



Wellesley College Spanish Department

2013-2014 Newsletter

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Graduation Breakfast: Friday, May 30, 8:30 AM, Green 328

Reunion Weekend: Saturday, June 7, 3:30-4:30, Newhouse Center, 2nd floor Green

New colleagues, courses, space: The Spanish Department welcomed **Antônio Igrejas** to spearhead our brand new program in Portuguese Language and Cultures, launched in cooperation with MIT, and **Eileen O'Connor** to teach Intermediate Spanish. **Elena Torres González** (U de Córdoba) also joined us for the year; as the Department's Language Assistant she lived in Casa Cervantes, planned faculty-student dinners, tutored widely, and co-hosted the monthly *Noche de cine* with **Jael Matos**. *Gracias mil, Elena. ¡Te vamos a echar de menos!* In addition to Intensive Beginning and Intermediate Portuguese, new classes this year included a First-Year Seminar for Heritage Learners of Spanish with **Verónica Darer**, **Carlos Vega's** Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing on the concept of *hispanidad*, and Introduction to Hispanic Studies with sections ranging from art to politics taught by **Joy Renjilian-Burgy**, **Jill Syverson-Stork**, **Nancy Hall** and **Inela Selimovic**. As Green Hall undergoes renovation and refreshment, new office space for the Spanish Department has been designed by Robert Olsen and Associates.

Hot off the presses! Koichi Hagimoto's [*Between Empires: Martí, Rizal, and the Intercolonial Alliance*](#) (Palgrave); **Evelina Gužauskytė's** [*Christopher Columbus's Naming in the 'Diarios' of the Four Voyages \(1492-1504\): A Discourse of Negotiation*](#) (Toronto); and **Marjorie Agosin's** novel for young readers (aged 5-9), [*I Lived on Butterfly Hill*](#) (Atheneum).

- Accented with interior artwork, steeped in the history of Pinochet's catastrophic takeover of Chile, and based on many true events, [Agosin's] multicultural ode to the power of revolution, words, and love is... brave and heart wrenchingly graceful –Amazon.com
- **Gužauskytė** challenges the common notion that Columbus's acts of naming were a straightforward imperial attempt to impose a new language and ideology on the native inhabitants by marking their terrain. Instead, she argues that Columbus's names resulted from the collisions between several distinct worlds, and that the Taino inhabitants of the Caribbean had a tangible impact on Columbus's itineraries and naming.
- **Hagimoto's** study "constitutes an important model for other ways of viewing post-coloniality in the Caribbean and Latin America beyond the models of Marxist revolution, and it makes a notable contribution to the growing and fascinating bibliography of Asian-Latin American cultural relations." --David William Foster



Our students shine: **Micaela Palermo** made a video about her study abroad experience in [*Chile with Middlebury College*](#). **Becca Kimball** received a Research Grant from the Office of the Provost to travel to Managua for her honors thesis "Palabras pulidas: Representaciones textuales y reminiscencias orales de la Revolución Sandinista de 1979," and **Sara del Balzo** wrote "Héroes por caminos poco andados: Robin Hood y El Cid" for her honors thesis. **Joanna García** (left) spoke at the Annual Meeting of the NECLAS. An interview with Preshquita **Ellen Gallo** was featured in the *Diario de Córdoba*. Opinions Editor **María José Rodríguez-Pliego** wrote deftly for the *Wellesley News*. Several of our outstanding athletes -- **Sara del Balzo** (squash), **Becca Kimball** (crew) and **Jennifer Migliore** (softball)—capped their senior year with championship seasons. **Rachel Thommen** was



accepted to [The Atlantis Project](#), and will get to practice her Portuguese this summer in the Azores Islands as a public hospital intern. **Savitri Restrepo** (left) has been named a fellow of the 2015 [Albright Institute](#). Comparative Literature (French and Spanish) concentrator **Emma Page** tied for first place in the Translation Prize awarded this year by the Wellesley College English Department. Her text was a short story by an old friend of the Department, [Rosa Montero](#). Olin senior **Christopher Marks** completed a capstone experience in Spanish at Wellesley with a series of essays on enchantment, social mobility, and performance in *Don Quijote*.

Alum news: **Ashley Shaffer** contributed her voice to a new video about [“Language Study at Wellesley.”](#) **Diana DiZoglio** continues to serve energetically as a State Rep north of Boston. **Madeleine Weeks** and **Claire Fogerty** spent the year as Fulbright Scholars in Mexico, and **Caily Stevens** has been awarded a [Fulbright García-Robles Binational Business Grant](#) that will take her to the D.F. soon. **Megan Briggs Magnant** earned a Masters in Romance Languages at Berkeley where she will be a Teaching Fellow and continue her doctoral studies. **Krista Douglass** begins the MD/PhD program at the University of Miami in June. **Simran Thadani** recently defended her PhD



dissertation in English at UPenn. **Kristen Rice-Jones** graduated from Georgetown with a Master's in Latin American Studies. **Mika Edgerly** works as a Project Manager at Epic, a media software company in Madison, WI, and **Zara Ibrahim** (right) is a research assistant at Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care. **Jessica Cain** is doing a PhD in educational psychology at UNC Chapel Hill. **Brianna Calleros** is enjoying her time as a fellow with the California State Senate. While studying at the Colegio de México, **Terra Stanley** (left) served as a US delegate to [US-MEX Focus](#), an organization for young leaders (ages 18-28) interested in bilateral relations. Although the group's main focus is trade and immigration, Terra specialized in security/crime issues and highly recommends the program to other Wellesley women.

Guests galore: Click on the links to read about some of our extraordinary on-campus speakers this year.

[Edmundo Paz Soldán](#) (Cornell)
[Rafael Moneo](#) (Harvard)
[Nil Santiañez](#) (St. Louis)
[Francesc Torres](#) (Artist, Spain/USA)

[Paula Allen](#) (Photographer, USA)
[Francisco Stork](#) (Novelist, USA)
[Jacques Fux](#) (Novelist, Brazil)
[José Manuel del Pino](#) (Dartmouth)
[Antonio Monegal](#) (Pompeu Fabra)

[Christina García](#) (Texas State)
[Cherrie Moraga](#) (Stanford)
[Dario Borim](#) (UMass Dartmouth)
[Carolina Rocha](#) (Southern Illinois)

Faculty/staff on the road and in the news: **Marjorie Agosin** won the Dr. Fritz Redlich Global Mental Health and Human Rights Award, given by the [Global Mental Health Trauma and Recovery Program](#) based at Harvard. She delivered the award lecture in Orvieto, Italy. **Verónica Darer** gave a presentation at the AATSP conference in Texas, titled “De lectura, a conversación a composición”. She also spoke at the FIE Conference in Oklahoma on “Using Discourse Analysis to Understand Your Classroom Culture.” **Evelina Gužauskytė** received an NEH grant for the summer seminar “America’s East Central Europeans: Migration and Memory” and to research migration narratives in US and Latin American cities. Her article “Fowl Play: The Symbolism of Birds in Some Eighteenth-century Mexican Casta Paintings” appeared in *The Challenge of the Object*. **Koichi Hagimoto** spent his sabbatical in Argentina and Japan organizing the “6th International Conference on Orientalism and the Asian Presence in the Hispanic and Lusophone World” and presenting Gaspar Schuer’s “Samurai” (2013) at the [Instituto Cervantes in Tokyo](#). **Nancy Hall** presented “From Homeric Hymns to *Pale Fire*: Weaving the Textual and Political World of Carmen Buollosa’s *La milagrosa*” at NEMLA in Harrisburgh, PA. **António Igrejas** organized the Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies session at the South Atlantic MLA Convention in Atlanta and presented “Problemáticas de Interpretação: uma leitura de (im)possíveis interpretações de *Dom Casmurro*.” He also gave “Estilo e digressões diaspóricas nas narrativas de Francisco Cota Fagundes” at an interdisciplinary conference in Indianapolis. **Jael Matos** enjoyed trips to Spain and Puerto Rico. **Carlos Ramos** attended a conference at Dartmouth devoted to Spanish in the Liberal Arts, Professional and Scientific World, focused on the changing curricular needs of today’s students, and spoke at the 20th Hispanic Forum at U. Vermont, NEMLA, and at an international symposium on the representations of War” at UMass Amherst. **Puchy Rodriguez** (above in red) retired after 35 years of service in Maintenance. **Inela Selimovic** spoke at Columbia, University College of London and Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. Her articles, “Seeing Voices: Srebrenica’s Filaments of Memory” and “Mnemonic Revivals in *Madre, hablemos de la guerra*” appeared respectively in *Stitching Resistance* and *World Literature Today*. **Joy Renjilian-Burgy** participated in a seminar through the Instituto Cervantes at Harvard focused on second-language acquisition pedagogy for heritage speakers. **Jill Syverson-Stork** was featured on the [“What’s Wellesley Reading”](#) podcast discussing Edith Grossman’s recent translation of *Don Quijote*. Also of interest: **Rosario Rodríguez de Hall** (Hardin-Simmons U) blogged for the Wellesley Center for Women about Mexico’s [Elena Poniatowska](#), this year’s recipient (and only the 4th woman) of the prestigious [Premio Cervantes](#).

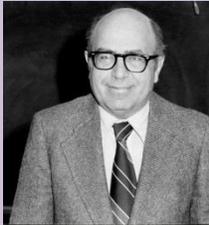






Casa Cervantes. Jill Syverson-Stork continued her role as Faculty Advisor, this year with Verónica Darer as Co-Advisor, Elena Torres G. as Language Assistant, and always with the support of Jael Matos and the entire Spanish Department. Casa Cervantes attracts an excellent pool of applicants every year and offers students the opportunity to "live the language" in the company of our visiting resident Language Assistant from the U. de Córdoba. The 2013-14 residents were Hadley Chase, Tiffany Chen, Molly Petrey, Laura Mayron, Helena McMonagle, Celina Reynes, Nikki Yankova, Lucie Lozinski and Grace Leeson, R. A. This dynamic group organized the 10th Annual Appreciation Night/Noche de

Apreciación for Latino union employees, faculty, and staff at the College, a wonderful tradition initiated by Jill and alum Alina Ball. Over 80 guests of all ages attended the Spring celebration held in Slater International House.



Remembering don Gabriel. Gabriel H. Lovett, professor emeritus of Spanish, passed away on December 22 at the age of 92. He taught in the Spanish Department from 1969 until his retirement in 1987. "Don Gabriel," as he was known by his colleagues, had taught Spanish at New York University (1944-57 & 1960-9) before coming to Wellesley. A renowned scholar of Spanish Literature and History of the XIX century, he published extensively on Romantic Spain, Duque de Rivas, and Napoleon in Spain. Students still remember fondly how the reading of Don Quijote in his classes influenced their lives. In the words of Paula Butturini '73: "He was brilliant, funny, learned, totally entrancing in class, and since Spanish classes back then tended to be minuscule, we all benefited from the way he followed closely our individual progress". For ten of his years at Wellesley he served as chair, in a period that marked the development and expansion of the Spanish department. He was also a regular member of the "Board of Foreign Admissions."

The Legacy of García Márquez: A Patriarch, a Conjuror of Magic, a Journalist

By Mariajosé Rodríguez-Pliego '16

(Adapted from a May 2014 issue of *The Wellesley News*)



In May 1967, Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez captivated the attention of readers with the opening lines of his novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*: "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice." On April 17, these lines were Tweeted, posted in Facebook statuses and quoted in newspaper articles to commemorate the death of one of the most renowned and loved Latin American authors of all time. García Márquez had died in Mexico City at the age of 87 from lymphatic cancer. *New York Times* Journalist Jonathan Kandell describes García Márquez as a writer of "fiction rooted in a mythical Latin American landscape of his own creation." More than a creator of fiction, however, García Márquez was an observer and a listener who set down in paper the stories of the people and places around him.

In an interview with *The Paris Review* in 1981, García Márquez stated, "The truth is that there's not a single line in all my work that does not have a basis in reality." Behind García Márquez's writing style, which some describe as bizarre due to his combination of the magical and the real, lies the author's grandmother's storytelling style and the everyday lives of Latin Americans... The setting for most of his novels and short stories, Macondo, is based on his birthplace, Aracataca. The violent massacre in the same novel actually took place in Ciénaga, Colombia the year after García Márquez was born, when the Colombian army killed unarmed workers striking at a United Fruit plantation in what is now known as the Banana Massacre. As journalist Nicolás Medina Mora points out, "This reality is all too often overlooked, the second word in 'magical realism' conveniently forgotten."



García Márquez was raised in Aracataca...by his maternal grandparents. He began law school at the National University of Colombia, and became a journalist during his undergraduate years. His skill as a reporter is perhaps an influential force behind his stories, which are a product of meticulous observation, listening and note taking. In the mid-1950s, the author left ... for Europe, after having infuriated Colombia's dictator with a journalistic piece that revealed the story behind the survival of a navy sailor inaccurately portrayed by the government as a national hero. García Márquez later declared that living in Europe helped shape his perspective on Latin American politics. He wrote his first novella, *Leaf Storm* in 1955 and moved to Mexico City in 1961 [where] he lived on and off...for the rest of his life. [Other major works by García Márquez] include... *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *The General in His Labyrinth* and *The Autumn of the Patriarch*...

As with Carlos Fuentes, Julio Cortázar and Mario Vargas Llosa, Gabriel García Márquez was a central figure of the Latin American literary Boom of the 1960s and 1970s,...[an] awakening... that moved writers to explore new ideas and forms of expression. The political turmoil of those decades, which included the Cuban revolution in 1959... shaped the work of the authors of the Boom [who] explored the identity of their homelands and produced works that reshaped the world's perception of Latin America. [Amidst] instability and violence, García Márquez and his colleagues offered Latin Americans a mirror with which to better understand their identity and history....

Edited by N. Hall