

New Faces



● **Hernan Diaz**, Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies, studied at New York University, University of London and the University of Buenos Aires, where he also lectured in literary theory. Currently, he is working on a book, which discusses figures of confinement in modern literature.

● **Jorge Brioso**, Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies, was born in Havana, Cuba. He completed his doctoral degree in the Graduate Center of CUNY with a dissertation on the contemporary Spanish essay. His main areas of research are philosophy and poetry and the relationship between them. He also writes about Latin American Literature, specifically Modernismo and Cuban Literature.



● **Timothy Sergay**, Assistant Professor of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, completed his doctoral work at Yale. He is a professional translator and a scholar of Russian language and literature with over seventeen years' experience translating Russian historical, journalistic, literary and poetic texts. Sergay's scholarly interests gravitate toward twentieth-century Russian poetry, especially Pasternak and Blok, and Silver Age culture in general, including Russian religious philosophy. The Russian "guitar poets" of the twentieth century are another of his abiding interests.



● **Robert Summers** is presently completing his PhD in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology. His areas of specialization are Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and Vygotskian applications of Applied Linguistics. Currently he is investigating the mediational behaviors of teachers and students engaged in Dynamic Assessment; a Vygotskian inspired approach to testing.



Alumni

● This past spring, **Almut Wolf**, who graduated in 1998 with a PhD in French Studies (19th Century Lit.), created a translation and localization company called Atlas Localization. From 1997 to 2005 she worked for Lucent Technologies developing the language localization of their voice and unified messaging platform. She started as an individual contributor, then became project manager and team manager. As with many start-ups life is busy, unpredictable, but challenging and inspiring. On a personal note, her son Nicolas was born in December 2005 and she is counting on reading the *Adventures of Le petit Nicolas* to him when he gets older - maybe he will share his mother's love for the French language!

● For the past 6 years **Deva Lapatas**, who graduated in 2000 with a BA in French Studies, has been working for the Nielsen Company in Shelton, CT. She started in October 2002 as a French-Language Commercial analyst. Her job was to translate commercials from the French Canadian Markets monitored by Nielsen Monitor Plus / VNU Inc. She was promoted to the Product Placement Department in October 2004, then on to Senior Product Placement Auditor in February 2005 where advertising placed in primetime network and cable programs are tracked. A marriage in 2006 and plans to attend graduate school in December 2007 make for a hectic lifestyle, but Deva is thrilled that she continues to grow as person and student.

● Shortly after completing his master's degree at UAlbany in May, **Gregory Jabaut** accepted a teaching position at the Brown School in Schenectady, NY. His duties include Spanish instruction for 80 fifth through eighth graders, teaching a Latin American cooking elective, and overseeing a small eighth grade advisory/community service class. He also lectures part time in LLC, helping to meet the increasing demand for Spanish language instruction.

continued from front page

Language Center Gets Funded

Robert Summers, the new Coordinator for the CLIC, shares his insights into what CLIC means for LLC and UAlbany...

"The vision that I have is to provide a much needed support system to classrooms and reinforcement of all languages currently offered at UAlbany. Presently I am working on ensuring that the technology infrastructure in all departments using CLIC services is robust enough to support the computing and instructional devices that are integral for a contemporary approach to teaching world languages and cultures. To that end, the CLIC has offered limited services during the Fall 2007 semester, with full services being offered in 2008."

The services offered by the CLIC can be divided among the following three themes:

Language Teaching and Learning

- Creation of technology augmented, language-learning opportunities
- Develop professional relationships with the administration, faculty and teaching staff of foreign language programs at UAlbany
- Facilitate instructional and curricular innovation
- Leadership and support for creation of digital pedagogical materials
- Pedagogical assistance and support
- Professional development and educational technology guidance through presentations and workshops

Language Research

- Facilitate research in Second Language Acquisition, language assessment and Foreign Language Pedagogy
- Guidance in computer assisted data collection and analysis

Technology & Project Development

- Collaboration with UAlbany technology specialists
- Equipment loans
- Exploration of innovative technologies and foreign language software
- Maintenance and security of multimedia computers and equipment
- Media conversion and duplication

Donated goods and services to help support the growth and expansion of the CLIC are most welcome and benefit all language, literature, and culture communities at UAlbany.

If you have questions or would like to see the CLIC, feel free to contact Robert Summers at 518-442-4113 or rsummers@albany.edu.



LLC students take a stand against reducing language requirements.

Senate Bill

In spring 2007, Senate Bill # 0607-15 was proposed by those seeking to reduce the number of credit hours required by the General Education Curriculum. All departments offering courses to fulfill this requirement had a vested interest. In language, the reduction amounted to removing the second semester language requirement. If approved, its effects would have negatively impacted many departments and all students.

At the May Faculty Senate meeting concerns were raised by department chairs, faculty, staff, TAs and GAs in a heated debate about academic curriculum and the freedom of choice. As stated by Professor Michael Range from the Department of Mathematics, "The proposed bill will not only change a curriculum designed to ensure that all students experience a broad range of various schools on campus that provide the starting point to persevere a chosen major, it will also affect a student's ability to perform well in that chosen major."

Faculty reasoned as educators, we are the middle ground in connecting students to the world they interact with in all areas of life. With globalization and Nanotechnology taking precedence in today's society, institutions of education need to ensure that this demand is met. What better way to do this than through a well-rounded general education curriculum?

The bill did not pass in May, but the pressures that led to it have not dissipated. For further information about this bill or to add your name to a growing list of concerned advocates, contact: Joane MacMillan via e-mail: jmacmillan@albany.edu.

Faculty News

● **David Wills** was awarded the 2006-2007 UAlbany Excellence in Research Award for his literary works published in the US, France, England, Australia, Japan and Germany. His exceptional research and publications have influenced a great number of scholars. Jacques Derrida, in a letter written on behalf of Wills said, "I have rarely seen such rigorous scholarship combined with such inventiveness and freedom of writing."

● **Joan N. Savitt** was presented with the GSO Action Awareness Award by the Graduate Student Organization for her work as chair of University Life Council (ULC). ULC helps the UAlbany community find better solutions to off campus housing issues that arise for graduate and international exchange students.

● **Lotfi Sayahi** was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching for the 2006-2007 academic year. He was recognized for his professional achievements as well as his dedication to providing a high standard of academic services to LLC and UAlbany.

● **Herman P. Salomon** traveled to Philadelphia in September 2007 to deliver a mini lecture to the Congregation Mikveh Israel. His lecture was based on a project that will be published in five successive issues of Sefarad, a Jewish/Spanish cultural journal that is published twice a year in Madrid.

● **Hilde Hoogenboom's** English translation (with co-author Mark Cruse) of Catherine the Great's memoirs from French, has been published in paperback and is now available in Finnish. In July, she organized a panel, "The Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences: Identity and Empire," and presented a paper, "Catherine the Great, Academician Pallas, and Princess Dashkova: Dictionaries for an Empire," at the 12th International Enlightenment Congress of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Montpellier, France. She has been elected president of the Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association (2006-8). In New York she was invited to speak at the talkback session for the Mint Theater production of Tolstoy's *The Power of Darkness*, where she spoke in September on Tolstoy's evolving ideas about women and sexuality. On a side note, congratulations are due to Hilde for her marriage to her co-author Mark Cruse this past summer!

● **Jack Ishman** of Hispanic Studies was invited to speak at the XXIII Annual Hispanic Literatures Conference at Indiana University of Pennsylvania October 18. The topic of the conference was "Prosa: novela, cuento y ensay." Dr. Ishman lectured on "The double subterranean voyage in Bernardo de Balbuena's Siglo de Oro en las selvas de Erifile," a pastoral novel written in 1608. In his lecture, Ishman analyzed Balbuena's narrative technique in terms of his use of imitation and emulation of his models principally Jacopo Sannazaro and Vergil. Over 200 international hispanists attended the conference.

● **Eloise Briere** recently received UAlbany's 2007 Diversity Leadership Award. She has been instrumental in the expansion of LLC's diversity by recruiting and incorporating those from other cultures into the department via guest lecture series, film and many other avenues. She is also responsible for the creation of the Francophone Living and Learning Community, a dorm community for students dedicated to speaking French and studying francophone cultures (focusing this year on West Africa), obtaining an affirmative action grant in support of Black History month to feature writer and scholar Dr. Flore Zépherin, taking students to Fondwa, Haiti to work on projects that assist the poor, advising the Haitian Student Association, helping organize the French and Francophone Film Festival, and she was instrumental in selecting the first University-wide book project--*Mountains Beyond Mountains* recounting Paul Farmer's work in Haitian hospitals. Merci, Eloise, the recognition is well earned!