

Fond Farewell to **Venerable** Professor

By Michele Vialet



LEFT TO RIGHT: Kathryn Lorenz, Irene Ivantcheva-Merjanska, (back) Janine Hartman, (front) Joy Rich, (back) Aline Skrzyszewski, (front) Sanford Ames, Anne-Marie Jezequel, (back) Susan Cogan, Michele Vialet, (back) Etienne Achille, (front) Patricia Achille, Patricia Valladares Ruiz.

Professor Sanford Scribner Ames (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, '70) retired this year. He has defined 20th century French literature and civilization since 1983, the year he joined the faculty.

A course on New Criticism that Serge Doubrovsky taught while Sanford was at Harvard inspired him to change his major to French. He began devouring Proust, Gide, Surrealist poetry, Artaud, Camus and Theater of the Absurd; and focusing on colonial travel literature by Cendrars, Ségalen, Céline, Genet, Marguerite Duras, Michel Leiris and Claude Lévi-Strauss.

As he focused his research, he delved into the issues of literary representation that writers faced under the pressure of historical events such as World War I, World War II, the Chinese Revolution and decolonization. His acumen was praised by colleagues and students alike. In 1987, Richard Howard wrote: "There are not

a dozen men and women in the entire country with Sanford Ames' resourcefulness, penetration and deep understanding of how literature—the art of language —functions in the range and realm of French."

Sanford Ames took great joy and pride in investigating and teaching the language that 20th century writers carved, sculpted, bent, interrogated and deconstructed to shape human experience and existential questions in aesthetic and memorable creations.

Significant publications include "Remains to be Seen: Essays on Marguerite Duras" (1988), the first collection of essays in English devoted to the Saigon-born French author and film director (1914- 96); "L'impensable imaginire: The Unthinkable Imaginary" (1991), another collection of essays; and several incisive articles on postmodernist aesthetics, on Maurice Blanchot, Georges Bataille, Samuel Beckett and Thomas Pynchon.



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Lingua Franca

April 2012

New Professor's Opening Act



ANDRÉS PÉREZ-SIMÓN

The department welcomes new assistant professor of Spanish, Andrés Pérez-Simón, a specialist in Spanish theater – a discipline in which Romance Languages & Literatures has a strong history. Pérez-Simón will be the department's first theater specialist in several years.

Pérez-Simón was born in Almería, southern Spain, in 1979. He moved to Madrid in 1997 to study journalism at the Universidad Complutense, one of the largest public universities in Europe. After earning his journalism degree, he obtained a degree in comparative literature and started graduate studies.

In 2005 he moved to Canada to enroll at the Center for Comparative Literature at the University of

Toronto. At the center he was a student of two renowned scholars in the field of comparative literature, Mario J. Valdés and Linda Hutcheon. He also worked with theater scholars Michael J. Sidnell and Alan Ackerman, and had the opportunity to meet the Czech professors Lubomir Dolezel and Veronika Ambros, who helped him expand his knowledge on the Prague School.

He obtained his first PhD in 2008, with a thesis on James Joyce's theater in connection to the European closet drama (the product of two research stays at the James Joyce Zürich Foundation in 2005 and 2007). He obtained his second PhD in 2010, with a dissertation on modernist European theater that made special emphasis on the experimental drama of Federico García Lorca.

Pérez-Simón was visiting professor at Indiana University (2010-11) before joining the University of Cincinnati. This fall, he will teach a graduate course in Spanish narrative of the 20th century, and an undergraduate class on master pieces of Spanish drama. For spring semester, he will teach a course on Spanish literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, and a Spanish conversation class.

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'70, BS, '72, MS, Geology

David P. Witte
'74, BA, Biological Science



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From the Head



Nicasio Urbina

Dear Friends of Romance Languages and Literatures,

It is a pleasure to present you with the 2012 issue of Lingua Franca, the newsletter of our department. These are exciting times for our programs. We are experiencing growth both at the undergraduate and graduate level. The number of majors and minors is growing in Spanish and in French, and although budget cuts are affecting all of us, recruitment is up and we have maintained the size of our graduate program.

I am happy to report that we have hired a new assistant professor of French contemporary literature and cultural studies. Michael Gott (PhD, University of Texas, Austin 2010) will join our department in August, bringing with him his enthusiasm for French literature and his expertise in film and graphic novels.

We are working at full speed recruiting students for our new study abroad program in Caen, France, while maintaining our efforts for our study abroad programs in Madrid, Spain; Antigua; Guatemala; and Granada, Nicaragua. Thanks to University of Cincinnati President Greg Williams' commitment to international education, and to the generosity of our donors, our students have more access to grants and financial aid to go abroad, perfect their language skills and broaden their view of the world.

In this issue you will read about the accomplishments of our faculty and our graduate students. We are all working hard on our research and creative writing, and the results can be seen by the number of books and articles that have been published. We are also committed to quality education and excellence in teaching, while maintaining the level of service that has always characterized our department. I want to finish by thanking professor Sanford Ames for all the years of service to our department. We look forward to seeing him around as he continues to support us and be part of our family.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. We want to hear from you and your accomplishments, so please let us know what is going on in your life. If you have any idea, concern or comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Nicasio Urbina
nicasio.urbina@uc.edu

Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the department from January 2011 to March 2012. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain the finest faculty, and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Mrs. Marcia B. Arndt	Janine C. Hartman, PhD
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For information on making a gift to the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, please contact Deb Plytynski, deborah.plytynski@uc.edu or 513-556-5806

Undergraduate News

Naomi Fitter (Spanish, Mechanical Engineering) received the university's Presidential Leadership Medal of Excellence.

Kelsey Bladh (French, History) is studying for a year at La Sorbonne in Paris.

Caitlynn Carr (Spanish, Anthropology), Ellen Conroy (Spanish),

Andy Koesterman (Spanish, Marketing) and **Lucy Stephens** (Spanish) received Taft Undergraduate Enrichment Awards for Winter Quarter.

Jonathan Hilton (Spanish) received the university's Just Community Award and was a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

Amy McLean (French) is studying for a year in Bretagne, Concarneau.

Dylan Vincent (French) is studying for a year in Aix en Provence, France.

Faculty News

Enrique Giordano published a book of narrative, "Monólogo a siete voces" (Puerto Rico, Ediciones El Maitén III, 60 pp.), and a volume of dramas "El ultimo pétalo de la flor de fango" (Puerto Rico, Ediciones El Maitén III, 302 pp.). He also co-edited with Paula Garrido, a PhD student in the department, a volume of theoretical criticism on the fantastic short story in Latin American literature, "Espejos: Reconsideraciones sobre lo fantástico en la literature hispanoamericana" (Puerto Rico, Maitén III).

Ligia Gómez was awarded the "Exemplary post-secondary service learning award" by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Agenda 360 and Northern Kentucky Vision 2015 for outstanding service to the community.

Carlos Gutiérrez edited the latest issue of Perinola, the foremost journal on Francisco Quevedo, and wrote the introduction to the volume. La recepción de Quevedo is the most up-to-date collection of articles on one of the most important Spanish writers of all times. He also published an electronic edition of "La red ciega" (New York, Digitalia, 2011).



Carlos Gutiérrez

Anne-Marie Jézéquel was awarded a grant by Campus France from the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., to organize a collaboration between the University of Cincinnati and Université de Caen. As a result, she is beginning a program in Caen, France, where students will study for three or six weeks at Maison des Langues et de l'international at the Université de Caen.

Thérèse Migraine-George published an article titled "De Traversée de la mangrove à Histoire de la femme cannibale: l'Art comme 'Arme Miraculeuse' chez Maryse Condé," which appeared in Romanic Review.

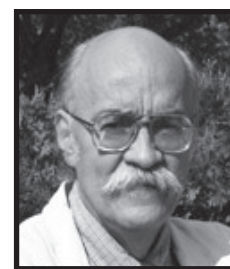
María Paz Moreno published two articles, "A Bittersweet Love Affair: Spain and the History of Chocolate," in Connections – European Studies Annual Review, and "Luis Cernuda en su exilio: Hacia una poética del periplo cernudiano," in Sin Frontera Revista académica y literaria.



María Paz Moreno

Noris Rodríguez started a study abroad program in Guatemala. The first year of the program eight students attended Escuela La Union in Antigua, Guatemala, for a period of six weeks.

Armando Romero published a new novel, "Cajambre," and won the Concejo de Siero (Spain) International Award for short novel. He also had a book of selected poems published under the title "El aguacero edificable" (Monte Avila Editores, Caracas, Venezuela, 2011).



Armando Romero

Nicasio Urbina published a collection of short stories, "Caminar es malo para la salud" (Guatemala, Letra Negra, 2011, 320 pp.).

Patricia Valladares-Ruiz published two articles and edited a special issue of the Cincinnati Romance Review. "El discurso exotérico en Compendio y descripción de las Indias Occidentales (1628-1629) de Antonio Vázquez de Espinosa," was published in the electronic journal eHumanista – Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Iberian Studies. " 'No hay negro bueno ni tamarindo dulce': El blanqueamiento en Santa Lujuria de Marta Rojas," appeared in Romance Quarterly. As editor she prepared a special issue of the Cincinnati Romance Review dealing with Afro-Hispanic subjectivities.



Patricia Valladares-Ruiz

Michèle Vialet published "Inheriting Exile: Leïla Sebar's Literary Representation of Immigrants' Children," in Dimensions of International Migration (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011). She also published " 'La nuit de la langue perdue': défaite et legs de la mère dans Vaste est la prison d'Assia Djebar," and coauthored "D'une rive à l'autre ou la liberté d'écrire: Assia Djebar," both in her co-edited volume "Assia Djebar: écrivaine entre deux rives," a special issue of the Cincinnati Romance Review.

Graduate News

Etienne Achille had an article accepted for publication in French Forum, "Des Arabes, j'en suis sûre !: rompre le silence dans Entendez-vous dans les montagnes de Maïssa Bey." He also published two book reviews: on Olivier Benyahya's "Zimmer" (French Review 85.2 December 2011) and on Maïssa Bey's "Puisque mon cœur est mort" (French Review 85.1, October 2011).

Paola Cadena (MA '11) has a new poetry collection, "Cinema," forthcoming in Venezuela by Editorial Equinoccio.

Manuel Cerpa published a book review on Jonathan Mayhew's "Apocryphal Lorca. Translation, Parody, Kitsch," (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2009) in the Cincinnati Romance Review.

Paula Garrido co-edited with professor Enrique Giordano "Espejos: Reconsideraciones sobre lo fantástico en la literatura hispanoamericana" (Maitén, Puerto Rico, 2012) a collection of essays on the fantastic short story in Latin American literature. The volume sprung from a doctoral seminar taught by professor Giordano and contains essays written by current and former graduate students Maria Inés Canto, Manuel Iris, Gabriel Rudas,

Lía Buitrago, Nidia Herrera and Paula Garrido. She also published a book review on "Braulio Arenas: Realidad desalojada" by Ernesto Pfeiffer, in Mapocho.

Manuel Iris has been included in two anthologies of young Mexican poets: one published in Chiapas and another published by La otra Revista. Manuel also wrote a preface for Juan Ramón Jiménez's book "La isla de la simpatía," released by the prestigious publishing house, Visor.

Milton Medellín published a short story "El colabrió" in e-Consulta, another story appeared in Revista Posdata, and a selection of his poetry appeared in Círculo de poesía. His poetry was also included in "Doscientos años de poesía mexicana" (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de Cultura, 2010).

Clemencia Sánchez, RLL doctoral student has published her fourth poetry collection, "Recolección en rojo" (Cali, Universidad del Valle, 2011).

Nidia Herrera published a review of "La Puerta Cerrada" de José Donoso: Censura, fragmentación y ausencia" in Mapocho.



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