Letter from the Chair

On August 1st, I became the new chair of the department. I’m honored and excited to take on this new challenge—in large part because we have an excellent department with multiple strengths in research, teaching, and community engagement. Let’s focus on that first category: research. Our professors have developed pioneering research on, among other things, wisdom literature in Medieval Spain; performative practices in Latin America; graphic novels by Latinx authors; and language contact situations. This newsletter takes a closer look at the scholarship of one colleague: Associate Professor Rebeka Campos-Astorkiza.

Our department demonstrates a deep commitment to the dynamic interface between research, teaching, and community engagements. Thus, it is no surprise that Dr. Campos-Astorkiza runs a Speech Analysis lab in collaboration with current graduate students; or that undergraduate Diego Arellano has drawn on the expertise of Dr. Michelle Wibbelsman to carry out valuable independent projects. Other professors have utilized their knowledge of specific countries and cities to set up new study abroad opportunities, like our highlighted new study abroad program in Curitiba, Brazil.

We have an exciting academic year ahead of us. Our next newsletter will feature our community partnerships.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Podalsky
Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Recent Publications

Dr. Anna Babel
• 2016. Affective Motivations for borrowing. Language and Communication 49(70-83).

Dr. Paloma Martinez-Cruz
For Professor Campos-Astorkiza, the process of mentoring Undergraduate and Graduate students has proven instrumental and transformative. Dr. Campos-Astorkiza currently serves as Director of Graduate Studies as well as of the Speech Analysis Lab in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. As such, she regularly works with the department’s Graduate students in conducting research. She is also interested in engaging in research with undergraduate students. A project called See Your Speech has given her the opportunity to engage more undergraduates in linguistic research.

See Your Speech is the Hispanic Linguistics subsection of Ohio Speaks, a project of The Ohio State University’s Department of Linguistics. By collecting speech samples from OSU students, Ohio Speaks seeks to learn how people from a variety of regional, ethnic, racial, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds pronounce words. In particular, the project concentrates on how that pronunciation changes during their time at OSU with exposure to increased social and linguistic diversity. Similarly, See Your Speech collects speech samples from OSU students who are learning Spanish as a secondary language, seeking to learn how their pronunciation changes over time during their undergraduate Pronunciation course. Through this project, a diverse set of Undergraduate students are able to see their speech represented visually and graphically, learn about the process of Linguistic research, and are given the opportunity to actively participate in the research process.

Working with this diverse range of students has expanded Prof. Campos-Astorkiza’s own research interests. Because of the interests of her students, her work on phonetics has extended to include a focus on sociophonetics: the study of the relationship between social factors (such as social class or gender) and the sounds of speech.

Recent Publications

- “National Novels and the Emergence of the Public Sphere in Latin America.” Cultural Transformations of the Public Sphere. Contemporary and Historical Perspectives. Ed. by Bernd Fischer and May Mergenthaler. Bern: Peter Lang, 2015. 231-269.

Email: campos-astorkiza.1@osu.edu
Diego Arellano comes from a family full of art enthusiasts – his grandfather owned a gallery, his grandmother owned a photography studio, and many of his family members are photographers. This unique artistic background helps to drive his pursuit of a career in art, and his decision to get involved in the research and curation of Andean and Amazonian art.

Diego is majoring in Arts Management with a minor in Andean and Amazonian Studies. Someday, he would like to open his own gallery complete with space for artist-led community classes. As an undergraduate student, he is already making valuable contributions to his field through his independent work with Dr. Michelle Wibbelsman of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese.

Diego and Dr. Wibbelsman met at a meeting with the Ecuadorian consulate from Chicago. They connected over their shared Ecuadorian backgrounds and Dr. Wibbelsman’s work in Andean Ecuador, and the professor offered him the opportunity to help her with a collection of indigenous Andean artifacts.

Diego describes his relationship with Dr. Wibbelsman, his faculty mentor, as a reciprocal one. With his art management interest and background, he’s been able to support the growth of the Andean artifacts project. In turn, this project has given him valuable, marketable experience in curation, and Dr. Wibbelsman has helped expand his professional network. Additionally, Diego notes that this work has helped him feel rooted to his own culture even while he is far from home here at Ohio State.

Scan to learn more about the minor in Andean and Amazonian Studies.
DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

2017 Looking Backward, Looking Forward

OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 4 | VARIOUS LOCATIONS
Spanning across several days and locations, Día de los Muertos at The Ohio State University includes a procession and film screening as well as academic programming and an event at Green Lawn cemetery.

Scan to learn more about events for Día de los Muertos at The Ohio State University.

BRIDGING ANDEAN & KOREAN POETICS AND POLITICS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC TODAY

With the East Asian Studies Center

NOVEMBER 16-17 | MLK Jr. Lounge, Frank W. Hale
Attendees invited to explore questions about language, culture, poetics, politics, and performance that emerge from intercultural comparison and intercultural convivencia. Will include musical performances and hands-on workshops.

Scan to learn more about “Bridging Andean & Korean Poetics”.

OHIO LATIN AMERICANIST CONFERENCE 2017

Hemispheric Connections, Transdisciplinary Perspectives

OCTOBER 20-21, 2017 | THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
CLAS at OSU is pleased to host the 16th annual Ohio Latin Americanist Conference (OLAC) at the OSU Columbus campus. All Latin Americanist and Latinx Studies scholars, educators, and students from institutions of higher education in Ohio and surrounding states may participate in this annual meeting.

Scan to learn more about OLAC, how to submit a proposal, or to register for the conference.

NEW! STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN CURITIBA, BRAZIL

Application Deadline October 1, 2017

Enjoy the Brazilian summer, Carnival, and the warm hospitality of Curitiba host families while completing the GE Foreign Language Requirement.

Scan to learn more about the Curitiba Study Abroad Program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Curitiba features the world’s first bus rapid transit (BRT) network. These extra-long, high-speed buses make stops at special, elevated stations which can be found all over the city.