

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Letter from the Chair
- Article written by our visiting Fulbright
- Pujals Scholarship Reception
- Department News
- Her Teaching Journey in China

## Letter from the Chair

**A**cademic year 2009-2010 has been one of great excitement here in the Department as well as one of considerable change. The year began with a benefit concert to honor Drs. Josefina and Enrique Pujals while raising funds to endow a scholarship bearing their names. The Department also welcomed our fourth consecutive Fulbright scholar from China, introduced Elementary Japanese I and II to our General Education language offerings, welcomed a new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, sent students abroad on international internships and pushed through a new minor

in Business Spanish. In addition to this busy agenda, faculty, administrative staff and an external reviewer from Villanova University conducted a successful ten-year program review of the Department which examined our strengths and weaknesses in order to assess how well we are serving our student, faculty, college and university communities. This self-assessment also has allowed the Department to plan better for the future in terms of academic programs and community service.

While all these achievements have energized us to some extent, we have been faced for the first time with ominous budgetary constraints

and shifts in revenue paradigms. These changes have marked the course of the Department in an administrative sense, and faculty must now charter the unfamiliar waters of innovative planning, fundraising, marketing and creating cutting-edge programs that will be both beneficial to students as well as to the Department.

In closing, I hope that you will find this second newsletter refreshing and even perhaps nostalgic. I would like to send you our best wishes and I urge you to email us your comments or suggestions.

*Anthony J. Roll*

## One World, Two Dreams: A Reflection by Huihua Lin, Our Visiting Fulbright Scholar

**R**owan University is where my "American dream" comes true. I have studied English for more than 10 years and ever since I became an English major, I had a dream, that someday I would like to go to America and see it for myself. Thanks to Dr. Spencer and Dr. Han, who applied for and nurtured the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, I am here as the 4<sup>th</sup> Chinese FLTA in Rowan.

For the last 8 months in the United States, I've been to more American places than I have Chinese places in China for the last 8 years. I've been to twelve states and have visited many famous cities: Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, Madison, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Orlando, Philadelphia, and Atlantic City.

The Fulbright Program allows me to network with FLTAs from more than 40 countries in the world, and the

Rowan community-- professors, staff, students and friends--makes me feel at home 8000 miles away from my motherland. It's amazing to have so many strangers walk into my life, make a difference and leave me with stories that I'll never forget.

Our department is one of the places where my heart belongs, where professors and staff bring in not only teaching and learning, but also smiles and snacks. The office was most like home



**Huihua at  
Boston Harbor**



**Dr. Sonia Spencer  
and  
Huihua Lin**

**FOREIGN  
LANGUAGES  
AND  
LITERATURES  
DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 1**

**Guest lecturer  
Dr. Salvatore  
Poeta  
from  
Villanova  
University**



## ...One World, Two Dreams continued

office was most like home when our beautiful secretary, Kathy, became a grandma. She got a balloon and all kinds of gifts for baby Andy. One of them was a Chinese cartoon book *Pleasant Goat and Big Bad Wolf*. It's Kathy's wish that Andy, her new grandson, would grow up to be a great historian, so I think it is a good idea for him to start with some Chinese characters and explore a little bit of China—a country with 5000 years of dreams and glory.

As a language teacher, my biggest challenge is to dismiss the myth that Chinese is the most difficult language in the world. It's completely different from the European languages, but it's also imaginative and intriguing once you get to know it. If you don't believe it, try the website below. It's going to take you to a flash, a story in which every image is an implied Chinese character. In two minutes, you can pick up twenty Chinese characters with a little imagination and by following the clues. As a cultural ambassador, my biggest reward is to know that fifteen students in my two Chinese classes are going to China in the near future. One of them is graduating in May with an engineering degree and a job as a coordinator for the Chinese branch of an American company that is waiting for him in Shanghai. Two are thinking of coming to Guangzhou with me to teach English to Chinese students. Three are going to China for Summer Camp. Others are travelling, visiting their Chinese relatives and thinking of a job in China as a possibility. My most memorable student, however, is Claudia. She's a Rowan alum who comes to my office hours for Chinese tutoring. Both of her sons graduated from Rowan a few years ago. They decided to seek employment in China—a fast developing country with abundant opportunities. Now, the two boys are happy and enjoying their life in Taiwan. They are even considering the possibility of someday starting their own business there. Needless to say, their mother is passionately learning Chinese in preparation for her visit this summer.

I'm grateful for people who have helped me realize my "American dream." Maybe my greatest mission here is to start and foster my American students and friends' "Chinese dream"—to show them China on a personalized level, the China I know that is not in American media, a country that is not only good for traveling, but also great for a unique career and marvelous life experiences.

The Art of Chinese Characters (a two-minute flash):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emXw0pgrlY&feature=related>

## Guest Lecturer from Villanova comes to Rowan

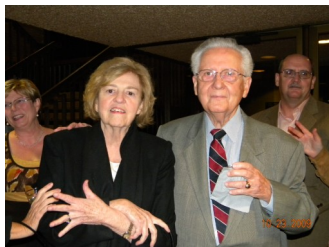
On Wednesday, April 7, 2010, Dr. Laurie Hohwald welcomed guest lecturer, Dr. Salvatore Poeta from Villanova University. Professor Poeta lectured Rowan Spanish majors and minors on the *Generación de '27* writer, Federico García Lorca. His presentation was entitled "Yerma en la trilogía rural de Federico García Lorca." The event, which took place in Campbell Library 226 at 3:15, was attended by more than 110 students, faculty and community members.

## Department Initiatives

Foreign Languages and Literatures is currently involved in the following projects and initiatives:

- Contributing to the "Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program Grant: Developing East Asian Studies at Rowan University" (U.S. Department of Education)
- Launching a Business Spanish Minor
- Building the new minor in Romance Languages (implemented in September 2009)
- Researching new national state-of-the-art language labs for a possible Rowan model
- Researching the feasibility of offering an [online graduate studies program in Spanish](#)

# Pujals Scholarship Reception



**Drs. Josefina and Enrique Pujals**

On Oct. 23, 2009 during Rowan's Homecoming Weekend, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures held its first-ever successful alumni event - a fundraiser for the "Drs. Josefina and Enrique Pujals Study Abroad in Latin American Scholarship." After a welcome reception, the highlight of the evening was a concert entitled "Canciones de mi Tierra: The Music of Latin America." Faculty, students and former students from the College of Fine & Performing Arts lent their talents to the evening. Several performers such as Bonita Granite and Jon Garrison sang operatic arias, duets, and songs while concert pianists, Alexei Ulitin, Alexei Ivanchenko and

the Argentine Agustín Muriaga played Latin American compositions.

Though the concert managed to bring us closer to the required \$10,000 endowment goal, the Department is still encouraging people to donate to the scholarship fund which must continually be replenished in order to grow, compete with inflation and a bad economy, and to be awarded every two years. Monetary contributions are welcomed in any amount. Please send a check with your much appreciated donation to Rowan University Foundation, Pujals Scholarship, 201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Every little bit helps and brings us closer to seeing students study in Latin America and experience the richness of such a variety of vibrant cultures.

## Upcoming Department Event

Academic Year 2010-2011. A tentative concert by a Latin American folk group who will perform Andean music on native instruments. This concert will benefit the Pujals Scholarship fund. More information will be forthcoming and emails will be sent to area schools, community groups and centers and to our alumni.

## Survey Question

We would you like to have your feedback on an online Spanish graduate program. Please click the link below to complete the online survey and to leave any comments:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/39KGG92>

## Department News

- The faculty and staff would like to congratulate **Dr. Marilyn Manley** and her husband David on the birth this summer of their son, Axel Lucas.
- The Department would like to recognize the recipients of the following awards for Academic Year 2009-2010:

-Ashley Stott, The Erica Freiburger Scholarship  
 -Dana Mayr, The Medallion Award  
 -Daniel Lane, The Dean's Tea Award  
 -Karela Ruiz, The Foreign Languages and Literatures Award

- The Department is proud of its faculty and would like to mention the following scholarly achievements for this past academic year:

-**Dr. Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald**: Published review, *Caliope, the Journal of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry*, Vol. 15, no. 2, 2009.

-**Dr. Marilyn Manley**: Conference Presentation, "Expressing Attitudes and Perspectives: Cuzco Quechua Epistemic Markers in Context," Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) Annual Meeting, held jointly with the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Baltimore, Maryland, January 7, 2010 – January 10, 2010.

-**Dr. Sonia Spencer**: Attended the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL), NYC, March 25-27, 2010.

## Faculty with department award winners



# Her Teaching Journey in China by Nicole Reagan, '11

After a year of elementary Chinese in her last year at Rowan University, Magdalena Dziopko '08 decided the best way to use her knowledge was to teach in China. Though her major was Spanish, her Asian Studies concentration pushed her to the East. She landed her first teaching from a flier given to her by one of her professors at Rowan. It was for the Quindao Leeween Foreign Language School and it offered her a position right away. In September 2008, Dziopko left for China for a year and a half-long teaching job.

Maggie, as she is fondly remembered in the Department, teaches English to students as young as 3 years-old, private tutors, middle-school students who want to learn new words, and college students who want to take the TOFEL or IELTS, two tests that measure a student's command of English in order to be able to study abroad.

When she first arrived in China, her feelings of excitement were overwhelmed by the pressure of living in a place where she knew just enough of the language to get around, but not easily. - "It was really, like on the plane, right before I got off, I didn't even know if it was legit," Dziopko said. "It was like, wait a minute, what am I doing?" All feelings of nervousness left when she interacted with the Chinese people. Dziopko learned that hospitality is a cornerstone of Chinese tradition. - "Chinese people are super hospitable. They're so helpful, so kind," she said. "They'll just come up to you and give you a gift. They always give you presents, and are really quick to be your friend."

In a city of eight million people, there are only 4,000 foreigners; almost every Chinese person is eager to learn English, a phenomenon responsible for creating so many teaching positions that not all work can be fulfilled. Dziopko said that people would even sit next to her on the bus and ask, "Will you be my friend?" in an attempt to learn more English.

Though living in China has been an experience full of meeting new people and increasing her knowledge of the Chinese language, it wasn't all easy for Dziopko. - "The greatest challenge has been missing family, friends, American people and good American food. They don't really do salads in China," Dziopko said. "They do a lot of hot food and soup. I've missed eating all the different kinds of food."



## Maggie at the Great Wall of China

Quindao is on the coast of China just north of Beijing, so the pollution is not as pervasive as it is inland; Dziopko could see the sun almost as much as she would in the States. - "The days were pretty cloudy at first, and I was like, 'I hope this isn't like this all the time!'" she said. "Pollution isn't as bad on the coast . . . inland is just terrible. You couldn't even see the sun! I was really, really disgusted by that."

"I'm really happy with my living situation on the coast," she continued.

In addition to the lack of "melting pot" cuisine and consistent sunshine, the common courtesy of Americans also makes Dziopko long for home. - "In China, you have all the space in the world, but someone might body-check you. Line-cutting is huge; it's a cultural thing," she explained.

She has already gone back to China, eager to begin teaching again, see her boyfriend, Christopher Cox '08 who also teaches with her in China, and learn more Mandarin Chinese. Living in China has brought a new perspective to her life, one that continues to shape her as a person and a teacher. - "It's definitely enlightening. I've learned so much about the culture . . . now that I've lived in China, and I've visited Korea and Japan," Dziopko said. "I'm really happy that I went. It's one of the best decisions I ever made."

[www.rowan.edu/  
foreignlanguage](http://www.rowan.edu/foreignlanguage)

## ... Department News continued

-**Dr. Anthony Robb**: Published monograph, *El sensual mundo poético de Eunice Odio*. The Edwin Mellen Press, Wales/NY. Fall 2009; published book chapter, "Irene Marquina: El destino de un personaje en la novela *El tiempo in agotado de Irene Marquina* de Josefina Leyva" in *La mujer en la literatura del mundo hispánico*, Ed. Juana Alcira Arancibia, Impreco Gráfico, Buenos Aires, February 2009; presented

and moderated a panel, CIALC XIV (Congreso de la Federación Internacional de Estudios sobre América Latina y el Caribe), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México y Universidad Nacional y Kapodistriaca de Atenas, Athens, Greece, October 2009: "El victimario en siete poemas neogriegos: subversiones en el modernismo casaliano."