

The Translation Turn

Report from ACLA Puebla, by Cristiano Mazzei

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- POETRY!
- MUSIC!!
- SPORTS!!!
- CONFERENCES GALORE!!!!
- EPISTOLARY EXCHANGES!!!!
- TRANSLATION!!!!!!!!!!

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As a Translation Studies scholar, it was a wonderful experience to participate in the ACLA Annual Meeting in Puebla, Mexico in April (19-22). On the one hand, it was invigorating to notice that the field is drawing increasing attention from other academic disciplines, which have come to realize they can benefit a great deal from its theories, especially since a great deal of its focus involves cross-cultural encounters. There were several panels that centered on the discipline itself, with themes that revolved, not surprisingly, around unequal colonial and post-colonial relationships between several languages and cultures – words that kept coming

up during the conference were ‘appropriation,’ ‘plundering,’ ‘usurpation,’ ‘misrepresentation,’ and so forth. Moreover, in other sessions that did not address the issue directly, Translation Studies was used as an important theory in which to ground different research works in the areas of drama, Gender Studies, transnationalism, cinema, migration, violence, travel writing, and representation of minority and marginalized cultures.

On the other hand, my personal experience of having to translate myself in and out of Spanish for four days was very telling of the complexities involving translation. As many of you know, my native language is Bra-

zilian Portuguese and I can say I have a fairly good ‘passive’ knowledge of Spanish. Contrary to what most people think, however, the two languages are not that similar. Spanish-speaking individuals have a hard time understanding Portuguese, although we can pretty much understand a lot of what we hear, if spoken slowly. I tried to avoid as much as possible resorting to *Portuñol* ... in order to make myself understood, because I thought it would be disrespectful if I didn’t try hard to speak in the language of the very nice, friendly and warm *Poblanos* I had the pleasure of coming into contact with.

[continues on p. 3]

From the Editors

Our second semester in CompLit and already taking on the OGSCL Newsletter. That’s a ‘huge’ responsibility, and we’ve tried to give our best from our humble RA Hideaway. As you’ll probably notice, the substantial presence of Translation Studies in this issue is far from casual. In fact, it responds to our own neurosis as invisible creatures that wander through the corridors of the basement and, every now and then, the upper levels of Herter Hall. We want to make translation, and translators, not only visible, but also challenging, exciting, and, as Professor Gentzler would say, hot! Thus, in the next pages you’ll find a bunch of highlights that we have enjoyed throughout this memorable semester, as well as the finest poems, reviews, biographies, and random thoughts with which both graduate students and professors have kindly contributed to this Spring 2007 Newsletter. Here’s a big THANKS to all of you!

Jorge & Aaron

Letter From the Program Director

By William Moebius

Having spent many hours in a Herter Hall that now offers windows-that-open, I can attest to the liveliness and energy of those who walk its corridors and breathe its air, and to the special delight we take in our encounters with each other, especially since those of us who have offices often have our doors left open as well. A stranger to Comparative Literature might wonder how anything gets done, but we have only to point to the record. I believe we need to look at our record, yes, as a function of hard-working individuals, but we shouldn't underestimate the quality of the intellectual (Comparative Literature and beyond) community in which we participate. Within the framework of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Comparative Literature folk have a lot to celebrate.

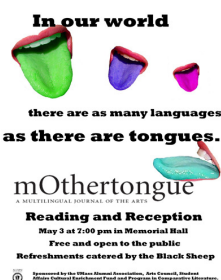
It is a pleasure to see us enabling and achieving scholarly collaboration, whether it is by attending job talks for two positions in Chinese and participating in the follow-up discussions, attending a lecture by Rey Chow and its attendant discussion, or proposing a 12 person panel for the ACLA meeting in Puebla, as Juan Ramos and Professor Balce did with wonderful success. While Professor Tymoczko, another book completed, returned to teaching in January, Professor Portuges remains at work on a book with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. While our community is thriving, so is our scholarship!

Whether I look to Montreal, Manchester (UK), New York, Italy, Germany or Boston or Havana or to Binghamton, Kalamazoo, L.A., Quito, or Puebla, waving my finger through all the cardinal points, one or more of us has either delivered a paper or been conducting research this year out in the world beyond Amherst. No fewer than nine of us, including Professor Balce, presented papers at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in Puebla, to a very favorable response; four of us, including two faculty, delivered papers at an international conference on Word and Image and the Letter [from p.2] Imaginary, reuniting ourselves with our Belgian and Canadian partners in the Word/Image collaborative research project, and another fourteen students and three faculty members made good news at our annual joint Translation Studies conference at Binghamton University, a conference steered by Professor Tymoczko, and joined by Professor Gentzler and Professor Julie Hayes, new Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. In May, we will honor several recipients of the Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature: Caroline Dothee, Yehudit Heller, Lu Li, Ada McKenzie, and Meriem Pagès, and in September, Enrique García.

[continues on p. 7]

“A Night in the Mother Tongue”

by Nikolina Dobрева



“The speakers underscored the event’s importance as a unique opportunity to hear poetry and fiction in different languages.”

mOthertongue, a multilingual journal of the arts, has been edited and published by Comparative Literature majors since 1996. On May 3, 2007, the new, thirteenth, issue was presented at a reading in Memorial Hall, which attracted a lively audience of about fifty students, professors, and other supporters.

The reading began promptly at 7 P.M. with brief remarks by Bill Moebius, Edwin Gentzler,

and a representative of the UMass Alumni Association, all of whom underscored the event’s importance as a unique opportunity to hear poetry and fiction in different languages. In addition to pieces in French, German, Spanish, and Italian, this year *mOthertongue* featured for the first time in its publication history poetry in Bulgarian and Kichwa.

The editors introduced each of the featured authors who then proceeded to read their work in

both the original language in which they wrote it and in its English translation. All the pieces were warmly received by a very supportive, relaxed, and entertained audience.

The event concluded with a reception during which authors, editors, and audience members were able to discuss the reading or simply socialize. It was a very pleasant evening, which left everyone looking forward to the next issue of *mOthertongue*.

“Translation, Identity, and Binghamton 2007”

by Shannon Farley

Last month, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to present my first academic paper at the third annual Binghamton–Amherst graduate students’ conference, by way of Maria Tymoczko’s Translation Theory and Practice class. It’s true; as most of you know, I’ve been around for some time and should have done this way before now. But I’ve got this splintered identity: mom, academic, and resident of Berkshire County. My hour commute keeps me from fully integrating into many aspects of the department, and my desire to be present for my daughter as much as possible in her early years makes it hard for me to go on trips or hang out in Amherst after class. I need to, of course. I have ideas to share and things to say, and this is far from my last conference. This one, being the first, marks a transition time for my family and me: a stage in the translation of my identity from part–to full–time academic.

So, how did we weather our first overnight absence from each other? Surprisingly well. Cassie had a rough first

night, but a fine second. And I enjoyed my time with my classmates and colleagues and new friends at SUNY Binghamton immensely. It’s an aspect of my education that I’ve truly missed out on. Plus, I found people to inflict with Amish Friendship Bread, which was a big plus.

If you want a more thorough summary of each and every paper presented at the conference, I’ve blogged them at kouredios.livejournal.com. Our UMass contingent included Carolyn Shread, Jorge Jiménez–Bellver, Nichole Callandra, Daniel Pope, Kanchuka Dharmasiri, Anna Strowe, Aaron Suko, Huda Yehia, Magdalene Skretta, Cristiano Mazzei, Loc Pham, Betul Cihan, and me. Maria, Edwin, and Julie also attended. We definitely matched if not surpassed the Binghamton contingent in numbers as well as quality. Excellent papers, addressing both general issues of theory and specific case studies, as well as some case studies that led to new theoretical suggestion, were presented. My favorite panel, naturally, was the last, in which Cris, Loc, Betul and I wrapped up the weekend with four papers that connected Greece, Turkey, and homosexuality, and managed to wake everyone up in time for the long drive home. Now I’m anxious to present again, as soon as possible. But next time I might take my family with me.

“This conference, being the first, marks a transition time for my family and me: a stage in the translation of my identity from part–to full–time academic.”

ACLA [continues from p. 1]

But there were times when I had to resort either to English or Portuguese to communicate with my Spanish–speaking interlocutors. All of a sudden, I ‘found’ myself communicating in this ‘in–between’ space of languages and the feeling was actually pretty great. I think in the end more things were ‘gained’ than ‘lost’ in translation in the sense that a diverse world of possibilities was open to me.

Translation Studies can help us think about ways through which we can come to terms with differences and similarities between languages and cultures in this world

where unequal power relations permeate relationships between peoples and countries, in addition to helping us break down hegemonic frameworks and uncover hidden ideologies and affiliations which would otherwise go unnoticed. So, it only seems logical that Translation Studies is a field that should have been and was at the center of many of the sessions at the ACLA Conference in Puebla, whose theme was *Trans, Pan, Inter: culturas en contacto*.

OGSCL SPORTS

“A FOOL’s Pitch”

by sports columnist Matthew Goodwin

The Comparative Literature/Spanish Department Soccer team, going by the name FOOL, an acronym for Football’s Optimist and OGSCL League, has prevailed. We began with some rowdy practices at the Brandon/Franz/Cecilia home and have progressed onto harder, more intramural games. Today, May 2nd, we won our first game. In order to win a game, we had to put a ball into our opponents’ net. However, we could not use our hands. Basically, our feet were smarter than they were; and they called us “old”. We are so awesome!

If you want to join FOOL next year, you can, just bring some oranges and a bag full of good intentions.

OGSCL'S POETRY CORNER

Introduction by Maria Tymoczko

Translation is central to the interface of cultures and it lies at the intersection of language, text, and culture. As such Translation Studies is an essential aspect of Comparative Literature. It can be argued that the study of translation is Comparative Literature writ small, or that Translation Studies is the discipline of Comparative Literature writ large.

Even without a transposition of the following translations into a single language (Spanish or English), we can begin to perceive the singularities of the various cultures represented. Look, for example, at the fabulous visual symmetry of Jinmei's poetic lines. We also have an index of the creativity and agency of literary practitioners and the writerly nature of translators, both of which come into focus in comparing the different translated versions of the medieval Irish poem.

Translation is an evergreen topic, taking me to the heart of the subjects that most engage my academic thinking: language, literature, and cultural crossings. It's been an honor and a pleasure this semester to work with a specially fine and talented class of students in Comparative Literature 751, Theory and Practice of Translation.

Ro-cúala
ní tabair eochu ar dúana;
do-beir a n-í as dúthaig dó,
bó

(Tymoczko's gloss translation: I have heard that he gives no steeds for poems; he gives what is native to him, a cow)

תָּנוּן אֵל אֹהֶשׁ יִתְעַמֵּשׁ
מִיִּס וִס
מִי רִישׁ לִיבֶשֶׁב;
תָּן מָה שְׂמִלִּידָהָ
הָרַפּ: וְלִיבֶשֶׁב

By Lara Curtis

Hoy llegó a mis oídos cual estaca
que no ofrece caballo por poema,
sino aquello que construye su emblema:
una roñosa pero ilustre vaca.

By Jorge Jiménez Bellver

传言说
富贵者
反抠门
想读诗
怕付钱
该给马
给头牛
噫!

By Jinmei Yang

It is said
He is no patron of the arts
Instead, as blood will tell, he buys
Prints.

By Shannon Farley

She gives no rose for poems, so they say;
It's okay;
What she gives is her nature,
Dandelion tufts float away.

By Carolyn Shread

Dicen
que no da corcel por poesía,
al contrario da lo que le provoca alegría:
un asno.

By Aaron Suko

Dizem por aí
que com jegue paga seus poemas não
mas o que se sabe por aqui
é que usa vaca como remuneração.

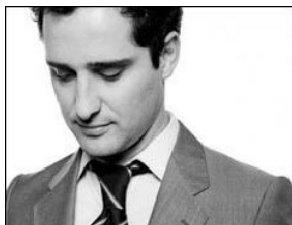
By Cristiano A. Mazzei

他们说
他不肯战马奖诗歌;
他只给了嫡亲似的
牛呵!

By Xuefei Bai

“Jorge x Jorge: Of guitars and voses”

by Jorge Jiménez Bellver



Ever since that summer of 1994 when my grandpa agreed to go with his fourteen-year-old grandson to see Bob Dylan live in Valencia, I've been wondering where those times when going to a concert

was something unforgettable have gone. I mean, just to mention a few, Dylan is not that twentysomething who would suddenly crack up while singing his ‘115th Dream’ any more –sadly, the same applies to Van Morrison–, U2 concerts are essentially Bono’s stream-of-consciousness on *our* duty to improve the deplorable state of the Third World while he decides to move X million Euros out of Ireland for tax reasons, and the latest Rock sensation, Coldplay, have become in just a few years a nearly exact replica of Bono and his bandmates –for better or for worse–. Just when I was about to give up on performance as an extreme occasion –as Mr. Said would put it–, I found myself with a bunch of friends watching one of the most talented songwriters I’ve ever had the chance to listen to: Jorge Drexler.

I bumped into Drexler many times before I actually started to feel any interest in his albums. Curiously enough, the good reviews he received in the mainstream media and the Oscar he was awarded for “Al otro lado del río” prevented me from giving him the credit he really deserved (although some of my favourites –like Dylan and U2– had

also been involved in the hype of the Oscars before). However, it only took one person and one song to make me change my mind: Cárol and “Guitarra y vos”. Several years, miles, and concerts later, I was in Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts about to watch the Uruguayan *cancionista* give the best thing a musician can possibly offer: a handful of beautiful songs, even more beautiful on just a guitar (and a mysterious laptop from which the most intriguing sounds came out).

That night he showed little more than a hundred people how to play for 80 minutes without repeating oneself. The various musical styles he touched upon included tango (“Se va, se va, se fue”), samba (“Transporte”), milonga (“Milonga del moro judío”), and even alternative rock turned into milonga (a cover of Radiohead’s “High & Dry”). His lyrics combined universal themes, in the purest style of his fellow countryman Mario Benedetti and Pablo Neruda, with postmodern concerns, like the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and globalization. And, last but not least, his comments between songs, which ranged from the uncertainty principle to the latest adventures of his 9-year-old kid, proved that he’s not only a gifted musician and lyricist, but also a fairly eloquent, sensible speaker in front of the mike.

All in all, it took me years to lose my interest in live shows (*mucho ruido y pocas nueces*, you know), but just one night to recover it. “Hay tantas cosas. Yo sólo preciso dos: mi guitarra y vos,” he sang that night. Well, he couldn’t have been more right.

“Poetics of the Future & ‘Futurizing’ Translations” by Nahir Otaño-Gracia and Matthew Goodwin

Nahir and Matthew have come up with a genre of translation called “futurizing”. Matthew translates the haiku that Nahir will write at some point in the future. The first ones are official translations written by Matt and approved by Nahir; the second ones are the very original originals by Nahir. Here are a couple (Any errors in translation are entirely the fault of the person that wrote these ridiculous “haikus”).

#1

Heaps and heaps of gum
Two rakes slap Mister fish face
All in a day, Chuuuuuuuum

Cuando era niño cantaba sola
ahora de adulto me llaman Lola
Soy la más bella del barrio.

#2

Salad is the only bird that
that that I, drops of rain
who? When? Where? None at all

The dead
on a Monday Morning
Committing suicide

#3

Ya, wir haben deine zukunft
kein wasser fur dich
beginnt alles, boden vogel

Suger cane and mosquitos
was all that was left
when the police arrived

#4

Vou a falar com amigos–koko
Home burning on the praire
Now is Cokie–limmy so?

The children played
merry–go–round
when the murder occurred

OGSCL POETRY *continues*

**“The seat is still
warm”**
by Brandon Shaw

The seat is still warm
And there's no lipstick on
The mug,
But, if there were,
It would be
Your only shade.
A handle stained
Rendered porous by use—
Hands, knuckles of fingers
Moist with weeping
Uproot it and
Nuzzle it again onto
The warm marble table.
It clicks like horse hooves,
Tooth upon tooth, and your eyelids blinking.

One time you blessed my third grade teacher,
My parents and twenty-third pair of chromosomes
Twisting down the isle
And these mitochondria,
And the doctor who circumcised me.
And said that all things are in flux,
And that will never change.
That love is an illusion,
Like the idea that a bent stick
You slid into the water
Really is straight.
You said beautiful things beautifully
You look through windows as if
There were nothing there.

As I recall
When you vocal chords were plucked by your
Breath sweet as honeydew melon.
Somehow you never spoke such words
You never said them
And never beautifully.
Your days were not maximized
Your potential lay inert, interred
You rarely spoke of love and sticks
Much less chromosomes.
Your nascent crow's feet
Never reminded me of the
Tigris and Euphrates when
you smiled
Or laughed
Cruelly
Or mirthfully
At someone in the cold
Running with his shirt off
Somehow you never spoke such words

You never said them
And never beautifully.
Your days were not maximized
Your potential lay inert, interred
You rarely spoke of love and sticks
Much less chromosomes.
Your nascent crow's feet
Never reminded me of the
Tigris and Euphrates when
you smiled
Or laughed
Cruelly
Or mirthfully
At someone in the cold
Running with his shirt off
Redwhiteandblue wristbands
And a fuchsia scrunchie
His hair was Toulouse-Lautrec orange.
There was a moment, with the orange, the red,
white, and
blue, the mocha brown,
His skin white as froth,
The fuchsia,
And you with splashes of eggplant ground in about
your
cheekbones.
I stared at you for a long time
Rinsing my eyes.
Your hand covered mine like an alibi.

You said, “How ugly
everything is!”
and started to cry.
Your eyes darken like ashes,
Grow heavy, luminous
They house your words
rocked, lulled,
You breathe, swallow
Breathe

But
You didn't cry,
And when you do,
Tendons from your canines to
The slopes of your nose bulge,
Flying buttresses
Quivering like temptation,
Or strips of steak, raw.

I've not called you Angel for weeks now.

Dare I point out that in this small graduating class, we honor a Belgian, an Israeli, a Chinese, an American, and a French Moroccan. This past year, once again, Nikolina Dobрева and her cohort of graduate volunteer mentors brought discipline and challenge to the Junior Year Writing Course, yielding a fascinating array of undergraduate papers at our annual Junior Year Writing all-day conference in November. One of our majors, Andrew Ramsay, will be one of the featured speakers at the Commonwealth College Commencement this year; another major, Amanda Baldi, was the associate coordinator of the state-wide Undergraduate Research Conference in late April. We are attracting majors with interests in Japanese, Classical Greek, Chinese, Italian, Arabic, German, and Spanish: surely, undergraduate student interest in literature is not withering away. This year we attracted a pool of seventy-three graduate applicants; every single one of our top choices (from Bir Zeit University, Rutgers, Barnard College, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, and Smith College) has confirmed acceptance, an unprecedented vote of confidence. We have Daniel Pope to thank for keeping our CompLit website up to date and as welcoming as it is.

Throughout this year, as interim Graduate Program Director as well as Director, I have benefited from the thoughtfulness and kindness of every single person associated with our Programs. Linda Papirio and Alice Bishko have continued their unstinting service to Comparative Literature and our manifold projects. Matt Goodwin, in his first year of graduate study, has helped initiate a program of undergraduate advising that has brought several new majors into the fold. Alexa Roscoe and Melissa Cannata have outdone themselves this year as editors of *mOthertongue*, bringing the journal several firsts: two Five college poet contributors; a third funding source beyond CompLit; the largest turn-out (70+) at the public reading ever, and the welcome and unexpected presence of a camera-person for Community Access Television. Many of us have also been answering the challenge posed by the latest generation of students, the so-called 'Millennials;' in this year once again, we have enrolled more than 2,000 students. To those of you who are graduating, I extend, on behalf of all of us who remain, our heartiest congratulations and best wishes. For those of us who remain, may we continue to make our community and our scholarship consonant and resounding!



NADIA AL-AHMAD joins our PhD program with a degree in English Language and Literature from Bir Zeit University in Palestine. Her interests include the study of Russian literature, Ukrainian, Palestinian, and Israeli poetry, and English literature of the post colonial period in relation to contemporary Arabic literature. Nadia will hold a TA in Comparative Literature.

LARA CURTIS joins our PhD program with an MA degree in French from UMass Amherst, where she has offered film, culture and language courses. Lara, who has lived in France and Israel, is interested in medieval studies and literature and film. She recently delivered a paper at a conference on memory and trauma at Florida State University.

DANIELLE DESERRES joins our MA program in Translation Studies. Danielle has earned a degree in Romance Languages and Literatures from Mt. Holyoke College and writes comfortably and thoughtfully in French, Spanish, and English.

Funded with a TA, **ERIK PÉREZ** joins our PhD program with a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. Erik's interests include Marxist and poststructuralist theory, and the construction/ deconstruction of 'culture' in literary and social texts. His reading has embraced texts in French, Spanish, and Latin as well as those in English.

LUCÍA PRADA-GONZÁLEZ joins our MA program in Translation Studies and will be employed by the UMass Translation Center. She received her BA from the University of Oviedo, Spain, majoring in English Philology, and has also studied at the University of Kent and completed a graduate degree in English-Spanish Translation at the University of Valladolid.

SCOTT SALUS joins our PhD Program with a BA in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University. Scott's interests include feminism, queer theory, and psychoanalysis within a broad spectrum of 20th century American, Latin American, French, Caribbean, and North African literatures.

ANNA STROWE joins our PhD program with a BA in Italian from Smith College and an MA in Translation Studies from the University of Warwick. She will be funded by a TA in the Italian Studies Program. Her interests include translation studies within Italian, Spanish and English-speaking contexts, and the study of immigrant literatures and translation strategies from the 19th century to the present.



Where are we, where are we going?



EMIR BENLI is spending his spring semester in Freiburg, Germany until the end of July. The weather is just like summer and he is trying to see whether beer gardens are proper places to study phenomenology. With a German good enough to buy only bread, he is at this point gloomy about the class presentations he is going to have to give in July. He looks forward to the next semester in Amherst when he will hopefully have some idea why he is studying Comparative Literature.

ANTONIA CARCELÉN finished her course work in Fall 2006. She is currently preparing for her exams which she will take in September. Comps and teaching Children's Literature have taken most of her time, although preparing for her conferences was also time consuming. She presented her course work in England's SLAS and Mexico's ACLA in April. Editing papers for publication has also taken some of her time, although there is nothing printed to share yet. This summer she will conduct archival research in Ecuador and Brown University to gather data for her future dissertation research for Fall 2007.

estheR Cuesta's life this semester ran between her ethnographic research of Ecuadorian women migrants in Genoa and her two volunteer positions: one in the *sportello migranti* of ARCI-Genova, where they assist migrants with paperwork and legal matters, and in a clinic of Doctors Without Borders, where they receive mostly undocumented migrants, plus teaching English at the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja-Milan.

KANCHUKA DHARMASIRI had a busy semester finishing coursework, teaching, and getting involved with New WORLD Theater as one of the directors for Susan-Lori Parks' *365 Days/365 Plays*. She also presented at the Binghamton Translation Conference held in April. At the moment, she is getting back to her old habit of watching television and flipping through channels (thanks to the television she got from Nikolina and Enrique!). This summer, she plans to work as an intern for New WORLD Theater, travel a little, and contemplate life.

MATTHEW GOODWIN realized this semester that tube socks are back in fashion and that Good spelled backwards is Doog, which, if rearranged, spells Good. These kinds of realizations made him want to continue on his path in graduate school. The other kinds of realizations have nothing to do with spelling but with deep seated desires to learn the truth about the world and to get dental insurance, both of which he was realizing were slowly being eroded by the University Administration.

JORGE JIMÉNEZ-BELLVER finished his second semester on this side of the pond with the firm conviction that the more you see, the less you know. The daily dose of de-coding and re-encoding seriously affected his mental health, and now he calls the Translation Center his home and the people working there his family. Hopefully, an intensive exposure to the waters of the Mediterranean and the couple of weeks he will spend in London with his 'buddies' of the Translation Research Summer School will restore in him the belief that there is life beyond the UMass campus.

BK's been dissertating this past year. Earlier in the year, he submitted a paper for this year ACLA conference and, as a reward, joined many of my colleagues in Puebla (Mexico) this April. He plans to finish a draft of his dissertation by the end of this summer/early Fall Semester and participate in the job market next year. Besides all of this, like most of us, he looks forward to the summer.

PETER KAHN -2003 Master of Arts in Comparative Literature (Translation Studies)- is still working towards a PhD in Latin American Literature, but in the meantime, his recent translation publications include several short stories featured in the book, *Women and Power in Argentine Literature* by Gwendolyn Diaz (2007 University of Texas Press Austin) as well as a complete translation of the book, *Avant-Garde, Internationalism, and Politics: Argentine Art in the Sixties* by Andrea Giunta (2007 Duke University Press).

CRISTIANO MAZZEI hopes to defend his MA Thesis in the summer. He will start his PhD in Comparative Literature in the fall and will continue to dedicate his academic work to issues related to translation and its intersections with Queer Studies, Transnationalism, and Post-Colonial Studies.

NAHIR I. OTAÑO-GRACIA still wants to be a Medievalist and still likes tomatoes. She has also realized she's from the Caribbean, and with this realization in mind, she wants to incorporate Caribbean Literature to her Medieval Studies. She still wants Professor Maddox to adopt her and also Professor Petroff.

LOC PHAM didn't do much this semester because he fell in love with his pop idol in Vietnam. That's also part of the reason for his trip home to Vietnam this summer. He will be teaching, with Professor Gentzler, an online course: The Vietnam War in Film and Literature. He will also do some research on gay subculture in Saigon, and probably in Hanoi too, for his translation of *Brokeback Mountain*. But he is not really sure he can do all this with his idol around. Let's pray for him.

BRANDON SHAW is completing his third year in the program. Why does he look so happy and sad? He spends most of his day reading, but reading comedy. There are plans of taking comps at the end of the summer, of spending Fall semester in Argentina, publications, book signings, espionage, marrying rich and dying young. Remain untainted despite your surroundings, like the *Nymphaeaceae*; soak up all things, like tofu.

CAROLYN SHREAD continued to teach French at Mount Holyoke College while pursuing her Translation Studies MA, as well as teaching a new French Theater Workshop at Smith College this semester. She attended the Amherst-Binghamton Translation Conference, and gave a paper on the question of paratext in relation to her MA Thesis translation of Marie Chauvet's *Les Rapaces*. Her translation of Catherine Malabou's article 'An Eye at the Edge of Discourse' appeared in the February 2007 issue of Communication Theory.

AARON SUKO finally presented a paper at an academic conference (SUNY Binghamton, Translation Studies Conference). He is now looking forward to traveling this summer in the U.S. and spending a month studying Portuguese in Brazil. In the fall he will begin preliminary work on his MA Thesis.

JINMEI YANG, from Xi'an (China), is finishing her second and last exchange semester at UMASS. Her short stay in Comparative Literature has been very rewarding and unforgettable. Despite some 'cultural shock' this semester, she got constant support from her friends and classmates in the Translation Center. She had a good learning experience and will have a lot to say to her students back in China about American people and culture. She wants to express her sincere gratitude to her professors and classmates and to give her best wishes to everybody. She hopes to keep in touch with people here and looks forward to meeting her professors and friends someday in China.