

ROMANCE NEWS, FALL 2014

I have been gathering your stories for over a year, and there's no excuse for not getting them onto our website! Many of you now have new books, faculty appointments, additions to your families, and one induction to Knighthood. Please congratulate your fellow alums, and don't stop sending me news. Our format is about to become much more fluid, so there won't be such a long wait between your sending it into me getting it out there.

Hofstra Mourns the Loss of Professor Antonio Cao



The following was written by Maria Anastasio, Acting Chair, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. Dr. Antonio Cao, associate professor of Spanish, passed away on April 23.

Professor Antonio Cao (PhD Spanish, 1975) was born in Havana, Cuba, where he attended St. George's School. After arriving in the United States, he earned a BA from the University of Miami, a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and a PhD from Harvard University. He taught at Harvard and at Vassar College before joining the full-time faculty at Hofstra University in 1983, becoming a member of the Department of Spanish, which later became part of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

Professor Cao was author of *Federico García Lorca y las Vanguardias (Hacia el teatro)* (London: Tamesis, 1984), in addition to dozens of articles and book chapters on Latino theater, the plays of the Spanish Golden Age, and 19th- and 20th-century Cuban and Spanish narrative and poetry. He was a true scholar. He was fluent in at least four languages and learned in a plethora of artistic disciplines, including art history and ballet. His passion was always opera. He often

attended performances at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

He was an active member of the community of scholars specializing in Spanish and Latin American literature, and participated in countless conferences both in the United States and abroad. He served as president of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA) and of the Association of Spanish Professionals in America (ALDEEU). He was also a longstanding board member of the Cuban Cultural Center of New York and of the Instituto Internacional in Madrid.

His love for the classroom was unsurpassed, and until the last months of his illness he did not lose hope that he would be able to return to teach at Hofstra and share his extraordinary love for the arts with students. Every year he provided his classes with the opportunity to experience theater in Spanish and organized frequent trips to the Repertorio Español (the Latino Theater of New York). Among his innumerable contributions to Hofstra, he was one of the founding members of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program (LACS), and brought many guest speakers to enrich intellectual life on campus.

Professor Cao will be sorely missed by his students, colleagues, and his many friends in the academic community in Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States, in the theater world, and in opera circles, where he was deeply respected and loved.

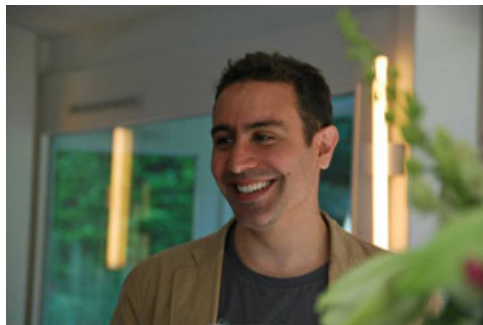
Lauren Ravalico (PhD French, 2011) Accepts Tenure Track Position at the College of Charleston

Lauren was formally at Boston College, where she was featured professor on the front page of the student newspaper *The Heights*. The link to the article is: <http://bcheights.com/features/2014/ravalico-brings-passion-for-languages-to-lectures/> (laurenralico@gmail.com)

Jerónimo Pizarro Honored

The jury decided to award the Prémio Eduardo Lourenço 2013 to **Jerónimo Pizarro** (PhD Spanish, '09) in recognition of his role in the development and dissemination of Fernando Pessoa studies in the world and his activity as a promoter of Portuguese culture in Ibero-America.

The annual award, which is named after the essayist Eduardo Lourenço, mentor and honorary director of the Centro de Estudos Ibéricos (CEI), is intended to recognize individuals or institutions with relevant contributions in the fields of Iberian culture, citizenship and cooperation. (j.pizarro188@uniandes.edu.co)



Jeronimo Pizarro Jaramillo

Marva Barnett Knighted

The French government has named Professor **Marva Barnett (PhD French, '80)** a *chevalier* of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques. The Ordre is an association in France for academic, cultural and educational figures, founded by the Emperor Napoléon to recognize devotion and accomplishment in teaching, scholarship and research. Later, membership was extended to non-French citizens to acknowledge their promotion of French language or significant achievement in the field of education.

Gérard Pouchain, chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur du Mérite National et des Palmes Académiques, presented Prof. Barnett with the Palmes medal last fall at a ceremony in the Dome Room of the University of Virginia's Rotunda. Jean-Claude Duthion, representing the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., and U.Va. President Teresa A. Sullivan were also present.

In 2009, Barnett published *Victor Hugo on Things That Matter* a volume that highlights the contemporary

relevance of Hugo's ideas and puts his work in historic and personal contexts. She has taught numerous courses on Hugo, as well as on reading and writing French texts.

Last fall, Prof. Barnett offered a first-year seminar on *Les Misérables* in the context of the 21st century. The course focused on the musical adaptation, which opened in cinemas last Christmas. Incorporating the use of multimedia they had learned in class as well as their own personal narratives, her students prepared a creative final assignment on themes of their choice from the novel.

Barnett is now working on a book about what both the novel and the musical say about living well. Quoting Barnett: "[The students] have been able to step back from their beloved musical version and recognize what theatrical constraints have sometimes done to the story, and in what ways the musical reinforces the novel's power."

Also the author of *Read with Pleasure* and *More Than Meets the Eye: Foreign Language Reading, Theory and Practice*, Professor Barnett has published in such journals as *The Modern Language Journal*, *Foreign Language Annals* and *The French Review*. She is founder and director of U.Va.'s Teaching Resource Center. Last year, she was also given the Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest service honor the University community bestows upon its faculty. On her website, Barnett writes: " 'Aimer, c'est agir' ... 'To love is to act.' An aphorism highly appropriate to Hugo's life and wonderfully open to interpretation, these words summarize well what moves me professionally. Because I believe in young people's potential to learn, grow and contribute in marvelous ways, I teach. Because I care about France, the Francophone world and the importance of cross-cultural understanding, I teach French language, literature and culture." (mab7b@virginia.edu)

More Alumni News Notes

Marlies Mueller (PhD French, '75) who is now retired Senior Preceptor in RLL at Harvard, writes: "Is there life after Harvard? After forty years of non-stop racing against the clock to fulfill teaching commitments, to which I joyfully think back, it may seem that life in a rocking chair behind the stove, clad in dressing gown and pantoufles should be the well-deserved end of the road. Well, not quite for this retiree. My husband and I have been taking a number

of fabulous cruises in the Caribbean and to Europe on board the Queen Mary. We were utterly spoiled by superb food, daily massages and beauty applications - the latter most welcome at our age! And we frequently found ourselves in the delightful company of fellow alumna Marie Wellington. We also visited friends and family in Germany. Upon returning, we decided to augment our household and keep ourselves in shape by adopting Cordelia (Lear's charming daughter), a six pound quadruped from Yorkshire. One might have thought that disciplining thousands of students would be an adequate apprenticeship for training one tiny furry bundle. Wrong! Cordelia has taken over the household and is busy training *us* to perfection!

“And among my more scholarly retirement occupations is the learning of Mandarin and Easter Arabic. I have also done further work on Hindi, which I started many years ago in India.”
(mmueller@fas.harvard.edu)



Cordelia

Mueller

guide to Dante's *Divine Comedy* as *Companion to Dante's Dante Studies: A Comprehensive Guide for the Student and General Reader*. It was published under the Auspices of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Global Academic Publishing, Harpur College, Binghamton University, 2006. The guide has proven very useful as a refresher to instructors in Dante as well.

Prof. Pellegrini is founding editor of the journal *Dante Studies* for the Dante Society of America.
(alpelleg@binghamton.edu)

Muriel Farley Dominguez (PhD French, '78) has now retired from teaching, and serves as a consultant in higher education - most recently at the World Bank Institute. She is also active in the Arlington-Reims Committee of ASCA. This past summer, she coordinated an internship and host family stay for two students from the University of Reims. (murielfarley@gmail.com)

Luca Cottini (PhD Italian, '12) is leaving his post at McGill University for a tenure-track position at Villanova University as assistant professor of Italian Studies. (luca.cottini@mcgill.ca)

On 16 May 2013, the Archivio della Memoria delle Donne at the Florence State Archive (Florence, Italy) honored **Ombretta Frau** and **Cristina Gragnani (both PhD Italian, '02)** with a panel on their book *Sottoboschi letterari. Sei case studies fra Otto e Novecento* (Firenze University Press, 2011). Ombretta is Associate Professor and DGS at Mount Holyoke College; Cristina is Assistant Professor at Temple University.)
(ofrau@mholyoke.edu;
gragnani@temple.edu)

Stefanie Wooler (PhD French, '12) and Adam Bell were married on the 4th of August this year.
stefh.wooler@gmail.com

Professor Emeritus at Harpur College **Anthony L Pellegrini (PhD Italian, '52)** in collaboration with longtime friend and colleague Aldo S. Bernardo recently published a revised edition of their study



Stefanie Wooler and Adam Bell

In September, **Barbara Weissberger's (Ph.D Spanish, '76)** article "'Es de Lope': Child Martyrdom in Cervantes's *Baños de Argel*" published in the journal *Cervantes* 32.2 (2012), was awarded the Luis Andrés Murillo best article of 2012 by the Cervantes Society of America. (weiss046@umn.edu)

Carrie Noland (PhD,' 90) will be publishing her third book, *Aesthetic Subjectivity: Negritude Poets in Modernist Print* with Columbia University Press next year. She is currently pursuing research for a new project that focuses on the experimental choreographer Merce Cunningham, the artist Marcel Duchamp, and the performance poet Jackson Mac Low. Provisionally entitled "After the Arbitrary," the project draws on her earlier theoretical work on embodiment, agency, and performance. (cjnoland@uci.edu)

Rosemary Ashby (PhD French,' 98) writes in: life finds me here in Chestnut Hill and also in Paris, where I often see Jann Matlock. My work with The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, now unfortunately rebranded as Serious Fun Children's Network founded by Paul Newman, took me so often to Paris that I happily ended up with a flat in the Marais. I am on the board of the French camp, L'Envol, and for a long while was treasurer of the Hole in the Wall Foundation. I do a lot of translating, also and explaining the Americans to the French and vice versa. (ashbyros@aol.com)

The Mexican Committee of Historical Sciences has just chosen **Juan Vazquez's (PhD Spanish,'10)** publication "*Forging an assassin: Goyo Cárdenas and the changing identity of a serial killer*" as winner of the best paper in the category of twentieth century. (jdd4@nyu.edu)

In 2013, **Maurice Samuels (PhD French,' 00)** was made the Betty Jane Anlyan Professor of French at Yale University, where he also directs the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism. (maurice_samuels@yale.edu)

Olga Karman (PhD Spanish '76; formerly Olga Karman Mendell), begin working this past summer as a Spanish-English certified court interpreter both in Buffalo City Court and for Geneva Worldwide, Inc. at the NYS Department She is also serving on the boards of King Center Charter School and Just Buffalo Literary Center, both in Buffalo, New York. (buffalolga@aol.com)

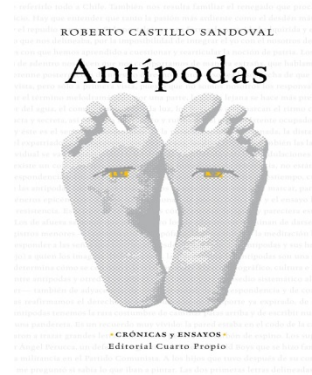
New Books

The Hispanic Academy of Publishing is proud to announce **Daniel Aguirre's (PhD Spanish,' 10)** new title, *El salto a lo desconocido: Yo lírico y negatividad dialéctica en la poesía de la modernidad*. The poetry of modernity is characterized by a negative "temple", said José Ortega y Gasset. Since Arthur Rimbaud proclaims "I is another" and Stéphane Mallarmé tries to undermine the conventional relationship between Word and world, the poetic heir of romanticism is defined by the controversial denial of its own conditions of possibility. Based on analysis of texts of Charles Baudelaire, T. S. Eliot, Luis Cernuda, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Ezra Pound, Rainer Maria Rilke and W. B. Yeats, *El salto a lo desconocido* provides a panoramic and indicative of the *despersonalizadoras* trends that distinguish the lyrical modern. (It is equally noteworthy that Daniel has joined the Spanish section of the RLL faculty this fall as an assistant professor.) (daquirre@fas.harvard.edu)



Chilean Ministry of Culture and the Arts. (rcastill@haverford.edu)

in



Gene H. Bell-Villada, (PhD Spanish, '74) is the author of a new book with a lengthy and comical title: *Nabokov, Ayn Rand, and the Libertarian Mind: What the Russian-American Odd Pair Can Tell Us about Some Values Myths, and Manias Widely Held Most Dear* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). About the book, he tells Romance News: "Following a dissection of those two authors, I take an in-depth look at the broader picture of the libertarian movements and ideologies of recent decades. Along the way, I trace and reflect on my embattled relationship both to the "odd pair" and to American libertarianism. The volume concludes with two appendices: A) A foreword to a new edition of Nabokov's *Speak, Memory* that had been written by novelist Louis Begley ('54) in the 1990s on commission from Random House but was then suppressed by Nabokov's churlish son Dmitri ('55), who objected to Begley's polite criticisms of the Olympian artifice's indifference to the Hitler regime; and B) A set of my personal spoofs of libertarians and their arguments, featuring in part a character of my own making called "Larry the Libertarian." The book, then, is a kind of hybrid, a miscellany that mingles criticism, autobiography, political analysis, literary sleuthing, and satire all in one! (Gene.H.Bell-Villada@williams.edu)



Roberto Castillo Sandoval's (PhD Spanish, '92) latest volume, *Antípodas* (Santiago de Chile: Cuarto Propio, 2014) was released in May. *Antípodas* is a miscellaneous book that brings together memoirs, essays, travel narratives, chronicles, and columns written during the past 10 years or so. The book, taken *in toto*, provides a kaleidoscopic view about Latin American --especially Chilean-- politics and culture, along with reflections about identity, historical memory and the diasporic condition. In 2011, an earlier version of the manuscript won the *Escrituras de la memoria* special prize given by the

Veronica Cortinez's (PhD, Spanish, '90) two volumes of *Evolución en libertad: El cine chileno de fines de los sesenta* (Santiago: Editorial Cuarto Propio, 2014; 975 pp.) offer the reader a social, cultural and aesthetic history of a brilliant moment in a cinematic tradition that is often neglected because of its relative absence on the international market. This cinema of a small nation is the result of a long gestation within the framework of a nation-state trying to democratically develop a popular culture, that is to say a culture created and enjoyed by the greatest possible number of citizens. The cinematographic production promoted by the administration of Eduardo Frei Montalva on this basis presents a kaleidoscopic and diverse range of images nevertheless united by a shared sense of "chilenidad." The films of a stellar group of directors working at the time—Alejo Álvarez, Germán Becker, Álvaro Covacevich, Aldo Francia, Patricio Kaulen, Miguel Littin, Raúl Ruiz and Helvio Soto—are remarkable not because of their political standpoints, which critics have tended to highlight, but because of the aesthetic richness of the images deployed through various film genres reinvented for a people in search of an identity. The cinema of the late sixties emerges as the perfect medium for a cultural synthesis where Chile's urban and rural fictions happily coexists with traditional and modern theater, poetry, painting and television as well as folk, classical and pop music. As it explores the mostly ignored cultural foundations of this important corpus of films, the book provides a complete collection of the songs that give rhythm to the eight films under scrutiny: *Morir un poco* (1967) *Largo viaje* (1967), *Tierra quemada* (1968), *Ayúdeme Ud. compadre* (1968), *Tres tristes tigres* (1968), *Caliche sangriento* (1969), *Valparaíso mi amor* (1969), *El chacal*

de *Nahueltoro* (1970). Along with a broad range of illustrations, the book also includes DVDs of the two most successful films of the era, virtually forgotten and unavailable to the public until now: the Chilean western, *Tierra quemada*; and the musical, *Ayúdeme Ud. compadre*. (cortinez@humnet.ucla.edu)

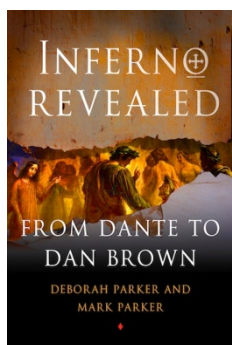


Deborah Parker (PhD, Italian, '85), Professor of Italian at the University of Virginia Charlottesville has published *Inferno Revealed: From Dante to Dan Brown*. She co-authored the book with her husband, Mark Parker (PhD, English, '84). *Inferno Revealed* provides a lively account introduction to Dante and his world--replete with explanations of what Brown does--and doesn't--get right. It examines Dante's decision to make himself the hero of the *Divine Comedy*, something no other epic poet has done, and what ramifications this has for modern interpretations and adaptations of his work. Here's what reviewers and the academic community are saying:

"...a lively sprint through Dante's celebrated poem and its stupendous afterlife. The authors roll out their account as a mystery story of their own." — William J. Kennedy, Professor of Comparative Literature, Cornell University

"Deborah and Mark Parker provide a witty and intelligent guide to the *Inferno*, and then to 'Dante after Dante', as it were. They take readers on a tour of how

Dante has provided a springboard for creative reuse, culminating in Dan Brown, who has captured the imagination of many readers and, importantly, led them back to Dante's medieval masterpiece." —Christopher S. Celenza, Director, American Academy in Rome, and Charles Homer Haskins Professor, Johns Hopkins University

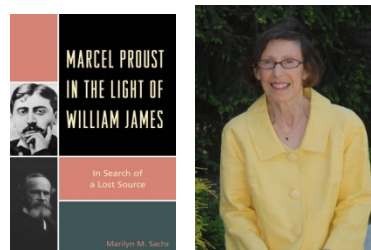


Rosemary Peters (PhD French, '03) has just celebrated three major life events: in August, she was granted tenure at Louisiana State University. In September, her book, *Stealing Things: Theft and the Author in Nineteenth-Century France*, was published by Lexington Books. Also in September, she and her fiancé Andrew welcomed their baby boy to the world. Julian Frederick Christopher Peters-Hill made his entrance on 7 September. Says Rosemary, "we are absolutely smitten." (romaryka@gmail.com)



Rosemary Peters, Julian Peters-Hill

Marilyn Sachs's (AM French 1968; PhD, 2009 Washington University in St. Louis) most recent book, *In Light of William James: in Search of a Lost Source*, was released by Rowman and Littlefield in 2013. This book discloses how Proust likely became familiar with William James and illustrates how James's writings were key to Proust's ability to craft the book he had been trying to write, extending even to his use of similar language and imagery and a narrative schema that arguably mimics James's descriptions of consciousness, perception, and memory. (marilyn_sach@post.harvard.edu)



Marilyn Sachs

