistic Introduction* which will appear in the next issue of RILI (*Revista Internacional de Lingüística Iberoamericana*). She is presently finishing the final edits of her upcoming book called *The Everything Learning Brazilian Portuguese Book* by Adams Media, with an expected publication in spring of 2007. On November 21st Dr. Ferreira gave a presentation to the campus community titled "Language in the Age of Globalization". This "Brown Bag" lecture was sponsored by the Campus Climate Action Group and dealt with the importance of language learning and global citizenship. On January 7th Dr. Ferreira will present a scholarly paper titled "Brazilian Portuguese as a Semi-Creole: evidence from complex plurals" at the upcoming SPCL (Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics) Conference in San Diego, CA. ♦

Professor Leora Lev read from her new book *Enter at Your Own Risk: The Dangerous Art of Dennis Cooper*, at the Brookline Booksmith on December 5, 2006. She received BSC's "Class of 1950 Distinguished Faculty Research Award" for her book last May, and was the keynote speaker at a conference in Cork, Ireland called "On. Dennis Cooper," which included academic papers as well as film, music, and artwork. This past summer, she conducted research in France for her second book with a CART grant and presented a lecture called "Food Fetish: Gastronomy as Spectacle of Subversive Desire in Spanish Fiction and Film" in Bordeaux. She received a Presidential Teaching Award to develop her Freshman Year Seminar "Our Vampires, Ourselves," which she offered in fall 2006. She will offer a Sophomore Year Seminar for the new Core program, "Screening Forbidden Desires" in spring 2007. ♦

Professor Margaret Snook published an article entitled: "Elena Poniatowska's *La piel del cielo*: Mexican History Written on the Female Body." The article analyses a recent novel by the author in which she criticizes social imbalances in privilege and authority based on biological and gender differences. The article appeared in the June 2006 issue of *Hispania*, a journal devoted to the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese and published by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. ♦

Alumni Contributions

Hablar dos idiomas

por Jackie Tabares

La ventaja de poder hablar otro idioma me ha abierto las puertas a un mundo que nunca hubiera conocido. Empecé mis estudios del español en Bridgewater State College en el año 2001. Tuve la oportunidad de conocer a muchas personas durante los cuatro años que estuve en la universidad y participé en el Club de Español. Había un ambiente donde promovían diversas actividades culturales y educativas. También con el apoyo de la facultad y mi consejero, pude participar en el Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research donde tuve la oportunidad de tratar con diferentes personas de varias disciplinas.

Con todas estas experiencias entré a Boston College para empezar mi maestría en literatura y cultura hispanoamericana. Recibí una beca académica para estudiar en la universidad y un "Teaching Fellowship" donde enseñé dos clases de nivel universitario. Tuve la oportunidad de conocer a gente de muchos países que me introdujeron a nuevas costumbres e ideas. A través de estas conexiones se me presentó la opción de viajar a Costa Rica para estudiar por un mes. El programa ofreció clases de nivel graduado y de metodología de la enseñanza. En esta oportunidad, tuve la experiencia de conocer un nuevo país y una nueva familia. Las experiencias que sentí y la gente que conocí, fueron extraordinarias. Nunca hubiera podido conocer la selva de Costa Rica si no hubiese sido por el

estudio de español, especialmente en un país donde no conocía nada ni a nadie.

Académicamente se me han presentado muchas oportunidades, pero también el español me ha abierto las puertas en el mundo profesional. Tuve la ocasión de trabajar con las Medias Rojas de Boston y el Spanish Béisbol Network durante la campaña de 2006. Trabajé muy de cerca con los anunciadores en español de las Medias Rojas como productora y encargada de estadísticas. Durante la temporada conocí a mucha gente de la profesión de la radio, televisión y varios deportistas. Todo lo cual me llevó al trabajo que estoy disfrutando ahora en la estación radial, Sus Deportes (1300 AM). Sus Deportes es una estación de radio donde se habla en español de los deportes y también se publica una revista deportiva mensual.

Todas estas oportunidades no serían posibles sin mis estudios del idioma español. El tener la capacidad de dominar dos idiomas, el español e inglés, me ha abierto las puertas a nuevos mundos. Mi viaje a un país latinoamericano mejoró mucho mi expresión oral, lo cual me ayudó tremendamente con el trabajo de la radio y la revista. Todas estas son experiencias nunca olvidaré.

Speaking Two Languages

by Jackie Tabares

The advantage of having the ability to speak a second language has opened doors for me to many different worlds. I began my studies

at Bridgewater State College in 2001. During my four years there I had the opportunity to meet many different people and was able to be a part of the *Club de Español*. It was an atmosphere where culture and educational activities were promoted. Along with the help and support of the faculty and staff of the Department of Foreign Language, I participated in the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research where the occasion was presented to me to interact in an academic environment with other departments that normally wouldn't come together.

With all these wonderful experiences I entered Boston College to begin a Master's program in Hispanic Literature and Culture. I was awarded an academic scholarship and a Teaching Fellowship that gives me the possibility to teach two Elementary Spanish classes. Here I have met many people from different cultures that have introduced me to new ideas and customs. Through these connections, I was presented with the option to travel to Costa Rica to study for a month. The program offered many classes at the graduate level and pedagogical courses. With this opportunity, I experienced a totally new country and living with a host family. What I felt and the

people I met were amazing. Traveling through the rainforests of Costa Rica would have not been such a wonderful experience if it weren't for studying Spanish, especially in a different country, where I didn't know anyone.

Academically I have been blessed with many opportunities, but professionally many doors have also opened for me because of being bilingual. This past spring I worked with the Boston Red Sox and its broadcast with the Spanish Béisbol Network during the 2006 season. I worked along side the Spanish broadcasters of the Red Sox as a producer and statistician. During the season I met many people of the radio and television industry and many athletes. This internship introduced me to my current job with *Sus Deportes* (1300 AM). *Sus Deportes* is a Spanish sports talk radio show that also publishes a monthly magazine.

All these opportunities were made possible due to my studies of Spanish language. Having the ability to dominate two languages makes me more 'marketable' and opens new worlds. Traveling has also improved my speaking abilities, which helped me out tremendously with my radio job and writing for the magazine. I will never forget these amazing experiences.

Report on *Lectures and Worksops on Foreign Language Strategies (Spanish)*

by Michael Lesniak

Over the course of the Fall 2006 semester, the students of the “Strategies for Teaching Foreign Languages” course have been fortunate enough to attend a series of workshops organized by Dr. d.o.j. ayalamacedo and sponsored by the Foreign Languages Department. These workshops included presentations from renowned scholars in the field of Foreign Language Instruction such as Dr. Debbie Rusch of Boston College, and Dr. Tino Villanueva from Boston University.

These supplementary workshops covered a variety of topics ranging from pronunciation and technology implementation in the classroom, to “grammar presentations that ‘function.’” In addition, the participants were exposed to a wide array of instructional methods, as the presenters came from differing educational systems, including Southern Connecticut State University, Boston University, Boston College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Overall, these workshops further enhanced the content of the course and have provided the students with many useful methods to utilize in their future classrooms.

Congratulations!_____

Michael Lesniak has received an ATP Grant and will be working under Dr. Ayalamacedo's direction on the literary, social, and political exemplarity in the *Novelas Ejemplares* by Miguel de Cervantes.

Jackie Tabares '04, who is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Hispanic Literature and Culture at Boston College, was awarded an academic scholarship and a teaching fellowship in order to complete her studies.

Jason Williams, a student in Prof. Lev's FYS "Our Vampires, Ourselves," participated in the Midyear Symposium sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

From Migdalia Sepúlveda

I'd like to take this opportunity to share my teaching experience at the International High School in Boston. The workshop was sponsored by the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, located at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

I was asked to participate in a two week workshop program with twenty-three students of various ethnic backgrounds. The workshop started with poetry reading of Pablo Neruda, Julia de Burgos, as well as poems from my own book *Ecos de mi Sentir*.

After having taught some basic forms of poetry such as rhyme schemes, metric patterns, and poetry forms, the students were motivated to start their first draft.

As the students interestingly delved into the joyful task of writing, they exchanged opinions, insights as they proof-read their own work.

Throughout this workshop, the students developed a more confident style of writing and were able to express their feelings using poetry. At the end of this experience, the students read their

final work at the University of Massachusetts to local poets, parents and friends.

Needless to say, I was thrilled and extremely proud of the students of the International High. I would like to share one of my favorite poems by Doribel Baez, a student from the Dominican Republic presently studying at the International School in Boston.

En las hojas de los árboles
se asoma una lágrima.
Que cayendo con la brisa
soledad trae a mi alma.

La frescura del otoño
y el susurro de su viento,
un suspiro me suscita
y me lleva a paso lento.

Entre árboles, hojas y otoño
mi gemido continúa...
la perversa soledad
mi aislamiento acentúa.

Doribel Baez