



Greetings from the Chair

We've come to the midway point of another exciting academic year. Despite the bitter cold temperatures that we experienced during the Winter of last year, the members of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures managed to not only survive but also thrive.

As we begin 2015 I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work and contributions to the intellectual life of the Department.

First, I'd like to heartily congratulate Dr. Priya Wadhera, who has been accepted for tenure. We look forward to many years of her fine scholarship,

wonderful energy in the classroom, and enthusiastic participation in university service.

Kathy Kannengeiser, who accepted a position with another department at Adelphi, left us at the beginning of the Spring 2014 term. She was an indispensable member of our department for twelve years. We thank her for her many years of service and will miss her!

We have been very fortunate in hiring Ms. Carmen Castellón as the new assistant to the Department. She has worked diligently during the very busy Spring and Fall semesters to make sure that our classes and

activities were taken care of. ¡Gracias, Carmen!

The Department is a comprehensive, full-service foreign language department. It offers challenging and rich programs of study in a variety of languages: Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. Under the guidance of a highly qualified and dedicated faculty, students may earn minors in French, Italian and Spanish, and baccalaureate degrees in French and Spanish. The Department continues contributing to the University, and the community at large by providing instruction in foreign language and

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Professor Wadhera receives tenure, promotion



Dr. Wadhera

It is with pleasure and pride that we announce that following the meeting of the Board of Trustees at the close of 2014, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Faculty Committee on Retention, Tenure and Promotion (FCRTP), Dr. Priya Wadhera was granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in French. Dr. Wadhera is the first member of our department to get tenure in more than 28 years!

Congratulations to Priya for a job well done! We are looking forward for her continued success and service to the students, the Department and the Adelphi community.

Translation Certificate Program Gets off the Ground

This past academic year, we launched our Certificate in Translation program. The program is designed for students interested in careers that involve the frequent translation of documents such as education, social work, literature, and business. The program also has a component in interpreting for a variety of legal settings (depositions, courts, lawyer's offices) and healthcare (hospital, clinics, doctor's offices). The certificate program is open to current university students and college graduates seeking to add to their portfolio and make themselves more marketable to employers. The program has gotten off to a very encouraging start. We are very pleased to report that all the courses required for the certificate have been offered at least once, we have two students graduating with the certificate in Spring 2015, and ten more students enrolled in the program.

For further information on the Certificate program, please explore the following link:

<http://bit.ly/1dgIDII>

Greetings from the Chair (continued) and Departmental News

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culture to students from across the University. We also offer French, Italian and Spanish tracks for the International Studies major. There is a European Studies minor and a Latin American Studies major and minor. The Department also offers a Translation Certificate Program that just started this past Fall 2013.

In closing, I wish to share some compelling findings about language-learning to do with deaf learners of sign language in Nicaragua.

“How Language is Essential to Learning Math”

Summary excerpted from articles in *Time* and *Education Week*.

A series of studies conducted between 2006 and 2010 in Nicaragua by researchers Elizabeth Spaepen and Susan Goldin-Meadow have revealed interesting insights regarding language acquisition and its link to skills in math. Spaepen and Goldin-Meadow tested several deaf “homesigning” Nicaraguan adults on their basic math abilities. “Homesigners” are those who communicate using informal, made-up hand gestures that often do not have distinct grammar rules or words for larger numbers. It was found that these homesigners had significant difficulties understanding and communicating numbers larger than three, mainly because they did not have the vocabulary to describe those numbers. They could count objects by using their fingers, but they could not

grasp the concept of seven being less than nine, or five being more than three.

When deaf people in Nicaragua who learn standardized sign languages were tested, they were able to communicate larger numbers because they had learned a counting routine as children, much like hearing children do with spoken language.

This research is significant for linguists, those who study human development, and teachers at foreign language immersion schools, as it links language acquisition in young children to their ability to develop math skills later on in life. It is essential to learn the words for numbers and understand the significance of their sequencing and value. Neuron activity in different parts of the brain when performing counting tasks also vary in children with different native languages. For example, English speakers’ brains are more active in language centers, while the brains of Chinese speakers are more active in the visual/spatial centers.

This is yet another great example of how learning languages changes your brain for the better!

Departmental News

We would now like to share some of the recent highlights of the department’s varied activities including faculty research, student achievements, study abroad programs and curriculum developments.

Faculty Spotlight

In 2014, **Dr. Nicolas Carbo** taught courses

in Spanish Grammar and Composition, Strategies in Spanish Oral Communication, Advanced Spanish Conversation, and Trends and Tendencies in Hispanic America.

Dr. Jonathan Hiller continues work on his book *Arresting Physiognomies: Positivist Criminology and Italian Culture, 1870-1910*. He has also begun work on a translation of the 1866 novel *Paolina* by I. U. Tarchetti. In June, 2014 He presented research on operas set in Tuscany at the Monash University campus in Prato, Italy. He is currently writing reviews of translations of dramatic works by Massimo Bontempelli and Luigi Pirandello, and will be chairing panels at conferences in Italy at Sorrento and Siena in late June 2015. Along with Prof. Amador, he participated in the “Humanistic Approach to Language Learning” at Wellesley College this past November. Lastly, he is proud editor of this newsletter!

Dr. Nicole Rudolph is in her second year directing the International Studies major and continues to direct the European Studies minor. In April 2014, she chaired a panel at the Society for French Historical Studies conference in Montréal, Canada, and in July she delivered a conference paper at the Society for French Studies annual meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland. Her essay, “Plunging the Soul into Contemplation: On MoMA’s Le Corbusier, An Atlas on Modern Landscapes” appeared in the Winter 2014 issue of *French Politics, Culture and Society*, and her review of Sophie Corbillé’s book *Paris*

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Scholarship Opportunities

The **Robert G. Hartmann Scholarship for Excellence in Spanish** is available to students as of Academic Year 2014-2015. Students must be Spanish majors who have completed 30 credits in the major, have demonstrated significant financial need, have at least a 2.7 GPA.

Another great opportunity for our students is the **Melvin and Marian Protas Foreign Language Writing Award**, which is open to majors and minors in French, Italian, and Spanish. Once again, our sincere

thanks to Prof. Dave Protas from the School of Business for having created this fantastic opportunity.

For students minoring in Italian or taking the Italian language track of the International Studies Major, the **Smalley Family Endowment for Italian Language Studies**, created by Trustee Patrick Smalley, provides scholarships to eligible undergraduate students (with a 3.0 minimum GPA), who are encouraged to apply. Those who wish to study abroad in Italy

may apply the scholarship funds to fees related to their study abroad experience. *Grazie ancora, signor Smalley!*

We also wanted to note that **Boren Award** scholarships are available for undergraduates studying Arabic. Here is the link:

https://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/languages.html

Adelphi’s Office of Fellowships is our campus representative for the awards and must complete a recommendation for applicants. The deadline this year is 2/4/15.

Language Students Win Entry into National Honor Societies, Awards

On Friday, April 25, 2014, we held our Departmental Honors Ceremony, at which we inducted students into language societies and announced the recipients of scholarships and winners of departmental awards. President Robert Scott and Arts and Sciences Dean Sam Grogg were among those present, along with Associate Deans Susan Briziarelli, Ruth McShane and Gary Schechter. We were also delighted to have with us three benefactors of generous scholarships for our students: Mr. Patrick Smalley, alumnus and trustee; Mr. Robert Hartmann, alumnus; and Professor David Protas.

The following students were inducted into honor societies:

Italian Honor Society, Gamma Kappa Alpha: Trustee Patrick Smalley, Dean Susan Briziarelli, Francesca Giambalvo, Marlena Oppedisano
(inducted by Prof. Hiller)

Spanish Honor Society, Sigma Delta

Pi: Brenda Avila, Matthew Bracco, Lauren Braun, Jacqueline Galdamez, Kristine Gavilanes, Shirley Joseph, Iliana Martinez, Valeria Mendoza, Dina Ramalehete, Samantha Upshaw. (inducted by Profs. Amador, Carbo & Villamil-Acera)

Scholarships were awarded to the following outstanding students:

Smalley Fellowship in Italian Studies: Marlena Oppedisano

Mary Louise Vazquez Award in French: Collin Savage

The Robert Hartmann Scholarship for Excellence in Spanish: Diana Arichabala
Ted and Erika Spyropoulos Scholarships for Modern Greek: Lauren Biazzo, Nicholas Haas, Danaleah Schoenfuss

We were also delighted to present awards to several outstanding students:

Ruth Richardson Awards for Excellence in Spanish: Brenda Avila, Matthew Bracco, Lauren Braun, Jacqueline Galdamez, Kristine Gavilanes, Rebecca Krieger, Junior Leyba-Corporan, Valeria Mendoza, Justin Narkin, Nicole Osterhoudt, Dina Ramalehete, Samantha Upshaw.

Dolores Roethel Awards in Spanish Literature: Junior Leyba-Corporan, Rebecca Krieger.

Protas French Writing Contest :

1st: Sarah O'Connor; 2nd: Nicholas Harth; 3rd: Anthony Clemente

Protas Spanish Writing Contest:

1st: Justin Narkin; 2nd: Leela Riquelme; 3rd: Jenny Turcio & Diana Arichabala

We continued a tradition with another vocal performance at the ceremony by our own Professor Hiller on the piano. This year, we heard Schubert's "Morgengruß" in German!



President Scott makes opening remarks at the ceremony



Student Inductees of Gamma Kappa Alpha with Prof. Hiller

¡Flamenco para todos!

On November 6, 2014, the Department sponsored a session of Flamenco dancing with international sensation Auxi Fernández (pictured top right) in the University Center Ballroom and open to the entire university community. After giving a brief demonstration, this incredible *bailadora* offered a basic workshop on this traditional dance form. Also participating at the event was musician Jay M. Loomis of Stony Brook University, who provided a fascinating scholarly introduction to Flamenco.

The event attracted more than 100 students, faculty and staff and was one of the cultural highlights of the semester. Thanks very much to Prof. Simón-Alegre, and to our student tutors (pictured bottom right) for organizing such a fantastic event!



Auxi Fernández



Our student tutors (from top left): Ashley Corbeil, Jason Wesson, Diana Malizia, Hanggi Lee, Theresa O'Neill

Other Cultural Events

In the fall term, the Department organized a variety of interesting events and outings relating to Spanish and Latin American culture. Beyond the very successful Flamenco session (see opposite), we sponsored the following events:

October 18, 2014: Art at two NYC museums, a tour at the Hispanic Society of America, and a Repertorio Español play.

October 22: A campus session on Hispanic fusion music.

October 27: Campus viewing of the documentary *Las maestras de la república*

November 3: Prof. Sandra Castro of Anthropology talked on campus about immigration.

November 24: Dr. Lou Charon-Deutsch spoke about the development and evolution of print culture in the 19th century.

We once again thank Prof. Simón-Alegre for organizing these wonderful events!

Departmental News (cont'd)

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Bourgeois, Paris Bohème: La ruée vers l'est, was published by H-France Review in December 2014. The journal *Interiors: Design, Architecture, Culture* published her article "Model Homes: Negotiating Interiors in Postwar France" in its July 2014 issue. Professor Rudolph's book, *At Home in Postwar France: Modern Mass Housing and the Right to Comfort*, is due to appear in print in March 2015.

Dr. Raysa Amador, in addition to her myriad duties as chair and tireless champion of the study of languages on campus, received a grant with co-director Dr. Ana Simón-Alegre for the 2015 Spanish Film Festival at Adelphi from Pradga Film. She will present research at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC in October 2015 titled "The Female Body as a Marker: Cristina Garcia and Judith Ortiz Cofer." This past November, she attended the professional development workshop "A Humanistic Approach to Languages" at Wellesley with Prof. Hiller.

Dr. Rakhel Villamil-Acera's book chapter, "Pedro Muñoz Seca (1881- 1936): The Comic Effect of the Grotesque", came out in *Spanish and Portuguese Across Time, Place, and Borders. Essays in Honor of Milton M. Azevedo*. Her article "Discurso cómico y discursos grotescos en las tragedias grotescas de Carlos Arniches" was published in the *Revista Iberoamericana de Lingüística* #9, as was her "¿Qué divertido es divorciarse!: la desentimentalización del divorcio en el teatro madrileño antes y después de la Segunda República," which appeared in *Hispania* 97.2 (2014): 233-43. She continues work on her book manuscript, *La construcción del diálogo teatral en el teatro cómico madrileño (1898-1936): el discurso humorístico en el contexto social*. Rakhel has a translation under review "Un recuerdo de odio: turismo e identidad en un entorno poscolonial", a translation of the article "Souvenirs of Hatred: Identity and Tourism and the Postcolonial Destination" by Marina T. Crouse. This translation is to be published by the UNAM, *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*. She will be attending the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention in Toronto in April 2015 to deliver the paper "Cuernos o mat-

rimoniosde conveniencia o cuando la tragedia es risible." and has been invited to participate in the Symposium in honor of Professor Dru Dougherty at the University of California, Berkeley in February of 2015. She made a presentation of her published book chapter on Pedro Muñoz Seca (see previous description) in April of 2014.

Dr. Priya Wadhwa has been approved for tenure and promotion by the Faculty Committee on Retention, Tenure and Promotion. Hearty congratulations for reaching this milestone! Her book *Original Copies: The Postmodern Aesthetic of Georges Perec and Andy Warhol* will be published by Editions Rodopi as part of the Her book will be part of the Rodopi's peer-reviewed *Faux Titre* series. It is scheduled for publication in 2014. She also currently has an article on food in Perec "Privés de repas du soir": Meals and memories in Georges Perec's *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*," under review by *French Forum*. Forthcoming is a second co-translation with Kent Mintum of "Dubuffet ou la lecture du monde" (1962). Priya presented the paper "(Painting) for the love or money: Artist and /as a salesperson in Balzac and Perec," at the CUNY Center in New York in March 2014. She has been invited to speak, alongside the Executive Director of the MLA, Rosemary Feal, at the conference on *Teaching Language, Teaching Literature: State of the Union* at CUNY's new Institute for Language Education in Transcultural Context in 2013.

Dr. Ana Simón-Alegre edited the latest special issue of the journal, *Prisma Social*. She wrote the introduction, selected and edited the articles, and contributed with an interview of the author Michael Kimmel. In addition to organizing numerous cultural activities (see p. 3), Dr. Simón-Alegre participated in a special session at the MLA Annual Convention in Vancouver, BC Canada called "Las hijas del mar and Rosalía de Castro: Emotions from Coast to City in the 19th Century."

Student News

Third-year student and French minor **Ashley Corbeil** won a scholarship from the Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique for summer study abroad at the Université Laval in Québec. Ashley will be enrolled in a four-week full immersion program.

Valeria Mendoza, an International Studies and Latin American Studies Major, has had a paper accepted for presentation at the 22nd Annual Latin American Studies Symposium to take place at Birmingham-Southern College on April 11-12, 2014. She also presented at the PA'LANTE! ¡SIEMPRE PA'LANTE! FORWARD AND ONWARD!, the Second LACAS Latin American, Caribbean, Latino and Indigenous Undergraduate Student Conference at Binghamton University in February 2014.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our recent updates on faculty and students and invite you to share your experiences with us. If you have a moment, feel free to drop an us e-mail at amador@adelphi.edu and let us know what you would like to read in future issues. As always, visit our website languages.adelphi.edu

for more information, or stop by for a visit at Science Building 216C.

-Raysa Amador

Professor of Spanish and Chair



The Entrance to Earle Hall, home of our Language Resource Center and Language Classroom

Languages of Memory: French at Adelphi in the '40s

We have recently located a cache of photographs from almost three-quarters of a century ago, when Adelphi's French club, **Le Cercle**, was very active!

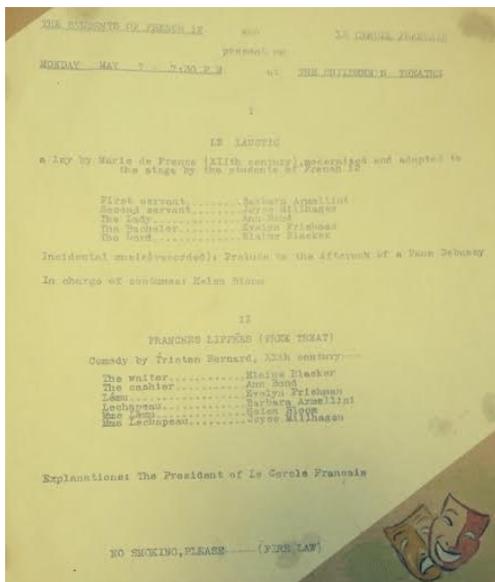
Enjoy some of these fascinating images of this vibrant group's activities in the 1940s!



A visit to the Cloisters at Fort Tryon Park, June 1943



Drawings about potatoes, French onion soup and other subjects at the first meeting of the 1945-1946 academic year



The program for a theatrical presentation of Marie de France's Le Laüstic, ca. 1945



Photographs of members of Le Cercle, 1945-1946

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES,
LITERATURES AND CULTURES**

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY

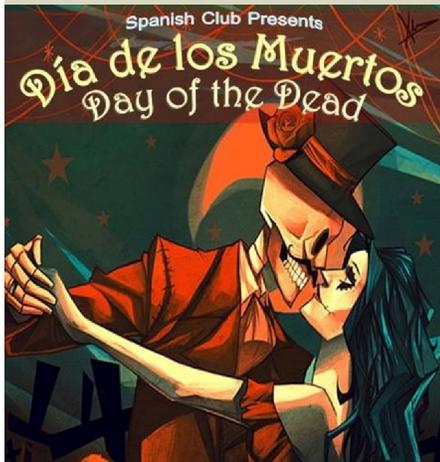
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Check out our blog!

“The Language Lounge”

<http://blogs.adelphi.edu/lang/>



*Flier for the Spanish Club's Día de los Muertos Event
on October 29, 2014*

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Food for Thought



An excerpt from an article on the benefits of bilingualism from *The New York Times*, March 17, 2012.

article by Yudhijit Bhattacharjee

Source:

[http://
www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/
opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-
bilingualism.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html)

SPEAKING two languages rather than just one has obvious practical benefits in an increasingly globalized world. But in recent years, scientists have begun to show that the advantages of bilingualism are even more fundamental than being able to converse with a wider range of people. Being bilingual, it turns out, makes you smarter.

It can have a profound effect on your brain, improving cognitive skills not related to language and even shielding against dementia in old age.

This view of bilingualism is remarkably different from the understanding of bilingualism through much of the 20th century. Researchers, educators and policy makers long considered a second language to be an interference, cognitively speaking, that hindered a child's academic and intellectual development.

They were not wrong about the interference: there is ample evidence that in a bilingual's brain both language systems are active even when he is using only one language, thus creating situations in which one system obstructs the other. But this interference, researchers are finding out, isn't so much a handicap as a blessing in disguise. It forces the brain to resolve internal conflict, giving the mind a workout that strengthens its cognitive muscles...