

Las Coordinadas

News from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Toronto
Spring 2016

In this issue

- Department news and activity
- Announcements and awards
- Chat with Professor Emeritus Ricardo Sternberg
- Vintage Corner: Remembering Wendy Rolph
- OMNI TV interview with Portuguese faculty
- Student life

Department news & activity

New Portuguese faculty members!

We are delighted to announce that two new faculty members will be joining the Department this Fall. Professor Suzi Lima is coming to the University of Toronto from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; her areas of research include language acquisition, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics and language documentation. Professor Anabela Rato joins us from the Universidade do Minho; she specializes in phonetics, phonology, psycholinguistics, second language acquisition and foreign language learning. They will be teaching some existing courses in addition to the following new courses: PRT368: Brazilian Indigenous Languages (Professor Lima, offered in Fall 2016) and PRT364: Portuguese Language in the World (Professor Rato, offered in Spring 2017)

Announcements & awards

Three new publications from Professor Rosa Sarabia!

Department Professor Rosa Sarabia has three upcoming publications in 2016: (1) “The art of writing and writing as political art in León Ferrari” in *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*. Vol.93, 3, 2016; (2) “De la insularidad a la continentalización: el neopolicial cubano de Leonardo Padura” in *Literatura y cultura en Centroamérica y el Caribe*, Werner Mackenbach, Horst Nitschack y Albino Chacón ed., San José de Costa Rica: Editorial de la Universidad Nacional, 2016; (3) “Futurism in Argentina” in *Handbook of International Futurism*, Günter Berghaus, ed. Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2016.

Great news from former PhD student Clelia Rodriguez!

Clelia has been appointed an Assistant Professor (status only) at the U of T Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) Department of Social Justice Education.

Congratulations to our faculty and graduate students!

Professor Yolanda Iglesias & Jose Eduardo Villalobos Graillet (PhD student) will participate in the 52nd Conference of the Canadian Association of Hispanistas at University of Calgary this June, with a roundtable dedicated to the Images of Celestina. In the same conference, Oleksiy Babych (PhD candidate) will present his paper “Los espacios de la crisis económica en España en la novella Democracia de Pablo Gutiérrez.”

Congratulations to alumna Anna Casas Aguilar!

Department alumna Anna Casas Aguilar has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of British Columbia.

Vintage Corner: Remembering Wendy Rolph

Note from Department Chair

Dear Colleagues, It is with deep sadness that I communicate to you that Professor emeritus Wendy Rolph passed away on April 6th. Professor Rolph began her career at U of T in 1967, and she was the Chair of our Department between 1993-98, when she moved to the Dean's office. After her retirement, she continued to contribute to the life of our Department, generously sharing her experience with all of us. Those of us who had the pleasure to meet her will keep warm memories of her passion for life, her energy and her acute comments. She will be greatly missed. - Laura Colantoni, Department Chair

Note from Gethin Hughes

As a fellow graduate student, friend, and later colleague of Professor Rolph (Wendy), I quickly came to respect her intellect and analytical skills. Her interests were both wide and eclectic, ranging from medieval Catalan poetry to modern Hispanic culture. Her work on contemporary Spanish and Latin American film has been widely recognised for its originality and perceptiveness. Her publications, reviews and numerous invitations to speak on the topic attest to her international reputation, academic credentials and unrivalled expertise. Wendy's organisational skills and tactful approach to problems were particularly evident to me during her time as Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese (1993-98). It was here that I worked most closely with her, as Associate Chair. We met frequently and I appreciated fully the fact that she was not only very approachable but also knew how to assign responsibility wisely and make decisions only after considerable thought, matters that both her colleagues and students valued greatly. She was an outstanding administrator, whose qualities and skills were later used to equal effect when she moved into senior university administration as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Besides her excellent administrative and organisational skills, Wendy was also an outstanding teacher. I have some past AntiCalendars, published by the Students Union at the University of Toronto, in which she is variously described as “excellent, witty, intelligent, very energetic, inspiring and a great teacher.” These are the comments that all of us aspire to receive in our teaching career, and Wendy certainly deserved these accolades. She treated students with

respect, was passionate about their welfare and did everything possible to ensure that their experience both in her department and in the university was positive and enriching. In all of this, she was a consummate professional, a quality that was recognised when she was awarded the prestigious Internationalisation Service Award for outstanding service to international education in 2006. Wendy loved her work at the University of Toronto. She also loved to travel whether on university matters or for scholarly research. But above all she cherished her time with Tony, her beloved husband for 56 years, and with her family and friends.

Student life

Graduate

The University of Toronto's Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Association invites submissions from scholars of all disciplines for the 34th Levy-Wasteneys Symposium, "Language of the Revolution", to be held in Toronto on September 30th, 2016. Stemming from the notion that revolution manifests itself in politics as much as it does in history, science, law, music and visual or performing arts, this symposium welcomes reflections on the social, aesthetic and theoretical insurrections at play within the Luso-Hispanic world. Suggested themes include: Independence and revolutions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, tradition or rupture in language and linguistics, permutations of scientific and legal discourse, aesthetic vanguardism, cinematography and image of the revolution, printing and social movements, literature of national liberation, identity, memory, testimony, teaching through change, dystopia and post-revolution, rebellion, silence and censorship. This symposium will be a simultaneous celebration of the centenary since the emergence of Fernando Pessoa's sensationalism and Vicente Huidobro's creationism in 1916. As such, critical works related to these avant-garde movements are particularly welcome.

Undergraduate

The Spanish Student Organization (SSO) was established as a new campus club in August 2015, and over the past academic year we have greatly increased our membership and campus presence. This club is a social and academic resource for all students learning the Spanish language. We consistently offered successful conversation labs on a biweekly basis, and helped many of our members improve their Spanish oral and writing skills. We are one of the few campus clubs who give our executive members and mentors co-curricular validation through the University, in return for their great efforts to improve our club. We recently also hosted Latin Night—our social of the year—with the sponsorship of University College, Victoria College, and the UTSU. We are pleased to share our accomplishments, and look forward to providing more opportunities as well as social events in the 2016-2017 academic year!

Contact information

administrative staff:

Prof. Laura Colantoni (Department Chair), Prof. Manuela Marujo (Associate Chair, Portuguese), Prof. Sanda Munjic (Undergraduate Coordinator), Prof. Néstor Rodríguez (Graduate Coordinator), Mrs. Rosinda Raposo (Business Officer & Manager), Mrs. Sara Solis (Undergraduate & Graduate Assistant).

newsletter editors:

Shalah Mohammed & Carson Healey (Department Media Assistants)

office:

Victoria College, Rm. 208, University of Toronto, 91 Charles St. West, Toronto, ON, M5S 1K7, Canada

phone:

416-813-4080, 416-813-4084 (fax)

[department website](#)