

Lingua Franca

News from the School of Languages and Cultures

SLC Graduate Students Newsletter Purdue University Vol. 4 Spring 2012

NEW SLC GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE OFFICERS

We want to extend our gratitude to the group of graduate students who are leaving the SLC Graduate Student Committee. Thank you for your hard work. Your efforts have been necessary to promote graduate student participation and to represent us. We are sad you are leaving but pleased that we will still see you around and involved in all SLC activities.

Please join us in congratulating the new officers of the SLC Graduate Student Committee!

President: Esther Teixeira

Vice President: Yumiko Tashiro

Secretary/Treasurer: Shannon Becker

Webmaster: Arnold Gamboa

PGSG Senator: Patrick Appiah

NEW NAME, NEW IMPLICATIONS



Foreign
Languages &
Literatures

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

About six months ago graduate students and the rest of the Stanley Coulter family received a surprising message: we were no longer called Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures but instead School of Languages and Cultures (SLC). The head of our school, Dr. Adrian Del Caro, announced that the name change originated from a strong interest among the SLC faculty. There was also a desire to align Purdue with the practices of the Big Ten, as most of these universities do not have the word “foreign” associated with their language programs. For Dr. Del Caro, “the word

‘foreign’ can be used as a pejorative, to indicate someone or something that does not belong. ‘Foreign’ is very old-fashioned.” In addition, the new name implies a change of designation from department to school to better fit the different language programs that we have. Also, it intended to eliminate the word ‘literature’ because, as he points out, “Over 25% of our faculty is in linguistics.” Besides this, he continues, “Our faculty engages in interdisciplinary work that goes beyond literature and includes film, art, linguistics, cultural studies, philosophy, etc. We settled on languages and cultures because that includes everything we do, now and into the future.” And what is next? “Someday we hope to engage the interest of a major donor who could endow our new school just as the Department of Communication last year became The Brian Lamb School of Communication,” he said. “Meanwhile, we are happier with our new name, as it represents a better fit for us”.

We asked several people in our School what was their favorite vacation spot in the whole world. See what they answered...



David Dull: Rocky Mountains and the Alps



Christiane Alcantara
Ilha Grande (Brasil)



Robert Vest

My favorite vacation spot is the upper peninsula of Michigan, where I attended undergraduate. I love hiking along Lake Superior, visiting the local Native American reservations and visiting the museums that tell their story and that of the invading French and British fur traders and miners, and, of course, skiing in Marquette and Houghton.

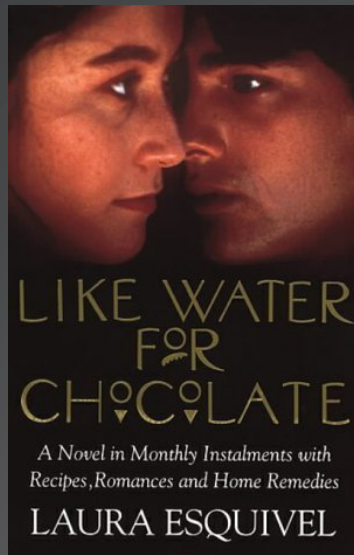


Joni Hipsher
Holden Beach, NC



Bailu Li
Northern California

THAT WAS WEIRD!



Do you know Shakira? Well, she botched the Colombian national anthem during the inauguration at the Summit of the Americas in Colombia (April 14-15, 2012). At the same event, US security personnel were part of a prostitution scandal. I heard this and thought: How are these events relevant to the world? And, by the way, what was even discussed during the summit? Of course what should have been the highlight of the event was hardly broadcast. This is just one example of many of how the media have the power to impose their perspectives on the viewers, listeners, and readers. We are living in a world where the media shape our ways of understanding and our perceptions. If something is shown on TV, it must be real, and what is not shown is forgotten. Sometimes, it is important to think about what is outside the viewfinder.

Some of my students attended an extra credit event to see the film *Como agua para chocolate* (*Like Water for Chocolate*). The word that they used to describe the movie was “weird” and then added a face of “what was that?” Most of them had not seen an “alternative foreign” movie before. Society keeps its members in a comfort zone where anything that is different or foreign might be seen as threatening. As a result many people are not even aware of some of the beautiful things the media have neglected to show them. As graduate students, speakers of more than one language, and academics, we are aware of other cultures and hopefully have a different perspective. As language instructors need to think of ways to broaden our students’ narrow visions. I am glad my students had the opportunity to be exposed to something “weird” and to experience a different position of the camera. However, I regret not having the time to reflect with them about the “weirdness.”

GET TO KNOW AGER GONDRA ASTIGARRAGA



I am PhD student in Spanish Theoretical Linguistics, my main area of research is syntax semantics interface in minority and indigenous languages (that are in contact with major languages). For my Master’s thesis I worked on Basque determiner phrases and for my dissertation I am analyzing the syntactic structure of relative clauses.

My dissertation study seeks to add to the generativist idea, whose main goal is to find generalizations among different languages by analyzing the syntactic representation of relative clauses cross-linguistically. To achieve that, I study Biscay Basque relative clauses in the context of other typologically and genetically unrelated lan-



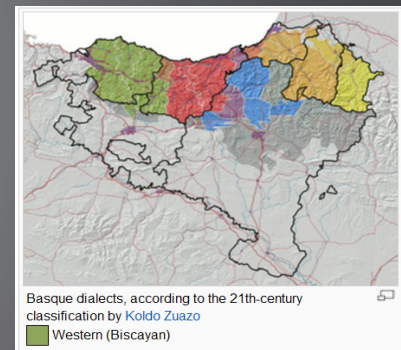
languages, such as Cantonese, Chao-shan, Jordanian Arabic, Turkish and English.

The Biscay dialect suffers from the pressure of Unified Basque (Batua). The effect of this suppression can be seen in the different grammar between the people who lived during Franco's dictatorship and those who had formal education in Batua after this period. Thus, the syntactic parameters are changing within the Basque language, with a standardization effect in the range of dialectal variation

observed in the past. My goal is to establish the syntactic processes and mechanisms active in the derivation of the relative clause construction that Universal Grammar allows and also the parameters that are causing this standardization process within Biscay Basque.

An additional interest is language documentation and preservation. For instance, I have spent two summers working in Nicaragua with Mayangna speakers and collaborating in the creation of a Mayangna diction-

ary. In addition I was involved in mentoring and advising language instructors for creating a formal Mayangna course based on a communicative approach to be taught in their schools.



Basque dialects, according to the 21st-century classification by Koldo Zuazo
Western (Biscayan)

A CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR BRODEN

Dr. Thomas Broden began his academic path more than 30 years ago focusing predominantly on French literature, but also straddling literature and linguistics with semiotics and structuralism. His prolific publishing career includes dozens of articles and book chapters as well as an edited book. Now Prof. Broden is ready to embark on his largest and most significant project to date: An Intellectual Biography of Language Theorist A. J. Greimas (1917-1992).

This project is possible because Prof. Broden diversified his studies and took advantage of opportunities. His training began with an interest in French literature, but he never limited himself. In addition to taking literature courses Prof. Broden enrolled in courses that linked linguistics and literature such as History of the French Language and Poetics and Phonetics. Additionally, he has always had a strong interest in history, especially European history and French history. As a graduate student he focused on structuralism (for which both linguistics and formal literature were important), text analysis, formal approaches to narrative, poetic structures, and the methods of A.J. Greimas including lexical semantics. Certainly all of Prof. Broden's academic experiences have shaped his career, but perhaps none has been as momentous as his time working directly with Greimas as a graduate student. During a year abroad in Paris he recalls spending time with Greimas and other colleagues in cafés after the seminars at the university where everyone would "chit chat and exchange ideas." This special opportunity allowed



Prof. Broden to work with one of the leading researchers in the field of semiotics. The experience was not only beneficial to his studies at the time, but has proven to be a driving force in his interests in semiotics and has provided a personal connection to Greimas that not all scholars can build from.

Prof. Broden acknowledges the personal connection, but also asserts that his persistence and desire to trace much of Greimas' life through visits to the countries he once lived has also been a reason that no other scholar has yet tackled such a large and long overdue project. Moreover, understanding Greimas takes more than a superficial look. As Broden emphasizes, "You can't just wander in and read one article and get a lot out of it, typically." It takes a specialized focus to break into the world of Greimas and a special dedication to pursue his approach to semiotics.

In addition to Greimas' contribution to semiotics, his

A CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR BRODEN

life has been equally interesting, much deserving of a formal recount. Having lived in various countries, it is fascinating to see how his life is intertwined with history. As an example, Greimas spent a substantial amount of time living in Lithuania, in particular during World War II when Lithuania was occupied by the Soviets, then the Nazis, then the Soviets again. According to Prof. Broden, this might be a tricky topic for scholars interested solely in literature or linguistics. His interest in history has also helped him. "That probably made me willing to delve into the history and feel that even though I wasn't a specialist, I could do it, and with some help I could get by." The combination of the deep appreciation for Greimas' work and life, plus how they intersect has led Prof. Broden to write this biography. Prof. Broden can now add to his list of achievements the prestigious research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for his current project on Greimas. This year-long award, in addition to a semester sabbatical and a semester as a fellow in the Center for Humanistic Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, will allow Prof. Broden a release from instructional and administrative duties for two years. Dur-



Algirdas Julien Greimas

ing this time, Prof. Broden will travel to France, Lithuania (he is even learning Lithuanian!), Turkey and perhaps even Egypt in order to visit archives and libraries and to interview others connected to Greimas and his work.

Although Prof. Broden has been interested in the methods of Greimas for many years, a brief hiatus from semiotics has helped him gain a new perspective that has likely assisted him in this endeavor. Perhaps it is also Prof. Broden's many years of experience as a researcher that will allow him to undertake the enormity of Greimas' biography. "Most of us continue to improve our writing skills and our researching skills every year we use them," states Prof. Broden.

As Prof. Broden prepares for his exciting future, he must also leave his position as Director of Graduate Studies for SLC, but not before providing us with valuable suggestions for our own research. "It's important for us to challenge ourselves intellectually, not to take easy ways out, to read the texts in the original, to read the actual texts and not the secondary accounts of them. It's also very helpful to become part of intellectual communities on campus; it's very valuable to hear what's going on and meet other students and colleagues that attend such forums."

We appreciate Prof. Broden's support of the graduate students in SLC and wish him the best of luck on this exciting project.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SLC GRADUATE STUDENTS

Congratulations to the 2012-2013 year-long PRF grant recipients!

Paulo Dutra
Ager Gondra
Kelly Suero

Congratulations to the 2012 summer PRF grant recipients!

Jennifer Gerndt
Cody Hanson
Wilson Melon
Christiane Pottmeyer-Gerber
Joseph Rockelmann
Yasmina Vallejos

Congratulations to this year's SLC travel grant recipients!

Fall 2011
Joe Rockelmann
Massimiliano Giorgini
Yumiko Tashiro
Bailu Li
Shogo Sakurai
Ying Wu

Spring 2012

Daniel Jones
Yasmina Vallejos
Paulo Dutra
Felipe Fiuza
Sandra Usuga
Robert Vest
Tatevik Gyulamiryan
Rafael Climent-Espino
Eriko Fujita
Ying Wu
Fernando Llanos
Jennifer Gerndt
Ager Gondra
Cody Hanson
Cesar Gutierrez

Congratulations to the graduate TA's who received teaching awards this year!

CETA Recognition
Kelly Suero
Olga Lyanda-Geller

Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award

Christiane Pottmeyer-Gerber
David Midtvedt

Outstanding Distinction

Jennifer Gerndt
Wilson Judd Melón

Excellence Distinction

Marie Gerken
Natália Fontes Oliviera
Eriko Fujita
Naoko Ishikura
JesAlana Stewart
Mar Vaquero
Christina Weiler

Congratulations to the students who received literary writing awards this year!

Foreign Languages & Literatures Award for best literary analysis paper by a graduate student:

1st Place
Massimiliano Giorgini
"Rasgos culturales ecuatorianos en las descripciones de la naturaleza española"

en Capítulos que se le olvidaron a Cervantes-de Juan Montalvo”

Foreign Languages & Literatures Award for best cultural analysis paper by a graduate student:

1st Place

Jennifer Gerndt

“English versus Russian: The Battle for Influence”

Congratulations to the students who are graduating this May!

Elizabeth Barajas
MA Spanish

Shannon Becker
MA French

Rafael Climent-Espino
PhD Spanish

Audrey Collec
MA Spanish

Arnold Gamboa
MA Spanish

John Herda
PhD Spanish

Karen Morgan
PhD Applied Linguistics

Ana Parra Sanchez
MA Spanish

Jessica Stewart
MA Spanish

Sabino Torres
MA Spanish

Robert Vest
MA Spanish

Congratulations to all graduate students who presented this semester!

Here are a few examples of what students presented:

Paulo Dutra

“Um Cubas: Brás autor de MPBC”

Panel: MACHADO DE ASSIS: OLD TEXTS VS. NEW QUESTIONS.

Presented at “65th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference,” April 19-21, 2012.

University of Kentucky, Lexington Kentucky.

Felipe Fiuza

“Mindreading Capitu”

Panel: MACHADO DE ASSIS: OLD TEXTS VS. NEW QUESTIONS.

Presented at “65th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference,” April 19-21, 2012.

University of Kentucky, Lexington Kentucky.

Jennifer Gerndt

“Arguing for a Curriculum Shift: The complementary world of languages for specialized purposes.”

CIBER Business Language Conference 2012, March 2012. Chapel Hill, North Carolina

“German address pro-nouns: Bringing ihr to the forefront.”

The 18th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC-18), April 2012. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana,

Ager Gondra

“Different Types of Nouns, Different Types of Projections”

Presented at “South-Eastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) LXXIX,” April 12-14, 2012. Lexington, Kentucky.

“The Internal Structure of Urdaibai-Basque Relative Clauses”

Presented at “South-Eastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) LXXIX,” April 12-14, 2012. Lexington, Kentucky.

“The Syntactic Structure of the Basque DP”

Presented at “The 22nd Colloquium on Generative Grammar,” March 21-23, 2012. Centre de Lingüística Teòrica, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Tatevik Gyulamiryan

“Proverbs as Borrowed Parts of a Language: Analysis of Proverbs in Don Quixote”

Presented at “Global Perspectives on Linguistic Studies” Graduate Student Conference, March 3, 2012. School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue.

“La imagen de Don Quijote, su percepción y re-acentuación” (“Don Quijote’s image, its perception and re-accentuation”)

Presented at “Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures” the 18th annual conference, March 22, 2012. University of North Carolina.

Daniel Jones

“Two Sides of Generational Conflict in Hasenclever’s Der Sohn and Murnau’s Der letzte Mann”

Panel: “Generational Conflict: Breaking In, Out, and Away,” March 30th, 2012. American Comparative Literature Association Conference Brown University.

“Die Mörder sind unter uns: Expressionismus nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg” (“The Murderers Are Among

Us: Expressionism After the Second World War")

Presented at "65th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference," April 19-21, 2012. University of Kentucky, Lexington Kentucky.

Fernando Llanos & César Gutiérrez

"'Misperleens' in the Early Romance Scripta"

Presented at "Global Perspectives on Linguistic Studies" Graduate Student Conference, March 3, 2012. School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University.

Fernando Llanos, Alexander L. Francis, Olga Dmitrieva, Amanda Shultz & Rachel Chapman

"Factors Affecting Relative Weighting of Acoustics Cues to Voicing in Spanish and English"

Presented at the Purdue Linguistics Symposium, Purdue University.

Shogo Sakurai

"Distributions of corrective feedback by immersion teachers: Comparison of three different sociocultural set-

tings"

Presented at "NABE 2012: 41st Annual Conference," February 2012. Dallas, TX.

Sandra Úsuga-Giraldo

"La salsa como material de ficción en Voces del barrio de Robinson Posada"

Presented at "Céfiro's XIII Annual Conference on Latin American and Iberian Languages, Literatures and Cultures: Pop Culture Manifestations in a Post-Modern World," April 12-15, 2012. Texas Tech University.

Please keep us up-to-date on your achievements. Feel free to submit information to us about your awards, presentations, or publications and we will include them in the next edition of the newsletter.

CREDITS

Newsletter Chair: Alejandra Vela

Design: Alejandra Vela

Writers: Miguel Ángel Rincón, Heidi Parker, Jennifer Gerndt,
Yasmina Vallejos, Esther Teixeira, and Alejandra Vela

Proofreading: Jennifer Gerndt and Yasmina Vallejos