

AIS OCCURRENCES

Enriching our Perspectives:

The Transatlantic Experience of a New Study Abroad Program in Bilbao, Spain

By Natalia Santamaria Laorden, Ph.D.



Photo courtesy Sarah Hildebrand

Deusto University, in front of the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

“This is just like Vegas!” exclaimed Jason when we arrived at the Barajas airport and saw the desert-like landscape of this Madrid suburb. In my Spanish Civilization class at Ramapo, students learned about Philip II’s unfortunate choice of moving the capital of the country to a city devoid of key natural resources. However, it was the student’s immediate response that *continued on page 2*

New Faculty in AIS

AIS faculty were busy serving on four faculty search committees in Spring of 2010. Their hard work met with success: The School of American and International Studies hired four tenure-track faculty members who will join us in Fall of 2010. They are *continued on page 7*

This issue of *AIS Occurrences* was produced and edited by Professors Roark Atkinson and Michael Unger.

New Jersey’s Public Liberal Arts College

AIS FACULTY UPDATES

Philosophers **Lisa Cassidy** and **Bernard Roy** will both be going to the American Democracy Project’s national meeting in June in Providence, RI. Cassidy will present her paper "Using 'Pro versus Con' Debates in Critical Thinking Class." Roy will host an invited session of *CafeDemos*, a discussion forum he pioneered here at Ramapo.

Paul Elovitz published “Ralph Colp’s Creative Identification with Charles Darwin,” “Exploring the Psychology of

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made the lesson on sixteenth century so alive and real.

The continual streams of comparisons developed into self realizations throughout the month. Deusto University, our prestigious host institution in Spain, challenged students with intense courses on Spanish contemporary literature and international business. Deusto University also organized trips to the historical site of Gernika and Ernest Hemingway's favorite festival, the San Fermes, adding a crucial cultural component to the trip.

Breaking geographic boundaries, I also took students to one day trips to Saint Jean de Luz and Biarritz in France and Laguardia in Rioja Alavesa (Spain), where they could visit Romanesque churches and travel through the Spanish version of the Napa Valley.

Back in the United States, I gathered students' comments and offered those taking the Spanish Civilization class to participate in a roundtable discussion at the National Collegiate Honors Council in Washington last November. Joining forces with students from the Study Abroad Program in Venice and adding a few theoretical readings to our experience, we prepared a discussion on the epistemological nature of the

nation. The roundtable was a success: an exciting conversation ensued with students from other colleges.



Statue of Felix Maria de Samaniego
(Laguardia, Álava, Spain)

Photo courtesy Sarah Hildebrand

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dean Hassan Nejad, Professors William Frech, Iraida Lopez and Paula Straile and the excellent faculty from Deusto University for contributing to making this experience a triumph. Many thanks, too, to all my colleagues who supported the program from the beginning. I would especially like to thank the extraordinary group of students who ventured into this first year experience: they made all the pains and efforts in arranging this program worth it. Muchas gracias!

Thanks to you, we learned the limitless possibilities in study abroad programs that combine an outstanding host institution with Ramapo faculty

in residence: adding a new course onsite on cultural studies with comparative focus, leading a national roundtable and making a life-long learning experience out of a summer college trip. □

Undergraduate and Alumni News

Recent AIS alum **Patrick Stickles** (Literature, 2008) and his band, Titus Andronicus, were featured in the *New York Times* including a favorable review of their second album, *The Monitor*. □

Alumni Profiles

By Stephen P. Rice

Michael Fiorelli, a May 2008 graduate with a degree in history, is now working full time at the Monmouth County Archives in Manalapan. As he was getting close to graduating Michael was interested in becoming a social studies teacher, but he also wanted to know more about archival work. He contacted the Monmouth County archivist and was soon working as a volunteer at the archives. His first assignment was with the Red Bank Register Project--an on-going project to digitize photographic negatives from this important Monmouth County newspaper—which had

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AIS Student/Alumni News*continued from page 2*

him sorting through negatives, identifying their subjects, and cataloguing them. It was during his volunteer work there that a clerk position opened up, which Michael was hired for. He is currently spending much of his time on the “Archives Day” project, an annual event that features different aspects of the archives’ collections. This year the focus will be on Monmouth County during World War II and will include an exhibit at the county library.

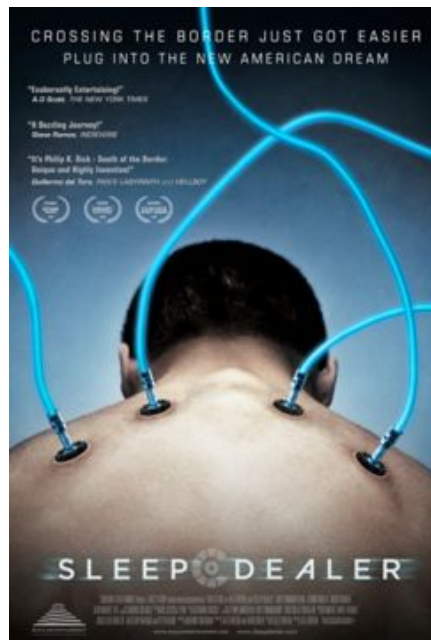
Michael has found that the writing skills he developed as a history major have helped a great deal in the work he does. His study of American history also helped him to develop appropriate subjects for cataloguing items in the Register Project. He is very happy in his new position and is glad to be working so directly in his field. □

Student News

The Creative Writing Program is thrilled to announce that three students will be attending MFA programs in Creative Writing: **Louis Maraj** (Texas Tech) **Jessica Dutschmann** (California College of Arts) **Melissa Adamo** (Rutgers University-Newark).

Daniel Sosinski will be attending Uniwersytet Jagiellonski in Krakow, Poland this Fall.

Ben Figueroa and **Dan Kazmaier** have had their articles, “Turning Swords Into Plowshares: The Contributions of Robert Jay Lifton and Vamik Volkan,” and “Reflection on Presidents Clinton and Obama,” accepted by *Clio’s Psyche*.



Poster from the 2010 AIS Film Series

They will be presenting papers on these same subjects in special student panels at the International Psychohistorical Association Conference. Other students presenting are **Matthew Martinez**, “Obama’s Afghan and Terrorism Policies,” **Devin McGinley**, “Psychohistorians Henry Lawton and J. Lee Shneidman,” and **Kimberly Mahaffey**, “Voyeurism in Popular

Culture.” Kim’s article based on this presentation has been accepted for publication in *Clio’s Psyche*. It is noteworthy that student articles are published alongside of the scholarship of faculty members from Harvard, Rutgers, Toronto, UCLA, and other universities. **Todd Brian** has also written an article to be submitted to another publication. **Paul Elovitz’** mentoring of some of these students was facilitated by a 2009/10 faculty/student research grant from the Provost facilitated by **Dean Nejad**. Last year three AIS students won an award for their IPA panel. □

AIS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS*Student and Faculty Events***AIS Club Events**

The **Philosophy Club**, together with the Student Activities Platinum Series, presented “South Park and Philosophy” series last spring. There were free books for students who attended the meetings, which were held the last Tuesday of February, March, and April from 5-6 p.m. in J. Lee’s. Club members critiqued the philosophical import of the cartoon *South Park* with viewings and discussions.

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the Need to Emulate,” “L. Pierce Clark: An Early Psychobiographer,” (with Elizabeth Wirth Marvick, UCLA); “America’s First Psychobiographer: Preserved Smith and His Insights on Luther,” (with Elizabeth Wirth Marvick, UCLA); “The Psychological Contributions and Lives of Henry Lawton and J. Lee Shneidman,” “Freud’s Theories Reflected His Needs,” in *Clio’s Psyche*. He also continues editorial duties including special issues on the psychology of ego ideals, heroes, mentors, and role models with authors from Fordham to the University of Helsinki, classic works of

psychohistory and the Binion symposium on reliving with Freud.

Photo courtesy Jeremy M. Teigen



AIS Colloquium Series

Dr. Wooseon Choi, Assistant Professor of Political Science, presented "Strategic Logic of US-China Policy" at The AIS Colloquium Series on March 24.

Professional presentations by **Paul Elovitz** were highlighted by his being an invited speaker on American exceptionalism at the Chicago Meetings of the American Psychological Association and in Manhattan on the early practitioners of psychohistory. In June, he is presenting “How Obama’s Personality and Leadership Style Influences His Early Successes and Failures: The View from 2010” and “Pioneers of Insight: The History of Psychohistory” at the Annual Convention of the International Psychohistorical Association. For the International Society for Political Psychology’s Annual Convention in San Francisco he will present “The History of Political Psychology and Psychohistory” in a panel he has organized with

colleagues from SUNY and the University of Connecticut.

Over the last year, **James Hoch** had poems published and in a variety of magazines including: *New England Review*, *Harvard Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Blackbird*, *32 Poems*, *Poetry International*, *Copper Nickel*, *Verse Daily* and *Poetry Daily*. His work has been selected for three anthologies and nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Recently, he presented his work at the Associated Writing Programs conference and Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference as well as at the following universities: Bucknell University, SUNY-Brockport, Virginia Commonwealth, University of Maryland, and the University of Virginia.

Yvette Kisor’s “Totemic Reflexes in Tolkien’s Middle-earth” has been published in the journal *Mythlore*. Her article “Numerical Composition and *Beowulf*: A Reconsideration” was published in *Anglo-Saxon England*. Her essay “The Aesthetics of *Beowulf*: Structure, Perception, and Desire” appear in *On the Aesthetics of Beowulf and Other Old English Poetry*. In

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AIS ORGANIZATIONS*continued from page 3*

The **College Republican Club** organized a campus talk by author and commentator Ann Coulter in the Berrie Center. □

AIS Essay Contest

Three AIS students were honored at the final unit council of the year for their winning essays in the Second Annual Best Essay Contest in the School of American and International Studies. The contest is intended to recognize student excellence in the school of AIS and is open to all disciplines and inter-disciplines of AIS. Individual faculty members of AIS nominate student essays written for their courses that demonstrate excellence and all nominated essays are judged by a professor of writing from outside Ramapo College. This year's winners were:

1st Place (\$250): Caitlin McGee for "Walt Disney's Imagined Frontier and American Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century" (Professor Meyer, Hist 311-01, Fall 2009)

2nd Place (\$150): Elizabeth Gilmour "Homeschooling and the Response to State-centered Education" (Professor

Hangen, ANTH 312, Spring 2010)

3rd Place (\$50): Magdalena Dimeska for "The Betrayal of Criseyde" (Professor Kisor, LITR 319-01, Fall 2009)

Congratulations to all the winners! □

Ramapo History Club

The Ramapo College History Club (RCHC) invited Dr. Maya Arakon, Professor of International Relations and Political Science at Yeditepe University in Turkey to present a lecture titled, "National Minorities and Separatist Terrorism: Case Studies of Northern Ireland, the Basque Country, and the Kurdish Issue in Turkey." A new E-Board was elected this Spring. Lauren Rochat, the new club President. Sam Corman, the new club Treasurer, is also the Student Government's representative to AIS. □

Ramapo College History Honor Society

On March 27, 2010, three of our students, Boris Glazman, Kindig Olsen, and Mike Saxton, presented papers at the Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference hosted by Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. On April 23, 2010, twenty-seven students

were inducted into Phi Alpha Theta. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Christine Stansell, Professor of History at the University of Chicago, who specializes in the history of US Women. □

AIS Film Series

This is the conclusion of the third year of the AIS Film Series. The series has been a vital forum for extracurricular interaction between students and faculty as well as serving as an experiential learning opportunity for many students. In the spring, two films were screened as part of the Series. Prof. Paula Straile-Costa hosted a screening of *Sleep Dealer* (2008), and Prof. Ed Shannon hosted a screening of *The Long Goodbye* (1973). □

Ramapo College Political Science Honor Society

On April 21, 2010, thirteen students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha. The guest speaker was Dr. Peter Woolley, Professor of Comparative Politics at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Professor Woolley is also the co-founder and director of PublicMind, the university's survey research group. □

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addition she delivered papers at two conferences; she presented “‘Naked as a Nedyll’: The Eroticism of Malory’s Elaine in *Morte Darthur*” in the session The Erotic in Early Medieval England: Affection, Desire, Love, Pleasure, and Sex at the Forty-fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May 2010 and “‘She Makes Hungry Where Most She Satisfies’: Cleopatra as Cougar” at the Forty-first Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), McGill University in April 2010.

Tae Yang Kwak’s review of *Review of Building Ships, Building a Nation: Korea’s Democratic Unionism under Park Chung Hee* by Hwasook Nam, will appear in the *Journal of Korean Studies*. On March 27, 2010, Prof. Kwak presented a paper titled, “Behind the Myth of the ‘Korean Model,’” on a panel with four other professors from the United States and South Korea titled, “The Dynamics of the Korean Peninsula during the Vietnam War and the Détente,” at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), the largest and most distinguished organization in

the field of Asian Studies in the US.

Iraida H. López is the recipient of this year’s Victoria Urbano Award for best essay presented at the congress of the Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femeninas Hispánicas (International Association of Hispanic Women’s Literature and Culture, AILCFH). The paper, “Al filo de la modernidad: Las décimas autobiográficas de Violeta Parra” (At the Threshold of Modernity: Violeta Parra’s Autobiographical Décimas as Literature) was presented at the Quito congress in October 2009 and will appear in *Anales de la Literatura Chilena* (Universidad Católica de Chile) in a special issue of the journal devoted to the bicentenary of Chilean independence. Victoria Urbano was a writer and poet from Costa Rica, who founded AILCFH in 1974.



Poster from the 2010 AIS Film Series

Carter Jones Meyer has also been invited to write an essay for a three-volume study, *American Indians in American Popular Culture*, that will be published in 2011 as part of Praeger Publishing’s Perspectives series. The essay will focus on Santa Fe Indian Market, authenticity, and the marketing of Indian Arts in American culture. The project of which it will be a part seeks to understand American Indians by analyzing their relationship with American popular culture and by considering the ways in which Indians have challenged the stereotypes and misunderstandings that have often accompanied this relationship.

Sam Mustafa’s new book, *A Concise History of Germany*, will be published in Spring 2011 by Rowman and Littlefield.

Rebecca Root presented a paper entitled “The Fujimori Effect” at the March 2010 conference of the Mid Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies in Baltimore, MD.

Jeremy Teigen presented research on the 2008 presidential election with Brian Arbour (CUNY-John Jay) at

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New AIS FACULTY
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(in alphabetical order): Todd Landon Barnes, John A. Gronbeck-Tedesco, Keisha S. Haywood, and Stacie Taranto.

Todd Landon Barnes recently finished his dissertation "Immanent Shakespearig: Politics, Performance, Pedagogy" in the Rhetoric Department at the University of California, Berkeley. His recent publications include "Hip Hop Macbeths, 'Digitized Blackness', and the Millennial Minstrel: Illegal Culture Sharing in the Virtual Classroom," which appeared in *Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance, eds. Scott Newstok and Ayanna Thompson* (Palgrave, 2009) and "George W. Bush's 'Three Shakespeares': Macbeth, Macbush, and the Theater of War," which appeared in *Shakespeare Bulletin*. He recently served as dramaturg



Todd Landon Barnes

Photo courtesy Todd Landon Barnes



Photo courtesy RCNJ Press Center

Literature Program Luncheon

The Literature program had its annual luncheon for majors and their parents on April 21, 2010. **Dean Hassan Nejad** and **Provost Beth Barnett** joined the Literature faculty and students and parents for a delightful lunch. At the event, former Literature major **Anna Starshine Coats** talked to the group about her post graduate work and experiences, which included teaching in Japan. Students were also inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the national Literature Honors Society, by **Professor Lisa Williams**, the group's faculty mentor. □

for the African-American Shakespeare Company in San Francisco, where he worked with them to develop a high school curriculum for their touring shows. His research focuses on Shakespeare in performance and the history of institutional Shakespeare. He also enjoys teaching and writing about philosophies of difference, particularly those of Nietzsche, Foucault, Delueze and Derrida.

John A. Gronbeck-Tedesco received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. His work has appeared online, in encyclopedia articles, and in the *Journal of Latin American Studies*. Currently he is working on an article that explores



John A. Gronbeck-Tedesco

Photo courtesy John A. Gronbeck-Tedesco

the figure of Che Guevara in radical memory and popular culture, and a book manuscript that addresses the impact of Cuban revolutionary politics on U.S. culture in the fields of foreign

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policy, social movements, and civil rights activism between 1930 and 1970. In his free time he enjoys running, playing music, and participating in grassroots organizations that focus on social justice.

Keisha S. Haywood previously taught at The College of William



Photo courtesy Keisha S. Haywood

Keisha S. Haywood

and Mary and has a Ph.D. from Emory University. She provided the following from her website: “My dissertation addresses the following research questions: Why are violent separatist conflicts not continuously violent; why do the groups involved in these conflicts move back and forth between violence and nonviolence? I hypothesized that separatist group leaders will change the level of violence they use if any of the following changes: (1) group grievances, (2) government repression, or (3) group capacity to use violence. After conducting interviews with leaders and members of le Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) in Sénégal, I

found that when repression increased, MFDC leaders increased their level of violence, and when grievances and repression decreased, leaders decreased their level of violence. I also found that when leaders changed their goals from independence to autonomy, or when there was a split within the group, MFDC leaders decreased the level of violence they used.”

Stacie Taranto provided the following information via email: “I defended my dissertation on April 28, 2010 (graduated May 30), and the final title was "Defending 'Family Values': Women's Grassroots Politics and the Republican Right, 1970-1980." I will continue to work on my book manuscript (from the dissertation) in the coming academic year. As for recent



Photo courtesy Stacie Taranto

Stacie Taranto

publications, an article, "Ellen McCormack for President: Politics and an Improbable Path to Passing Anti-Abortion Policy," is currently being revised for publication in *Journal of Policy History*.” Dr.

Taranto received her A.B. at Duke University and her Ph.D. at Brown University. □

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two conferences during the spring 2010 semester, the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics and the Midwest Political Science Association meeting. The research is entitled "Barack Obama's 'American Problem': Unhyphenated Americans and Voting."

Michael Unger presented a paper with Mark McKenzie (Texas Tech University) entitled, “New Style Campaigning, Citizen Knowledge, and Sources of Legitimacy for State Courts: A Case Study in Texas” at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Lisa Williams has published a poem in the forthcoming journal, *Washington Square Review*. She also just published a poem in the journal, *The Mom Egg*. □