



Evora, Portugal



Quepos, Costa Rica



Tikal, Guatemala



Guimarães, Portugal

coordenadas
news from the department of
spanish & portuguese
At the UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

issue No. 6: winter/spring 2018
in this issue:

- ◆ Department news and activity
- ◆ Events this past semester
- ◆ Interview with retiring department Business Officer Rosinda Raposo

department news & activity

Prof. Ana Teresa Pérez-Leroux gave a lecture (“A Child’s View of Romance Modification”) at the Linguistics Symposium on Romance languages on April 27th, 2018 at York University, and a webinar (“El niño bilingüe, ¿se hace o nace?”) as part of a series for Latin@s en Toronto on February 24th, 2018.

Prof. Juan Carlos Rocha Osornio participated in the following conference on May 5th: **Quebec Association of Teachers of Spanish, VII Jornadas de Español Lengua Extranjera**, in the presentation of a workshop (“Evaluar y retroalimentar la producción oral en el aula de E/LE”) in conjunction with a graduate student, Eduardo Villalobos-Graillet.

Community Service Learning for SPA320 concluded successfully. A big thanks for the following organizations with which our students worked : Consulate General of Argentina in Toronto, Colectivo65, Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council, ChocoSol, Hispanic Canadian Arts and Cultural Association, Latin American-Canadian Arts Project, Latin@s en Toronto, Scadding Court Community Centre.

Congratulations to the following on their new publications:

✂ **Prof. Ana Teresa Pérez-Leroux** (joined by Yves Roberge and Anna Frolova) published “On Recursive Modification in Child L1 French” in *Languages*.

✂ **Prof. Ana Teresa Pérez-Leroux** (joined by Mihaela Pirvulescu and Yves Roberge) published the book “Direct Objects and Language Acquisition” with Cambridge University Press in February 2018.

✂ **Prof. Rosa Sarabia** has a forthcoming publication "Lecturas visuales de 'De suicidios' de Max Aub", to be published in *Revista canadiense de estudios hispánicos*.

events: winter/spring 2017

January 18: Visit from Humberta Araujo, curator of the Portuguese Pioneers Gallery



March 30: Visit from the Luso-Can Tuna, who shared their story and some anecdotes about academic tradition



January 19: Karaoke Night, which was organized to motivate students to learn both languages in a relaxed way



March 29: Portuguese Program Luncheon



April 13: The Spanish Oscars, which was a very successful event: more than 150 people attended. Students enrolled in all Spanish language courses were required to submit a video and some of them won big prizes.



February 9: CASTAD, the 2nd Canadian Spanish Teaching Assistant Dialogues conference

May 9: Scholars-in-residence visit the Galeria dos Pioneiros



April 30: Experimental Portuguese Linguistics Workshop (ExPortLi)



May 4: Inauguration of the Camões Portuguese Language Center, with the signing of the agreement between the two institutions, and in the presence of the Portuguese Secretary of State, Dr. José Luís Carneiro



May 12: International Day of the Portuguese language and undergraduate awards presentation



May 11: Rosinda's Retirement Luncheon



a chat with Business Officer Rosinda Raposo *about her 44-year career at the department*



How and when did you first get involved with Spanish and Portuguese at U of T? What were your first impressions?

I was hired in June 1974; I'd come straight out of high school and applied for the job. I went to high school at St. Joseph's at Bay and Wellesley, which was close to campus, and there they recommended that we apply here. I was qualified because I had taken a commercial course in high school. It was a nice interview, I liked the people, and my supervisor was a wonderful woman. The people were nice and they spoke Portuguese and I thought I could use my Portuguese. Before me, they hadn't had someone in that position for a while, so they were so happy to finally have someone there. There was a very tall professor, I think he was German, who said "Finally, we have someone here!" as a reaction to my being hired. When I started, my supervisor was already in her 60s and when she retired, I took over her job as administrative assistant. That's probably when we hired Blanca. She worked for 3 years and then left because her husband went to Chile for a job for two years, and then she returned and worked here for around 30 years.

What are some of the changes you've seen at the university since you started here? How has business management technology changed in your time here?

Since I started, technology has changed. We used to have old typewriters, although when I started, they already had electric typewriters. We always had to do 3 copies of something when we were typing - if you made a mistake you'd have to white it out, and sometimes you'd have to do that for 3-4 pages. Then we got a photocopier, and then we got typewriters with floppy disks. After that, we finally got computers, which were a blessing. Back then it wasn't as busy as it is today; it seems to me that as computers came, the work started to increase. Before, we used to fill out forms by hand and we would send it to central, but then many things started to get decentralized, and work came back to the department, for example, payments and the admission of graduate students. In my time, I've had to learn a lot of new programs, like HR, ROSI, Accounts Payable, for example. I think ultimately it was for the better.

I've met many professors over the years and most of them have retired. Some were even retiring when I started. At that time, most of the people who were at the department were older, but a few years after that they started hiring some younger people. After I'd been there for a few years, they hired professors Rupp, Marujo, Blackmore. Professor Percival was a graduate student at that time and then he came back to the department after a few years and was

hired. Before, we had a lot of graduate students but there were no RAs because people weren't doing a lot of research at that time. Professor Valdez was an exceptionally active profes-

sor, in the sense that he did a lot of research, Professor Alice was as well, but for some reason not too many were hiring RAs, I guess they were just doing the work themselves. The professors now are all younger, before most of them were probably past their 60s, at least I was so young at the time that they all looked older. The graduate students at that time were taking longer to finish. There wasn't as much money available to them as there is now. Now they get more money, more fellowships, more teaching hours. The professors now do more research; at that time, most of the students were TAs and there were some that were teaching the SPA100, but overall I think the professors spent more time teaching and less time on research than they do now. In September 1999, the department office was relocated here from 21 Sussex. The building was really old; when I started there was a really old-fashioned elevator. In those days, most classes were in Sidney Smith Hall, at University College, and at New College. When we moved, the classes too were relocated here. I don't think we had linguistics before 2000. Before, the department focus was more on Latin American studies, literature, and language learning (we even offered Catalan). They created a program called Ibero-American studies which was around for a few years, and Professor Valdez was in charge of that. At a certain point it disappeared and I think that's when the Latin American Studies program emerged.

In terms of the chairs, I was hired by Chair Stagg and Professor Gordon, who was going to be the acting chair the next year. Chair Levy was a lot of fun, a breath of fresh air. When he was around, there was a lot of laughter and jokes at the department. He was very active in the community and promoted Portuguese very well. Professor Rupp was chair for almost two terms and I also got along with him really well; he's a very nice person. Then came Chair Colantoni; she's so fun and I love her laughter. That's why I stayed, because I loved the people I was working with, who were and are very kind and very considerate. The department is a very nice place to work because it's a very close-knit community. I hope the person who replaces me enjoys it as much as I've enjoyed working here. **(flip to the third page to see some photos from Rosinda's retirement luncheon!)**

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