



The Polyglot



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

Editor: Dr. Fernanda Ferreira Copyeditor and Consultant: Lisa Shaw
Editors for Student Contributions: Drs. Duilio Ayalamacedo and Fernanda Ferreira
Faculty Copyeditor: Dr. Atandra Mukhopadhyay
Student Contributors: Omar Gueye, Valentina Martínez, and Migdalia Sepúlveda
Faculty Contributors: Drs. Peggy Snook, Leora Lev, Fernanda Ferreira and Julia Stakhnevich

Number 8

Fall 2003

What's New in the Foreign Languages Department

Welcome from the New Chair.....page 1	New Course: LS-302page 4
<i>El Club de Español/ Spanish Club.....page 2</i>	Study Tour to Prague, Krakow and Moscow....page 4
<i>Taller de Poesía/ Poetry Workshop.....page 2</i>	Faculty Achievements.....page 5
Interview with Bob Faria.....page 3	Poems.....page 6

Welcome From the New Chair of the Foreign Languages Department *Dr. Peggy Snook*



www.bridgew.edu/ForeignLanguage

As the new Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not had in class.

I came to Bridgewater State College in 1989 as an Associate Professor in Spanish. Previously, I had taught at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO and at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. My areas of special interest are Latin American Women Writers

and the contemporary Latin American narrative.

At the time I arrived in Bridgewater, Professor Stanley Hamilton, now retired, was Chair of the department. In fact, the faculty of the department has changed a lot over the years with the retirements of Barbara Ward, Robert Arruda and Robert Briggs and the addition of new members, most recently Fernanda Ferreira. I am proud to say that, although a small department, we have outstanding faculty members who offer a wide range of courses in their areas of expertise. We offer other services and opportunities which are also a source of pride. We have a **Spanish Club**, directed by Professor Ayalamacedo, that plans trips to bookstores, restaurants and museums in the Boston area as well as informative cultural events on campus. Many of our Spanish majors serve as tutors at the **Academic Achievement Center** gaining useful instructional experience while helping their peers. We publish this newsletter, **The Polyglot**, in which we encourage student participation as writers and editors. We offer the opportunity

to do an honors thesis in Spanish to qualified majors and we assist students in planning rewarding study abroad experiences.

I would like to see the department support other activities that would provide students and faculty opportunities to meet in an informal setting and discuss a variety of topics of interest to those in our discipline. If you have some specific suggestions about arranging such activities, please drop me an e-mail at msnook@bridgew.edu. Also be sure to check out the department's web page for information and activities of interest to our language students. Please let me know of any cultural events in your communities that might be of interest to our students, and I will see that they are posted on our web page.

In closing, let me extend my best wishes for a happy and successful 2003-2004 academic year.

Cordially,
Margaret L. Snook
Professor and Chair of Foreign Languages
*El Club de Español
por Valentina Martínez*

Ha renacido el Club de Español gracias al **Dr. Ayalamacedo** y a los estudiantes dedicados como Erin Sheehan, Raquel MacVeigh y Omar Gueye. El club tuvo su primera reunión el día miércoles 24 de septiembre a la que asistieron más de 15 estudiantes. En esta reunión se discutieron los planes de actividades para el año escolar y decidimos que las principales actividades que vamos a realizar deben tener como objetivo ayudar a los estudiantes a comprender el idioma y la cultura de los países con influencia de lengua castellana.

Para el presente año escolar el club realizará las siguientes actividades:

- Un festival del video de cine en castellano.
- Paseo y cena en Boston.
- Dos talleres sobre “Cómo preparar una buena presentación oral en castellano.” Estos talleres ayudarán a los estudiantes a organizar sus presentaciones en clase.
- Viaje cultural al Perú. Este viaje se realizará durante el *Spring Break* y visitaremos Machu Picchu, la sagrada ciudad de los incas y otros lugares históricos.

The Spanish Club is once again active thanks to **Dr. Ayalamacedo** and the dedicated students like Erin Sheehan, Raquel MacVeigh and Omar Gueye. The club had its first meeting on Wednesday, September 24th, with the participation of more than fifteen students. In this meeting we discussed our plans for the academic year. We decided that the main goal of our activities should be to help students understand the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

This academic year the Spanish Club will undertake the following activities:

- A film festival in Spanish.
- A trip and dinner in Boston.
- Two workshops about “How to prepare a good oral presentation in Spanish.” These workshops will help students organize their class presentations.
- Cultural trip to Peru. This trip will take place during the Spring Break. We will visit Machu Pichu, the sacred city of the Incas and other historical places.

como una actividad muy importante.

Como una respuesta a nuestros problemas y preguntas, los estudiantes del Programa de Español (FLD), bajo la dirección del **Dr. Ayalamacedo**, hemos decidido organizar el Taller de Poesía. Ya el semestre pasado, hemos tenido una gran experiencia cuando organizamos nuestra **Primera Lectura Bilingüe de Poesía**. En esta ocasión cuatro estudiantes (Migdalia Sepúlveda, Stephanie Mancini, Natanael Monteiro y Tafsir Omar Gueye) leímos nuestros poemas en español y en inglés, después dialogamos con los estudiantes y respondimos sus preguntas. Nos alegró que muchos estudiantes asistieran a nuestra presentación. También agradecemos la presencia y los comentarios de la profesora Margaret Snook y del profesor Antonio Barbagallo.

Invitamos a todos los estudiantes que quieran participar en nuestro taller y en nuestras actividades. Nos vamos a seguir reuniendo para discutir nuestra creación literaria multilingüe y organizaremos una segunda lectura. Los interesados pueden comunicarse con el Dr. Ayalamacedo (X2450).

New Officers of the Spanish Club!!!

President: Jackie Tabares
 Vice President: Valentina Martinez
 Secretary: Amanda Dias
 Treasurer: Omar Gueye
 Secretary of Social and Cultural Activities: Laura dePontbriand
For more information contact:
Jackie: jtabares@bridgew.edu

The Spanish Club
by Valentina Martínez

Taller de Poesía
por Omar Gueye

Hoy en día los seres humanos vivimos un tiempo muy difícil y enfrentamos problemas no sólo materiales sino también existenciales y culturales. En medio de esta angustia, sentimos más que nunca una necesidad vital de expresar nuestras ideas sobre lo espiritual, lo romántico y lo político. Es en este ambiente que la poesía, como expresión literaria muy humana, se revela

Poetry Workshop
by Omar Gueye

Nowadays human beings go through difficult times and face not only material, but also existential and cultural problems. In the midst of all this struggle we feel the need, more than ever, to express our ideas about the spiritual, romantic and political realms. It is in this environment

POETRY WORKSHOP (cont.)

CORNER

WITH VISITING LECTURER BOB FARIA

By Dr. Fernanda Ferreira



that poetry, as a very human literary expression, reveals itself as a very important activity.

As an answer to our questions and issues some Spanish majors, under the direction of **Dr. Ayalamacedo**, have decided to organize a Poetry Workshop. Last semester we had a great experience when we organized our first **Bilingual Poetry Reading**. At that time, four of us -- Migdalia Sepúlveda, Stephanie Mancini, Natanael Monteiro and Tafsir Omar Gueye -- read our poems in Spanish and English. Later we discussed our poems with the audience and answered their questions. We were very pleased that many students attended our presentation. We also would like to thank Professors Margaret Snook and Antonio Barbagallo for their attendance and comments.

We invite all students who would like to participate in our workshop and in our activities. We will continue to meet to discuss our multilingual literary production and soon organize a second presentation. All interested students should contact Dr. Ayalamacedo at X2450. ■

Tell me a bit about yourself and your career - how long have you worked teaching languages?

I was born and raised in Taunton, of first and second-generation Portuguese parents (from the Azores). My father spoke only Portuguese at home, and my mother was bilingual. I never left Massachusetts, so that's why I travel so much! <laugh> I taught at Taunton High School and was department chair at Bridgewater -Raynham Regional High School. After 36 years of teaching I retired, but I continue to teach part-time at Stonehill College and at Bridgewater State College. I also taught at Massasoit at one point.

How many classes do you teach, usually? I usually teach 2 or 3 classes. When I was working as a supervisor for the School of Education I could only teach two classes.

You had some health issues last semester which made it difficult for you to teach. Could you tell us a bit about that? Yes, I had a cancerous tumor removed from my vocal cords. I went through six weeks of radiation and lost my voice for four months. But I am happy to say that I am cancer-free for six months. The oncologist encouraged me to go back to work. It's very scary, especially when you use your vocal cords for a living! And I like to talk <laugh>. Atandra, the Acting Chair at the time, sent me a very thoughtful card.. Also I was very fortunate that my colleagues substituted for me.

What are your goals for the future? I want to continue to teach -- Die with my boots on, as they say! <laugh> -- as long as I can introduce the Spanish language to as many students as I can, and have fun with it too. I wish that students realize that it would be to their advantage to take Spanish. Travel is also very high on my list, and not only to Spanish and Portuguese -speaking countries.

Are you involved in GER discussions? No. I think I'm going to sign-up for Blackboard, though, especially when so many people still think that learning languages is not valid. I think there is value in kids learning other languages. •

Finally, what advice would you give to Spanish majors

7TH ANNUAL
LA CULTURA LATINA
food and entertainment
Thursday, Oct. 30th
Large Ballroom
Campus Center
6:00-10:00pm
sponsored by
La Sociedad Latina of BSC

for more information contact
Dr. Fernanda Ferreira, X2456

INTERVIEW

who might enter the teaching profession?

My suggestion is that they visit some schools in the area and sit in on classes. Perhaps they'd like to volunteer to tutor or assist the teacher. In that way they'd get a feel for what the classroom teaching environment is all about. If teaching appeals to them, they can start by subbing, and then applying for their license.

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Yes, I think we should encourage students to go abroad. In my own background I completed studies at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and I visited San Miguel de Allende. Even if a student gets to go to Cancún for Spring Break, he will benefit. Of course a serious student would take a Spanish class first. Because instead of just drinking coronas, he could take a short trip to Chitzen Itza and be "walking with the Mayans." That's what I tell my students in elementary level classes. That's why teaching Spanish is so important. ■

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!!

Please send us your latest news for the next issue of The Polyglot. Tell us about your professional accomplishments and contributions. Send email to Dr. Fernanda Ferreira at <fferreira@bridgew.edu>

NEW COURSE!!!

LS 302 CONTEMPORARY SPAIN
Culture, Arts, Politics, and Globalization

by Dr. Leora Lev

In this course we will study contemporary Spanish culture, the arts, architecture, and politics as a vibrant if turbulent stage for tensions between the "old Spain" of Francoist dictatorship, censorship, and insularity and a new Spain of globalization, democratization, and reconfigured national, transnational, and gendered identities. We'll explore the transformation of urban topographies such as Madrid, Barcelona, and Bilbao; the globalization of Spanish media, including film, internet culture, and art; contemporary artistic representations of the bullfight and the gypsy "Carmen" figure; the mutating relation between Spain and Latin America, colonizer and colonized; new understandings of family, sex, gender, and GLBT communities; and the voices and works of Spain's Generation X.



Roof tops in Barcelona, Spain [picture by L. Lev]

A Study Tour
Exploring Eastern Europe:
Prague, Krakow and Moscow



We are happy to announce that in Spring 2004 the Department of Foreign Languages is offering a new study tour to Eastern Europe. This unique study tour is an exciting opportunity to learn first-hand about the diverse cultures of Slavic peoples with a specific focus on Czech, Polish and Russian cultures.

Participants will learn about linguistic and historical connections between these nations, compare and contrast their cultural practices and products, and analyze the cultural impact of the social transformation that these nations have undergone after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Participants will travel to Prague, Krakow and Moscow, three cities that have been playing a pivotal role in shaping Czech, Polish and Russian national identities for centuries. No prior knowledge of Czech, Polish and/or Russian is required.

Dr. Julia Stakhnevich, an Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages, will lead the study tour. She is a native of Moscow, Russia, and has traveled extensively in Eastern Europe. Upon successful completion of the study tour students will receive three credits in FL. However, this course cannot be used to complete the FL GER and cannot count for major classes at BSC.

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll across the gorgeous Charles Bridge in Prague

- Visit beautiful medieval town of Czesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic
 - Explore the Old Town and visit Wavel Royal Castle in Krakow
 - Take pictures of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square in Moscow
 - Pay homage to Sergiev Posad, a religious center of Russia
-
- Have the adventure of an overnight trip from Krakow to Moscow

by **November 14, 2003** are eligible for a drawing for **\$100.00**.

For more information, please contact Dr. Stakhnevich at istakhnevich@bridgew.edu or by phone at (508) 531-2805.

Applications are **due February 10, 2004**. Applications received

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

DR. LEORA LEV

Leora Lev sponsored **Kaytee Bolcome** as a participant in the Undergraduate Research Symposium of Spring 2003; Kaytee's presentation was called *What Have I Done to Deserve This? Patriarchy and Women as Objects in Pedro Almodóvar and Carlos Saura*. She was also a faculty mentor for Johannah Price in the Adrian Tinsley Program, a grant that enables students to pursue advanced research projects with faculty guidance. Johannah's project was entitled *First, Be Sexy!: Cinema, Femininity, and the Young American Woman*.

Dr. Lev won a Faculty and Librarian Research Grant for a project entitled *Carmen's Pleasure Vessel, Devil's Backbone: Hispanic Cinemas, Cultural Identities, and Transnational Contexts*, and will present her work at an international conference on *Hispanic Cinemas: The Local and the Global* at the University of London this fall. She also published two critical essays in refereed journals last spring, *Processions of Simulacra, Volatile Bodies: Spanish Studies, Theory, and the Academy* in *Anales de Literatura Española Contemporánea*, and *Hearts of Darkness: Dennis Cooper's My Loose Thread*, in *American Book Review*. Dr. Lev was also promoted to **Associate Professor** in Spring 2003.

DR. FERNANDA FERREIRA

This semester Dr. Ferreira is teaching LP-151 Intermediate Portuguese, a course last offered in 1992. Dr. Ferreira has been working to increase course offerings in Portuguese in order to eventually establish a **Portuguese minor** at BSC.

This coming spring, Dr. Ferreira will be presenting a scholarly paper entitled *Pluralization Strategies in Cape Verdean Creole and Brazilian Portuguese: A Variationist Approach* at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, to be held January 3-6 in Boston. This study emerges directly from a CART Summer Grant and the

opportunity to work with the Cape Verdean community at BSC. Dr. Ferreira has actively participated in the *Safe College Coalition*, an organization that aims to provide awareness of, and support for, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community at the College. Dr. Ferreira will be conducting a workshop this semester entitled *Teaching Moments: GLBT Issues in the Language Classroom*. In the spring of 2003, she participated at the *Campus Climate Action Group's* Brown Bag Luncheon Series and was awarded a **Certificate of Appreciation** from the Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs Office.

DR. JULIA STAKHNEVICH

Dr. Stakhnevich has received a Faculty and Librarian Research Grant to work on her project *Adult Language Learning Strategies and Tasks in the Immersion Setting*. The project investigates language learning strategies as related to the tasks involved in adult language learning in the immersion setting. The field part of the project took place this summer in central Mexico in the town of **Guanajuato**. Dr. Stakhnevich participated in two immersion programs and conducted an introspective qualitative inquiry exploring the relationship between strategies and tasks in adult language learning. The study strives to describe and explain language learning from the learner's point of view, emphasizing the importance of metalinguistic introspection and reflection both as a research instrument and as a language learning strategy. The study underscores dialogic nature of language as highlighted by Mikhail Bakhtin and redefines adult language learning as a constant process of self-discovery, self-invention and possibly identity change. Dr. Stakhnevich is currently analyzing the data gathered in Mexico and she will present the results of this project at the annual meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) in fall 2003. Additionally, the results will be disseminated at the CART seminar *Language Strategies and Tasks: Implications for College Educators* in November 2003.

CAPTURING BEAUTY

By M. Sepulveda

That moment when dawn
In the faint moonlight, the grass is singing
The wind's wings beat upon the stones
Toward the sky, rivers are mingling.

Passions of rain, or moods in autumn nights
Sweet berries ripen in the wildness
Beside the picket fence in back of the shed
Robins are singing with absolute kindness.

Unexpected flurries of tiny snow-birds
Like brown leaves, whirling by
The sky and the sea meet far in distance
The sun brilliantly shines in the sky.

Who is that girl holding the bunch of violets
Next to the lemonade stand?
As she leans, with a radiant smile
Holding the flowers with the pearl strand.

Beauty of the grass and flowers and trees
Of the singing birds and the humming bees
The water stream echos from creek
As the squirrel dresses beautifully in silk.

Down pours the heavy rain
Caresses kindly the dried terrain
The caterpillar beneath the tree,
Became as happy as birds in spring.
Although the sun has gone down
And the dew of night arise
Birds are silently in their nest
The moon sits and smiles on the night.

Lambs have nibbled, silent moves
Their feet as angels move bright
As they walk among the ancient trees
The evening star from my sight.
Does it really matter where we find beauty?

Migdalia Sepulveda, native of Puerto Rico, has been writing poetry since childhood. *Memorias de Niña* was her first collection. Her work has been read at the Joyner Center, Boston University, University of Puerto Rico, and at the Guilford High School in Connecticut. Migdalia's poem *Inspiration* was published in May 2002. She is a Spanish major and is currently working on her latest poetry book.

EU DISSE A POESIA

Por Alice Walker

Tradução ao português F. Ferreira

Eu disse à Poesia: "Basta!"
Tendo que morrer, quase,
antes que uma luz criadora entre
despercebida, não é brincadeira.
"Não, obrigada, Santa Criação,
as musas não precisam candidatar-se.
"Vou sair para me divertir --
no mínimo, algo ordinário e sem dor."

A Poesia se espreguiçava,
e fingia que estava morta,
até hoje de manhã.
Eu não estava triste nem nada,
só inquieta.

A Poesia disse: "Lembra do deserto,
como você ficou feliz, de que você
tinha um olho para vê-lo? Lembra disso,
mesmo que por um instante?"
Eu disse: "Não escuto nada disso.
Além do mais, são cinco da manhã. Eu
não vou me levantar no escuro para
falar contigo."

A poesia disse: "Mas lembra daquele tempo
quando você viu a lua,
sobre aquele abismo pequeno,
que você apreciou muito mais que o grande --
e como te surpreendeu,
que a luz do luar era esverdeada,
e que você ainda tinha um olho bom
pare vê-la.

Pense nisso!"

"Eu vou à igreja!" eu falei,
Importunada, virando meu rosto para a parede.
"Vou aprender a rezar, mais uma vez."

"Me diz uma coisa," disse a Poesia.
"Quando você reza, o que você vê?"

A Poesia me pegou.

"Não tem papel nesse quarto," eu disse.
"E aquela caneta que eu comprei
faz um ruído engraçado."

"Carvalho", disse a Poesia.

"Carvalho", disse eu.