

## Tango Compadrito



Argentine tango is not only a dance and musical expression; tango is an intricate mosaic of artistic, historical and social factors that permeates Porteño culture and lifestyle.

**Nuria López-Ortega**

My course, SPAN 423: Introduction to

Argentine Tango, explored this complex topic from historical, political and artistic perspectives. Students studied tango music, song, dance, its imagery and the interaction of tango with other musical and dance forms from its origins to its current global projection. Sources included essay and literary readings, feature documentaries, music and lyrics, and internet-based dance, music and documentary clips.

Students met and interacted with local tango dancers, DJs and tango teachers at invited class presentations and performances. An international tango performer and master delivered a lecture on the history of tango styles. Students also experienced the dance and music in the class through weekly dance mini-lessons, and attended several Cincinnati tango community events.

Their final projects ranged from formal presentations on tango and literature/ film, to musical performances and “impromptu” art production. While diverse, all the projects shared two common elements: first, their high quality; second, how this art form, at first alienating, had grown familiar and endearing to them.

For me, it was an unforgettable experience to teach and share a personal passion, and to do so at the intellectual level required in a college academic setting. My gratitude to los pibes y pebetas who embarked in this project with me and made it happen.

*Nuria López-Ortega is a field service associate professor in RLL.*

## New Course: Spanish for Social Work and Health Care Services

In the spring of 2010 we are offering a new and practical course: Spanish for Social and Health Care Services. This course is offered by the Department of Romance Languages with the input and the assistance of the School of Social Work.

The local Hispanic population is growing in the Cincinnati area at a high rate. Language and cultural barriers between this population and the health care and social services infrastructure have created a well-recognized gap in health care and social services for this population. The objective of the course is to provide both language and cultural skills for social workers and other professionals in health and social services to help close this gap. This course is also appropriate for students majoring in psychology, sociology, counseling, pre-med, nursing, and others who envision working with these underserved populations.

This course (15SPAN211) would be five-credit hours for students who completed at least the basic 100-level of Spanish or its equivalent. The course will include a service-learning component. It would consist of three 50-minute classes three times a week, combined with a project in the community or service each week in a different agency in the city that serves the Hispanic population.

The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish with an emphasis in developing listening and speaking abilities. Specific vocabulary for mental health, medical and social issues directed towards the various agencies will be developed. Also, a series of lectures in Spanish by bilingual professionals dealing with issues of importance to the Hispanic population will be presented. Topics will include prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse, access to health care, mental health, barriers to services experienced by the immigrant community, domestic violence and others.

The learning outcomes for this course are to gain specific vocabulary important for work in social services and other health related areas, to gain awareness of cultural characteristics that may affect delivery of services to the immigrant population, and to improve listening and speaking abilities necessary for this type of work.

Some of the agencies that are partnering with the department include Women's Connection, Santa Maria Community Services, Family Services, International Welcome Center, Alcoholism Council of Cincinnati, YMCA, The Healing Center, WIC (Women, Infants, Children), BMF Pediatrics, Cincinnati Workers Center and others.

We are excited to offer this new course that will give students practical skills for their professional area.



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# LINGUA FRANCA

A publication for the alumni and friends of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures

February 2011

## RLL Finds New Latin American Home for Study Abroad

After 18 successful years in Queretaro, Mexico, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures has updated its study abroad program and moved it to Antigua, Guatemala. Along with rising security concerns in Mexico, good schools, weather and lower costs in what was once Guatemala's scenic capitol city have all figured in the program's reboot.

As always, our study abroad students will enjoy immersion in the culture that we as teachers labor to show them in the classroom. UC instructors have looked carefully at several Central American countries, settling on Guatemala to take advantage of the personalized instruction programs at Centro Lingüístico La Unión.

Colonial-era churches in surrounding villages, historic monuments, a friendly citizenry, generations of colorful local crafts and foods, art galleries and plentiful internet access will contribute to the study abroad program's continued popularity.

Students are guaranteed 16 intensive contact hours each week in Spanish classes, augmented with culture classes and 12 further hours of service learning. A highlight of the program is daily, one-on-one instructor interaction. Give-and-take conversation practice within groups of four students is also mandatory.

The service-learning programs are particularly valuable for all parties, with students choosing from—and contributing to—22 worksites such as an orphanage, a center for severely malnourished children, local schools and health clinics and an abused women's shelter.

The program's base cost also covers visits to coffee plantations, museums, salsa dance classes, movies, public school tours and participation in traditional Guatemalan meal preparation. At modest additional cost, special trips can be arranged including boat rides across beautiful Lake Atitlan, market visits, beach outings and volcano hikes.

The study abroad program continues to be an intriguing opportunity for students to visit a Spanish-speaking country and live with a Guatemalteco family. The cultural classes will help to quickly and broadly connect the students with not only their host country, but all the surrounding countries of Central America.

But studying abroad is not the only opportunity for students to experience Guatemala. Students can also visit Antigua

as an alternative spring break trip, learning about the country, its people and their culture as they help to build three houses through Habitat for Humanity's Global Village Program.

Habitat for Humanity is an international non-profit organization whose goal is to provide decent housing for all people. Recipient families must be directly involved in the building of their own home and of others' homes. Families are required to repay Habitat, which uses the money to help fund the construction of more homes. One of the objectives of the course is for students to reflect upon the role played by organizations like Habitat in countries such as Guatemala, where more houses are built each year than in any other country in Latin America.



## RLL Alum Named Professor of Year by S.C. Governor

According to the Beaufort (S.C.) Gazette, Romance Languages alumna Babet Villena-Alvarez (MA, '89; PhD, '94) was named the 2010 S.C. Governor's Professor of the Year.

Villena-Alvarez is a University of South Carolina Beaufort professor. She competed for the award against nominees from 37 public and private four-year universities across the state. The award came with a \$5,000 prize and recognition during a ceremony hosted by the governor's office in November.

Villena-Alvarez, a native of the Philippines, came to USCB in 1994 as an assistant professor of French and Spanish after completing most of her education in Paris, Madrid and at the University of Cincinnati.

After 10 months on the job, she established study abroad programs, won a federal grant to train professors

to incorporate international perspectives in their teaching, and developed programs to help Beaufort County meet the demands of its fast-growing Hispanic population.

While USCB was a two-year school, Villena-Alvarez created a Spanish certificate program to meet a need for service professionals with a proficiency in the language. Although many in the county were native Spanish speakers, few had college credentials.

Later, after USCB was accredited as a four-year university, she developed a dual-track Spanish degree program. It has one course of study for those new to the language and another for those already fluent but who want to study Hispanic literature and cultural history.

Villena-Alvarez now is the chair of the Department of Humanities and Fine Arts.

## SAVE THE DATE! McMicken Alumni Gala

The McMicken College of Arts & Sciences requests the pleasure of your company at the 3rd Annual McMicken Alumni Gala.

**Friday, May 13  
6:30 – 11:30 p.m.  
Westin Hotel Cincinnati  
The Fountain Room  
21 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202**

Join us for dinner and dancing as we honor the 2011 McMicken College Distinguished Alumni:

- **D. David Altman**  
(Political Science, BA, '68)
- **Matthew J. Doyle**  
(Chemistry, MS, '81; PhD, '83)
- **Steven Tracy**  
(English, BA, '77; MA, '80; PhD, '85)

For more information, please visit [www.artsci.uc.edu/alumniweekend](http://www.artsci.uc.edu/alumniweekend)



**McMicken**  
College of Arts & Sciences

## From the Head



Nicasio Urbina

Dear Friends of Romance Languages and Literatures,

It is a pleasure to present you with the 2011 issue of *Lingua Franca*, the newsletter of our department. As a new department head I am enthusiastic about the work of our unit and I am hopeful about the future of our programs.

We are in the process of interviewing candidates for a position in Spanish theater. We are very happy about the quality of our finalists and hope to have a professor of contemporary Spanish theater in September.

We are also stepping up our efforts to encourage more students to study abroad. The Madrid program is going strong, recruiting more students than last year. We have a new program in Antigua, Guatemala, with strong emphasis on language learning and service learning. The student will do service in mornings and study Spanish in the afternoons, while enjoying the paradise-like beauty of colonial Antigua, Guatemala. You will find more information about these programs in the following pages.

We are also developing our offering in professional uses of language. This spring we will offer a course on Spanish for Social Workers and in the summer we will add a distance learning course titled Introduction to Spanish Literature for early childhood education students. The French section is also working on a summer study abroad program, restructuring the major and the master program, and actively recruiting students both at the undergraduate and graduate level. In the fall Field Service Assistant Professor Anne-Marie Jezequel offered a very successful course in French theater. Finally, the Arabic program is back under the Romance Languages structure. We are very happy to have this program back and the department is working on the approval of a bachelor's of Arabic program.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. If you have any idea, concern or comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Nicasio Urbina  
Professor and Head  
nicasio.urbina@uc.edu  
513-556-1838

## Arabic Finds Home in Department of Romance Languages

The Arabic Program was transferred in September from the dismantled School of World Languages and Cultures to the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, its original administrative home. Arabic is one of the six major official languages of the United Nations and its agencies. It is the official language of more than 20 Arab countries and also the liturgical language of more than one billion Muslims.

Enrollment in Arabic language, literature, culture and linguistics courses has steadily increased since its inception in fall 2005 from 79 to 201 students in fall 2010. The number of Arabic Language and Culture Certificates awarded in spring 2010 totaled 12.

The department has recently approved a BA proposal in Arabic for consideration by the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. The program will enable UC students (in fields such as history, geography, economics, political science, law, business, engineering, education and other areas) to obtain an additional focus and certification in Arabic Studies. Such credentials will enhance non-academic and academic job prospects of UC students in disciplinary programs. It will also prepare them for advanced graduate studies. Pre-collegiate teachers can also benefit from such a program, for it will not only contribute towards the fulfillment of their state-required professional development but also provide an opportunity, during and upon completion of the program, to integrate an Arabic language and cultural component into their foreign language and social studies curricula.

## Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the department from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2010. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain the finest faculty, and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Mrs. Marcia B. Arndt	Fernando R. Jimenez, PhD
Mrs. Susan E. Cogan	Mrs. Beatriz L. Jimenez
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Dale C. Garside, PhD	Professor Michele E. Vialet
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For information on making a gift to the department, please contact Kobie Smith at 513-556-6257 or [kobie.smith@uc.edu](mailto:kobie.smith@uc.edu).

## Department News

### Faculty News

Associate Professor **Carlos Gutiérrez** published "Quevedo y los poetas norteamericanos contemporáneos" in the peer-reviewed journal *Perinola*. He also presented one paper on Cervantes at University of Pennsylvania, and read from his short stories "La red ciega" at the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference.



Carlos Gutiérrez



Fenfang Hwu

Associate Professor **Fenfang Hwu** presented two papers last year: "Aptitude-Treatment Interaction Effects on the Learning of Grammar Rules: A Latent Growth Curve Analysis" at the American Educational Research Association Conference in Denver, and at the Cincinnati Conference in Romance Languages and Literatures.

Professor **Jeff Loveland** published his book "An Alternative Encyclopedia? Dennis de Coetlogon's Universal History of Arts and Sciences (1745)" (Oxford: Voltaire Foundations.) It has already received several glowing reviews, and it is demonstrating to be an important contribution to the field. Loveland also published two articles in peer-reviewed journals: the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* and "Das achtzehnte Jahrhundert," as well as several book reviews. Loveland also made three presentations at international meetings: one in Paris in January at the Université Denis Diderot, another one in February at the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique and a third one at the Eighteenth Century Scottish Studies Society. Loveland is currently on sabbatical in France.



Jeff Loveland

Associate Professor **Therese Migraine-George** published her novel "Amour de travers" (Paris: Editions Edilivre). She was on sabbatical last year researching a new book of literary criticism. Currently she is on academic leave with a Taft Fellow Grant.



Maria Paz Moreno

Associate Professor **Maria Paz Moreno** published one paper in the proceedings of the meeting of the Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas, and a prologue to a book about Gil-Albert. She also published two book reviews, one in our Review and another one in *Periodico de Poesia*. She presented papers at the University of Utah, University of Texas,

San Antonio and the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. She performed three readings of her poetry, and her poetry was included in the important anthology "La Luz Escondida." Currently she is on leave with a Taft Research Fellowship for winter and spring 2011.

Professor **Armando Romero** published a bilingual Spanish-Italian book of poems titled "Versi liberi per Venezia." He also co-authored an article with Floriano Martins in his journal *Agulha hispanica*. This year he also saw the publication of the translation of one book of poems into Greek.



Armando Romero



Patricia Valladares-Ruiz

Assistant Professor **Patricia Valladares-Ruiz** published two articles in peer-reviewed journals: "Cultos afrocubanos" in *La Torre*, and "Lo más prohibido" in *Letras femeninas*. She also presented two papers, one at the Northeast MLA Conference in Montreal and another one at Marquette University.

Professor **Michele Vialet** presented four papers at conferences, including the South Atlantic Modern Languages Association, Le Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones in Montreal, the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conferences and the African Literature Association. Vialet also co-authored with Judith Muyskens, Linda Harlow and Jean-François Brière on the 7th edition of *Bravo* (McGraw Hill). This intermediate French program includes new Ciné Bravo video sections, a blog feature and a full deck of video resources.

**Catherine White** presented a paper at our Cincinnati Conference in RLL: "Transforming the Literary 'I' Into the Cinematic Eye in Julian Schnabel's Adaptation of "Le Scaphandre et le Papillon." That paper was later submitted and accepted for publication in *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 29.3 (May 2011).

### Graduate Student News

Join us in congratulating RLL graduate students for their indefatigable publication rate.

PhD student **Manuel Iris** is a contributor to the journal "El Grito de las Ideas," where he has recently published essays and interviews. Iris also serves on the editorial board of the journal *Trasatlantic*, published jointly by UC and University of Valladolid, Spain.

Doctoral student **Patricia Marín** co-edited the book "Sic vos non vobis. Estudios de atribución y plagio" (Madrid: Iberoamericana, 2010, 384 pp., ISBN 9788484895114). She also found time to successfully defend her first PhD dissertation at University of Valladolid, Spain. She is pursuing a second doctorate with us.

MA student **Milton Medellín** published the volume "No cesará el desvelo" (Tlaxcala, Mexico, 2010), featuring the poems that were previously awarded the Dolores Castro poetry prize.

Doctoral student **Clemencia Sánchez** published a new poetry book, "Paraiso precario" (Universidad Externado de Colombia, 2010). It will be widely distributed in her native Colombia. The first edition has a print run of 8,000 copies.



Clemencia Sánchez

We are also happy to announce the publication of books by two of our alumni: "Lecturas desplazadas. Encuentros hispanoamericanos con Cervantes y Góngora" (Caracas, 2009) by **Arturo Gutiérrez** and **Marcelo Rioseco's** "Espejo de enemigos" (Uqbar, 2010), a poetry book. Both were written during their stay at UC.

During 2010 three doctoral students graduated with remarkable dissertations. **Rafael García** currently at Martin University; **Oscar Rodriguez-Bazan** teaches at Clemson University, and **Paul N. Toure**, currently at University of Houston. At the MA level we had three graduates from the French section and four graduates from the Spanish section.

In terms of visiting scholars we had an outstanding year. Four internationally known scholars visited our department and lived with us for 10 weeks at a time. **Floriano Martins** from Brazil, famous historian of surrealism; **Pedro Lastra** from Chile, great critic and poet emeritus from Stony Brook University; **Pilar Celma** from Universidad de Valladolid, the world expert on Castilian writer Miguel Delibes; and **Javier Blasco**, whose work on Juan Ramón Jiménez has made him famous.

### What's new with you?

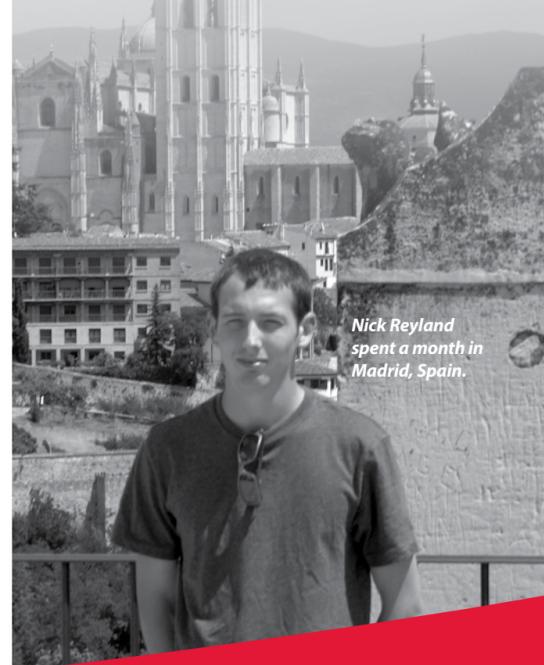
Please help us update our alumni files and let your friends know what you have been up to. Visit [www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni](http://www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni) to share your news online. The information you provide will be used in future publications. You can also update your contact information, nominate a distinguished alum for recognition, or make a gift to the department.

### Sign up for McMicken Monthly!

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## Studying Abroad in Madrid

As Madrid 2010 participant Nick Reyland put it, "I learned more about the culture and history of Spain with unique hands-on experiences than I would have ever learned from a textbook." (<http://www.uc.edu/profiles/profile.asp?id=12341>). One could hardly find a better way of summarizing what study abroad brings to the educational table. Reyland and 23 other UC students lived what some of them termed "the summer of a lifetime." Together with an intensive academic schedule (five to seven hours a day) of Spanish language and culture, our students experienced many of the artistic and cultural treasures that Spain has to offer: the Prado & Reina Sofia museums, El Escorial, Toledo and more. As if all of these wonderful educational opportunities were not enough, the icing of the cake was, probably, experiencing (intensely and wholeheartedly, indeed!) what winning the World Cup meant for Spain. Another side of study abroad to take into consideration is also the fact that, when abroad, students forge friendships and experience life together, almost becoming a family of sorts. In all, the Madrid program represents 3-4 percent of UC students going abroad each year.



Nick Reyland spent a month in Madrid, Spain.