HISPANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE—2011 STRATEGIC PLAN

Originally established at Stony Brook as part of a department of Romance Languages, Hispanic Languages and Literature became an autonomous department in 1970, reflecting the growing impact and intellectual vitality of Hispanic cultures both internationally and within the U.S. Our undergraduate and graduate programs are designed to serve a broad constituency of students with courses devoted to the language, linguistics, and literary and visual cultures of Spain, Latin America and Latino communities in the United States. At the undergraduate level Hispanic Languages and Literature attracts students as a core Humanities major that challenges them to develop their critical and analytic skills while acquiring linguistic and cultural proficiency in the third largest "global language." Our four graduate degree programs, the MA and PhD in Spanish and Latin American Literature and Culture, MA in Hispanic Linguistics and MAT in Spanish education, serve a diverse range of students with innovative curricula appropriate to their background and professional goals. Our faculty strives to engage closely with students at all levels while maintaining an active research agenda. The success of these efforts is confirmed by the major grants from the NSF, NEH and Spanish Ministry of Culture earned by our faculty during the last five years. The 2010 NRC report puts us in the top quartile in research productivity and our across the board scores identify us as the premiere public doctoral program in Hispanic Studies in New York State and the top-rated literature department at Stony Brook

Collaboration

The key to our departmental DNA is the collaborative nature of our work. Hispanic Languages and Literature is deeply enmeshed in the interdisciplinary culture of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Stony Brook. Professor Charnon-Deutsch is an affiliate of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and Women's Studies and has served as Acting Director of the Humanities Institute. Professor Vernon is an affiliate of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and Women's Studies and was Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (LACS) from 1997 to 2000. Professor Paul Firbas is currently serving as the LACS director and is participating in the "Histories of Modernity" project organized by colleagues in English and History and hosted by the Humanities Institute. Professors Ordoñez and Elías-Ulloa are affiliates of the Linguistics Department and LACS. In collaboration with colleagues from Linguistics and with the support of the FAHSS Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Professor Ordoñez organized two yearlong lecture series on Romance Languages that brought prominent international scholars to Stony Brook. Professor Flesler is an affiliate of Women's Studies, LACS, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and a member of the Humanities Institute Advisory Board and of the Center for the Study of Jewish, Christian and Muslim Relations. Her work with colleagues in English, Music, Political Science and Italian Studies has born fruit in two FAHSS sponsored conferences, "Europe and Islam" (Fall 2006) and "Migrations and Transnational Identities" (Fall 2009). Professor Pérez-Melgosa is an affiliate member of LACS and a core affiliate of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. In Fall 2009 he co-organized a semester-long lecture series/undergraduate cluster course also supported by FAHSS on the topic of "Other Hollywoods/ Hollywood and Its Others" with colleagues from History and Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, the model for a similar effort at the graduate level to be funded by the CAS Dean's office in Fall 2011.

We also enjoy extensive ties with various academic and cultural institutions nationally and internationally. Professors Charnon-Deutsch, Vernon, Flesler and Pérez-Melgosa are frequent speakers at programs and seminars on contemporary Spanish and Latin American culture and society sponsored by NYU's King Juan Carlos I Center. Professors Vernon and

Pérez-Melgosa are longstanding collaborators in film series and seminars with Long Island's premier independent cinema, The Cinema Arts Centre, in Huntington. As befits the global dimension of the discipline, our research is supported by a range of international sources. Professor Roncero-López forms part of the research group GRISO at the University of Navarra devoted to the study of Spanish Golden Age and colonial literatures and is an editor of its journal, *La Perinola*, as well as an international working group comprised of researchers from the Universities of Navarra, Oxford, Paris-Sorbonne and Munster studying the intersections of literature, art and power in the period. Professor Firbas is working with colleagues at the Pontificia Catholic University in Peru on the edition and publication of a facsimile edition of the *Diario de Lima* (1700-1711). Professor Charnon-Deutsch is currently collaborating in an ongoing international consortium researching 'The Culture of Emotions/La cultura de las emociones" sponsored by Spain's prestigious Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Professor Ordoñez spent the 2010 calendar year as a Fulbright scholar in Brazil at the invitation of the São Paulo State research agency, FAPESP. He has also collaborated extensively with colleagues in Europe in the context of his NSF sponsored research on lesser-known Romance Languages. Professor Flesler is a member of the Center for Iberian and Iberoamerican Research at the University of Fez, Morocco and of the editorial board for its journal, *Magriberia*. During the last ten years Professor Vernon has worked as part of an international research team funded by the British Arts and Humanities Research Board and the British Academy that is currently completing an oral history of cinema-going in Franco's Spain and a related study of film, fashion and photography magazines. She is also engaged in two ongoing research projects, on cinema and television during the Spanish Transition to democracy and the representation of gender and the body in contemporary Spanish cinema, conducted through the Universities Carlos III and Complutense in Madrid and sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Sciences. Professor Elías is currently leading an NSF sponsored project documenting endangered languages in Latin America. He is working with the Universidad Católica del Peru to organizer a major conference on Amazonian languages, Amazonicas IV, to take place in Lima, Peru in 2012.

Challenges and Future Initiatives

Despite the loss over the last five years of key faculty members to the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and the University of Texas our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to grow and thrive. Major enrollment in Hispanic Languages and Literature has increased 32% since 2003; with more than 140 undergraduate majors, we are the second largest major in the Humanities after English. Thanks to our strong reputation we continue to attract talented young faculty members, with Lena Burgos-Lafuente, a specialist in Latin American poetry and Transatlantic studies, joining our department in 2010, and Javier Uriarte recently hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor of 19th century Latin American literature to begin in Fall 2011. In spite of the uncompetitive level of Stony Brook's TA stipend our doctoral program successfully recruits highly qualified students who seek out our flexible and interdisciplinary-based curricula, internationally recognized faculty and the research opportunities afforded by our collaborative network. Thanks in part to the ongoing strength of the job market in Spanish and Latin American fields (the 2008-9 MLA report shows that 55.5% college and university job offers in languages and literature go to specialists in Hispanic studies, versus 17% in Comparative Literature, 16.5% in French, 11.5% in German and Slavic and 6.8% in Italian), we continue to achieve an excellent placement record with our 2009-2011 graduates accepting tenure track and postdoctoral positions at Vanderbilt University, Vassar College, Temple University, Queens College, Texas A & M and Colby College, among other institutions.

As we contemplate the future the department is especially cognizant of its role in the midst of a growing urban/suburban Latino community. Three quarters of the students who enroll in our upper division courses are heritage speakers of Spanish whose family origins reflect the full diversity of the New York Latino population. In addition to Professor Ruíz-Debbe's critical research on bilingualism and language use among native and near-native Spanish speakers on Long Island, our long-range goals include further developing and strengthening out teaching and research resources in Latino studies, drawing on current faculty and reviving earlier plans for a joint hire with English and/or Women's Studies. In view of Brazil's growing global influence and increasing cultural and economic integration with its Spanish-speaking neighbors, we seek to rebuild Stony Brook's preeminence as a focus for Brazilian studies. Paul Firbas has done work on Colonial Brazil and Francisco Ordoñez is actively engaged with researchers from the Universities of Campiñas and São Paulo exploring the cross comparison of dialects spoken in Brazil and the rest of Latin America. Key to achieving this goal is the ability to make permanent the position of our new hire, Javier Uriarte, whose research involves the comparative analysis of travel literature and nation building in the Southern Cone (Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Brazil).

A third area we are working to expand is that of cinema and visual analysis. Stony Brook's Hispanic Languages and Literature Department has played a pioneering role in introducing cinema studies into the undergraduate and graduate Spanish/Latin American/Latino studies curriculum. Most of our literature faculty incorporate visual culture into their study of early modern, 19th century and contemporary Spain and Latin America. With the encouragement of the Graduate School we have developed a draft proposal for the creation of a graduate certificate program in the Visual Cultures of Latin America and Spain.

The Department is further committed to developing a Linguistics track at the PhD level. The model draws on successful programs already established at flagship state universities in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Ohio State which award the PhD in Spanish in the subareas of both linguistics and literature. In responding to the growing demand for specialized courses in Hispanic theoretical and applied linguistics, this new doctoral program would draw on the strength of Stony Brook's outstanding Linguistics department to create a program that brings together the study of language as a human faculty and the particularities of individual languages in context. The success of our linguists in attracting major grant funding points to the opportunities available for future doctoral students.

Finally, looking beyond the longtime and still fruitful "marriage" between Spanish and the teaching professions, we envisage the creation of joint programs in Spanish and journalism, Spanish and creative writing and translation studies. We are particularly excited about the possibility of collaborating with Stony Brook's new undergraduate and Master's level Journalism program to develop a Spanish track or certificate in the field. More than simple linguistic competence what we have to offer is high-level cultural fluency, with potential courses exploring the extensive links between journalism and literature in Latin America, Spanish language media history, as well internships and study abroad through our programs in Buenos Aires and Madrid-Alcalá de Henares. While these initiatives will require expanded resources they also have the potential to cement Stony Brook's role locally and internationally in forging an innovative global curriculum that engages with the Hispanic world in all its richness and complexity.