

Spring 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Drs. Josefina and Enrique Pujals

Letter from the Chair

Many of you may be surprised to receive this newsletter or bewildered that you have been directly contacted by the Department where you were once a student, perhaps many years ago when Rowan University was called Glassboro State College or Rowan College of New Jersey. Sadly, our Department has never tracked alumni nor made an organized attempt to find out how everyone is doing, whether you're working or not, where you currently live, and most importantly, if what you studied here has had any direct or indirect impact on your career and personal life. With this in mind, the Department of Foreign Languages and

Literatures apologizes and announces that it has met the challenges of modernity and has responded with a commitment to you, former students who once sat among us in the various language, literature and civilization classes.

First, we would like to announce a yearly newsletter which will be sent out to alumni of the Department starting with this Spring 2009 issue. Next, we would like to invite all our alumni back to the Department once a year in order to reconnect and share our personal and professional stories. Remember - we are not strangers to one another. Many of you, I included, have forged bonds with professors or fellow classmates that have

survived some of the rigors of time, and yes, even geography!

It is our goal that the newsletter also provide you with current information about the Department, the faculty, the students and the various programs that it sponsors. Other information, noteworthy events and links will also keep you informed. Elaine Brigandi, Rowan alum and Spanish major (1981), now spearheads the Newsletter. Should you require further information, please contact Elaine at brigandi@rowan.edu.

Dr. Anthony J. Robb

Pujals Study Abroad Scholarship Benefit Concert

The Department's first ever alumni gathering will take place, and quite appropriately, during "Homecoming", Friday, Oct. 23, 2009 from 6 to 8:30 pm. in Boyd Recital Hall in Wilson Hall. In order to raise funds to endow our Study Abroad in Latin America scholarship which bears the names of our dear colleagues and emeriti professors, Drs. Josefina and Enrique Pujals, the Department is holding a pre-concert lecture and a *tertulia* from 6:00-6:45 pm, followed by a Latin American-themed concert titled "Canciones de mi tierra" to honor the Pujals. Dean Cart of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, the Rowan University Office of Alumni Relations and our

Department will be working diligently over the summer to make this concert a success. Some of the repertoire's highlights will be classical Spanish guitar pieces played by Joseph Mayes, a selection of piano music played by world-renowned pianist, Veda Zuponic, Latin American vocal selections sung by Jon Garrison, and Brazilian pieces sung by Bonita Granite. Dr. Thomas Wade and Dean Cart will have the definitive list of performers and repertoire by the time tickets go on sale at Rowan's Box Office in Wilson Hall. The contribution for this special concert night and alumni reunion is moderately priced at \$25 per person. Light refreshments will be

served. For further information, please contact Dr. Anthony Robb, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures or the Rowan Box Office in Wilson Hall. For more information about the Pujals Scholarship, visit www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/foreignlanguage/scholarship/index.html. If you are unable to attend this alumni event, but otherwise would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please send your much-appreciated contribution of any amount to The Josefina and Enrique Pujals Study Abroad Scholarship Fund, Rowan University, 201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

Li Li, 08-09 Chinese Fulbright Teaching Assistant



Li Li, 2008-2009

Chinese Fulbright Teaching Assistant

As the recipient of a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship for 2008-2009, I have valued the great opportunity to teach Chinese, my mother tongue, to American students, to take classes as a student and to interact with so many young people in the States.

Working with students in my Chinese classes has been a great source of pleasure to me. They have impressed me with their interest and attention. I am truly pleased that many students in my Elementary Chinese II class will continue on to the Intermediate Chinese sequence in 2009-2010. Some are seriously considering studying in China in the near future. Taking classes at Rowan has been particularly beneficial to my English language proficiency and to my understanding of American culture. My professors and classmates have been very friendly and helpful to me. I feel that students at Rowan University are so blessed to have knowledgeable and

passionate professors, professional and warm-hearted staff, a comfortable study environment and advanced facilities.

Besides teaching and studying, I have also participated in many wonderful extra-curricular activities. Highlights of the past nine months include attending a FLTA workshop in San Francisco and Washington, DC where I networked with over 400 FLTAs, holding a Chinese dinner party for American students, observing Election Day in Glassboro Borough Hall, delivering presentations about modern China, spending Thanksgiving with the Spencers and their friends and gaining a first-hand experience in roasting a turkey, and attending Dr. Anthony Robb's dinner party, savoring not only international food but also music and art. All of these would have been impossible without my Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures hosts at Rowan

University! The Department ensures my growth as a teacher by sending me to faculty development sessions and sharing with me effective and innovative teaching techniques. My supervisor Dr. Sonia Spencer and my colleagues in the department nurture me both emotionally and professionally.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will soon prove to be a lovely "home" for the next Chinese FLTA. I will return to Shanghai to teach English. I wish all the professors in the department a wonderful new academic year and will look forward to welcoming my American colleagues, students, classmates, and friends to Shanghai, so that I may have the opportunity of returning their kindness.

Department Facts at a Glance

- Five tenured professors, two visiting professors and adjunct instructors make up the teaching staff.
- Two faculty members are ACTFL OPI-trained (Oral Proficiency Interview).
- Major in Spanish.
- Minors in French, German, Spanish and Romance Languages.
- Concentration in International Studies.
- Projecting for Fall 2010 a concentration in Latin American Studies and a minor in Spanish For Business.
- Languages offered: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Swahili and Zulu.
- In the past five years, 8 Spanish major graduates have been accepted to MA and Ph.D. programs around the country.
- This year alone (2009), over \$40,000 in scholarships have been directly awarded our Spanish majors to either study abroad or study the Masters of Arts in teaching Spanish.
- In 2008-2009 three of our graduates (studying Spanish and French programs) have gotten year-long internships to work abroad in places such as China and Spain.
- The Department boasts a high rate of OPI (ACTFL'S Oral Proficiency Interview) success for teacher candidates.

Department Facts continued

- The Department offers a program in French K-12 certification.
- The Department has invited area high school honors language students to come to campus and observe upper-level language and literature classes beginning in Fall 2009. Hopefully, this will be the start of a successful program to connect with the community.
- Every semester, on average 3 language students study abroad in places such as France, Chile, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and Spain.
- Dr. Sonia Spencer has created a successful Chinese Fulbright Scholarship Teaching Assistantship exchange program our Department has been chosen for three consecutive years to date.
- The Department has graduated several of its own Fulbright Scholars over the years.
- Our faculty teach special topics courses or courses across the curriculum such as Dr. Hohwald's "Homage to Barcelona", Dr. Madero's "Sarmiento' Culture," Dr. Manley's "Modern Descendants of the Incas" or Dr. Robb's "La cinematografía de Pedro Almodóvar" to only name a few.
- Dr. Edward Smith, former Department faculty member, has been named Director of the International Center here at Rowan.

Faculty and Staff

Faculty

Laurie Hohwald, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Spanish

Golden Age Literature, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Translation Studies

Roberto Madero, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Spanish

History of the South American Book, Latin American Political History, Literature and Society in Latin America

Marilyn S. Manley, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Spanish

Hispanic, Quechua and Anthropological Linguistics

Anthony J. Robb, Ph.D., Chair

Associate Professor of Spanish

19-20th Century Peninsular Literature, 20th Century Spanish American Literature, Central American Literature, Hispanic Film

Sonia B. Spencer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of French and Spanish

Medieval French Literature, 20th century French Theatre, Francophone Film

Staff

Kathleen M. Taddei

Department Secretary

Elaine T. Brigandi

Foreign Language Laboratory Supervisor

Retirements

Dr. Maria Elisa Ciavarelli (2008)

Dr. Francisco Martínez-Yanes (2008)

Dr. Enrique Pujals (2000)

Dr. Josefina Pujals (2000)

Dr. Huguette Henderyksen (1991)

In Memoriam

Dr. Erika Freiberger (1993)
Dr. John Jones (1990)
Dr. Arturo Illas (2006)
Dr. Muriel Onni (2008)

Department Links

Foreign Languages and Literatures Department

www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/foreignlanguage

Department News and Announcements

www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/foreignlanguage/news/index.html

Academic Programs

www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/foreignlanguage/acad/index.html

Faculty

www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/foreignlanguage/facultystaff/index.html



Dr. Marilyn Manley, Dr. Roberto Madero, 2008-2009 FLL Medallion Award Recipient, Dagoberto Polanco, Dr. Anthony Robb Dr. Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald and Dr. Sonia Spencer



Dean Jay Harper, 2008-2009 Dean's Tea Recipient Thomas Leslie and Dr. Marilyn Manley

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