

fR FABELLA ROMANICA

FRENCH, ITALIAN, PORTUGUESE, AND SPANISH AT NOTRE DAME

Trustee Fernández Helps Further Study of Hispanic Caribbean

The collaboration between University Trustee José E. Fernández and Associate Professors Thomas Anderson and Ben Heller is a testament to the old adage that if you're going to do something, you should do it well. In this case, the "something" is the study of the Hispanic Caribbean, and doing it "well" might not fully capture



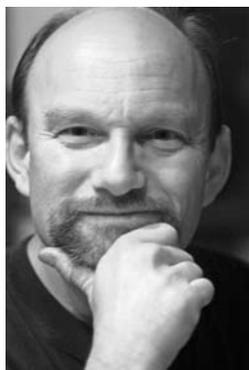
Thomas Anderson

Anderson and Heller's vision.

"We hope to turn the University of Notre Dame into one of the premier institutions for the interdisciplinary study of the literatures and cultures of the Hispanic Caribbean," Anderson says.

Their own research interests aside, he and Heller view Notre Dame as an ideal home for this kind of scholarship.

"Given that Catholicism entered the New World through the Caribbean," Heller says, "and that the region was the fundamental crucible for the adaptation of the Church to the new colonial setting, it is entirely fitting that this region be a central focus of study and activity for Notre Dame."



Ben Heller

Fernández, a 1965 Notre Dame alum

from Puerto Rico, began supporting library acquisitions in 2001. Thanks to his generosity, much of it in the form of endowed funds, Anderson, Heller, and the Hesburgh Library's Scott Van Jacob have

been able to add thousands of books by authors from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico to the library's circulating collections.

"We have also acquired an impressive amount of materials for the Department of Special Collections," Anderson says, "and are well on our way to building a world-class collection of rare books, journals, and manuscripts related to Hispanic Caribbean authors."

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From the Chair

Welcome to the second issue of *Fabella Romanica* (*fR*), the annual newsletter of the Department of

Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Notre Dame. The goal of *fR* is simply to share "a little tale" (Latin *fabella*) about the achievements of the Department's students and faculty, although there would be a good deal more to tell if we had the space. For this reason, I am pleased to announce the imminent launch of our distinctive new website that will feature an online version of *fR* together with the latest Department news. The new website, located at <http://romancelanguages.nd.edu>, is designed to help us better inform our students, colleagues, alumni, and friends about our programs. Our hope is that both *fR* and the new website will serve to foster an ever stronger sense of community in support of our enterprise. As always, we invite your feedback and thank you for your support and interest in our work.

Theodore J. Cachey Jr.

Professor and Chair

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NOW AVAILABLE

Recently Published Faculty Books



True Lies: Narrative Self-Consciousness in the Contemporary Spanish Novel

By Samuel Amago, Assistant Professor of Spanish

In *True Lies* (Bucknell University Press), Amago further develops the study of metafiction—a genre that draws explicit attention to the act of writing so as to highlight the author's role in the creative process. Previous studies of metafiction have focused on how this self-conscious style allows authors to mix reality and make-believe in a way that confuses the boundaries between the two. Amago adds a new perspective, showing how six authors of contemporary Spanish novels have used their work not only to question what's real and what isn't but also to explore the importance of storytelling to the construction of self.



Works and Days of a Major Latin American Writer

By José Anadón, Professor of Spanish

Between 1978 and 2000, an international literary project was created through the combined efforts of Anadón, José Durand (University of California, Berkeley), and Arturo Azuela (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). In a series of colloquia held at Notre Dame, writers and critics, including Azuela himself, discussed the contemporary literature of Spain and Latin America. With *Works and Days of a Major Latin American Writer* (Asociación Iberoamericana y Filipina de Ateneos), Anadón places a collection of texts related to Azuela's work in the context of the Notre Dame colloquia to which he contributed.



Ciceronian Controversies

Edited by JoAnn DellaNeva, Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures

Ciceronian Controversies (Harvard University Press) provides a rare glimpse into a literary debate that raged during the Renaissance: Should writers of prose only imitate the style of the legendary Cicero or instead look to a variety of models? DellaNeva sheds light on this controversy through a selection of exchanges, conducted via letters, between leading 15th- and 16th-century proponents of both positions—Angelo Poliziano and Paolo Cortesi, Gianfrancesco Pico della Mirandola and Pietro Bembo, Giovambattista Giraldis Cinzio and Celio Calcagnini. A volume of The I Tatti Renaissance Library, the book features the letters in their original Latin side-by-side with English translations by Brian Duvick of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.



La pasión de San Lorca y el placer de morir (Saint Lorca's Passion and the Pleasure of Dying)

By Carlos Jerez-Farrán, Professor of Spanish

Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca frequently incorporated allusions to the Christ figure in his work. Here, Jerez-Farrán studies the nature of these references, which encompass humiliation and sacrifice, scorn, guilt, and love. Making use of psychoanalysis, theology, and queer-gender theory, he arrives at the conclusion that the ever-present charge in Lorca's writings is traceable to a sexual dynamic rooted in masochistic fantasies and the deferral of desire. Whereas earlier studies have pointed to the biographical fact of Lorca's homosexuality and then searched for thematic representations of it, *La pasión de San Lorca y el placer de morir* (Visor Libros) introduces a more elaborated apparatus with which to understand the psycho-symbolic mechanism he employed.

Catherine Perry, associate professor of French, has served as editor in chief of *Nouvelles Études Francophones (NEF)*, the official refereed journal of the Conseil International d'Études Francophones (International Council of Francophone Studies), since Fall 2004. Published twice a year, *NEF* marked its 20th anniversary last spring with an issue that featured essays by Hédi Bouraoui, Charles Bonn, Maryse Condé, Daniel Sibony, and Tzvetan Todorov, among others.



***El cuerpo vestido y la construcción de la identidad en las narrativas autobiográficas del Siglo de Oro* (*The Clothed Body and the Construction of Identity in the Autobiographical Narratives of the Golden Age*)**

By Encarnación Juárez-Almendros,
Associate Professor of Spanish

El cuerpo vestido (Tamesis Books) examines the significance of clothing and other accessories for identity construction in nine fictional and historical Golden Age autobiographies. Juárez-Almendros shows how detailed descriptions of attire, rather than of the subjects themselves, are used to project complex external visions of personality. The representation of clothing, she says, proves to be a point where the desire for individual expression converges with norms dictated by society. Her analysis employs multiple theories to explore the philological, economical, political, moral, and artistic meaning of costume during the Golden Age.



Time Signatures: Contextualizing Contemporary Francophone Autobiographical Writing from the Maghreb

By Alison Rice, Assistant Professor of French

The autobiographical writings of Assia Djebar, Hélène Cixous, and Abdelkébir Khatibi, contemporary Francophone writers from the Maghreb, have typically been studied separately. But in *Time Signatures* (Lexington Books), Rice considers them together, taking an innovative approach of examining music, both as a topic within the texts and as a structuring element, to analyze these authors and their work. Drawing on contemporary musical theory as well as the reflections of critics attentive to the specifics of Francophone postcolonial writing, she argues that music is in effect the textual language that allows these writers to express themselves to a broad audience.

Fernández, continued from page 1

Beyond support for the library, Fernández has funded the appointment of a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Hispanic Caribbean Studies, the organization of special events such as lecture series, and stipends for both visiting and full-time Puerto Rican graduate students, known as Fernández fellows.

Rubén Ríos Avila of the University of Puerto Rico was in residence at Notre Dame during Fall 2006 as the first Fernández Distinguished Visiting Professor. In addition to teaching one undergraduate and one graduate course, he helped plan the “Del Caribe y sus demonios: Writing From the New Caribbean” lecture series (see related story, page 4).

“This series was unique for several reasons,” Anderson says. “First, it brought together scholars and writers from all three of the major countries of the Hispanic Caribbean . . . thus promoting comparisons and allowing us to probe the complexities and internal variations of the region. Second, the series featured a mix of scholars and fiction writers in an attempt to go beyond the typical disciplinary boundaries that characterize the academy.”

The lecture series was cosponsored by Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Institute for Latino Studies, Ph.D. in Literature Program, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

This fall, Marisel Moreno-Anderson—who focuses much of her research on works by Cuban, Dominican, and Puerto Rican authors living in the United States—joined the Department as an assistant professor (see related story, page 8). Her appointment will only enhance the work that Anderson, Heller, and Fernández have pursued together over the last several years.

“José has helped the Department create a notable area of strength in Hispanic Caribbean studies,” Heller says, “that sets it apart from similar departments at most other top-20 universities.”

Year of Conferences and Lectures Highlighted by Colloquium in Rome

To say the Department “hosted” three major scholarly events in 2006–07 wouldn’t be accurate in the strictest sense of the word. To be sure, members of the faculty did organize two conferences and a lecture series during the year.

One just happened to take place nearly 5,000 miles away.

Largely the initiative of Theodore Cachey, the Department’s chairperson and director of Notre Dame’s Devers Program in Dante Studies, and Piero Boitani of the University of Rome La Sapienza, the “Primo Colloquio,” or “First Colloquium,” convened in June. Held in the chapel of La Sapienza’s Villa Mirafiori, it was sponsored by the Devers Program, the Nanovic Institute for European Studies at Notre Dame, and La Sapienza’s Faculty of Sciences and Humanities.

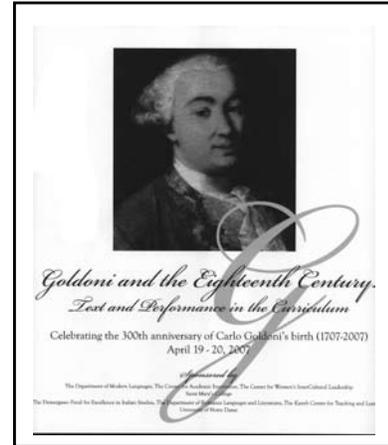
The innovative meeting didn’t have a defined theme but rather focused on bringing together 16 distinguished scholars from the two institutions to discuss their works in progress. Representing several disciplines, the eight Notre Dame participants included Keith Bradley, Joseph Buttigieg, Margaret Doody, Maud Ellmann, Vittorio Hösle, and Sabine MacCormack.

Christian Moevs, an associate professor of Italian, spoke about his research on Dante.

“I don’t think I had ever been to a conference before in which there was not a single dull paper and in which you genuinely looked forward to each new paper and session,” Moevs says.

Adds Cachey: “This event underscored the international resonance of the research being carried forward at Notre Dame while establishing a sound basis for future collaborations with colleagues in the humanities at the University of Rome La Sapienza.” Another colloquium, this one to be held at Notre Dame, is planned for Fall 2008.

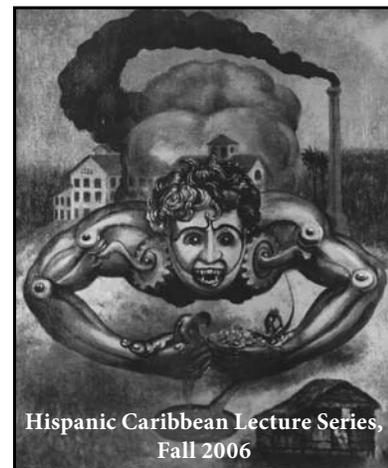
A month-and-a-half before the meeting in Rome, the Department and Saint Mary’s College celebrated the 300th anniversary of Italian dramatist Carlo Goldoni’s birth with a conference as well as performances by Notre Dame’s Italian Theatre Workshop. The events represented the culmination of a yearlong effort to integrate the study of Goldoni’s theatre at all levels of the University’s Italian curriculum.



The conference, titled “Goldoni and the Eighteenth Century: Text and Performance in the Curriculum,” featured panels of not only faculty but also undergraduate and graduate students who presented work they did during the spring semester. Undergraduates enrolled in the theatre workshop, a two-credit course, staged four performances of Goldoni’s *La Locandiera*.

Last fall, Associate Professors Thomas Anderson and Ben Heller organized the Hispanic Caribbean Lecture Series, welcoming three well-known cultural critics and two up-and-coming fiction writers to campus. “Del Caribe y sus demonios: Writing From the New Caribbean” ran throughout the semester, with talks by Rubén Ríos Avila, Rita Indiana, Juan Duchesne Winter, Pedro Cabiya, and Rafael Rojas.

The series coincided with Ríos Avila’s appointment at Notre Dame as the Fernández Distinguished Visiting Professor of Hispanic Caribbean Studies. A professor of comparative literature at the University of Puerto Rico, he organized the event along with Anderson and Heller.



painting by Julio Tomás Martínez (ca. 1910)

Thinking Big, Portuguese Program Starts Minor

Last year, the Department launched a minor in Portuguese and Brazilian studies. For Assistant Professor Isabel Ferreira Gould, director of the Portuguese program, it was an important step in fulfilling a larger vision.

“I came here with the ambition of building a program that fulfills the needs of students and Notre Dame,” she says, “and that participates in regional, national, and international debates on the specificities of the Portuguese-speaking nations and their contributions to solving common challenges.”

Ferreira Gould and Assistant Professional Specialist Sandra Teixeira, who has taught Portuguese language and culture in the Department since 2000, can already see the impact of their work in the classroom.

In 2001–02, about 50 students took Portuguese language, literature, and film courses. In 2006–07, total enrollment was over 120, including four seniors who were the first to graduate with the new minor. Ferreira Gould credits both the Department and the University’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies for recognizing growing student interest and making the minor a reality.

“The Portuguese program and its minor are essential for a university with a strong international presence,” she says, “and especially [one] with world-class institutes focused on Latin America and Europe and new leadership in Africana studies.”

Before starting the minor, students complete two semesters (or the equivalent) of beginning language study. The minor itself requires three courses taught in Portuguese—two in intermediate language and one on Portuguese literature, film, or culture—and two in English. In selecting these last two courses, students choose from the Department’s offerings and relevant classes being taught in other liberal arts disciplines.

According to Ferreira Gould, though, those are just the basics.

“The minor in Portuguese is much more than a set of paper requirements; it is an integrated array of lived intellectual experiences at Notre Dame.”

Thanks to a grant from the Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento (Luso-American Development Foundation), or FLAD, she is enhancing what was already a rich environment in which to study Portuguese. The FLAD grant provides funding for library acquisitions, visits by speakers and artists, international travel for graduate and faculty research, and prizes for undergraduate excellence. In addition, through Notre Dame’s Office of International Studies, un-



Isabel Ferreira Gould

dergraduates can study in Brazil in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, or Salvador da Bahia.

Ferreira Gould is also using the FLAD grant to help sponsor an international research conference planned for April 2008.

“Africa in Portuguese, the Portuguese in Africa” aims at establishing the critical standard for scholarly evaluations of the cultural relations between Portugal and its former African colonies,” she says. The conference is part of a book project she is co-editing with Pedro Schacht Pereira of the University of Chicago.

Ferreira Gould recently received another FLAD grant, this one in support of her own book on literary representations of family and empire in contemporary Portuguese literature. She is on leave during 2007–08, conducting research in Portugal and revising her manuscript at Notre Dame.

New Committee Focuses on Undergraduate Study

Led by the Committee for the Study of Romance Languages and Cultures (CSRLC), the Department introduced several innovations in support of undergraduate studies and learning during 2006–07, including:

- a foreign language writing clinic, where students are tutored by their more advanced peers. The clinic was established by Odette Menyard (French), Patrick Vivirito (Italian), and Elena Mangione-Lora (Spanish) in collaboration with the University’s Writing Center.
- credit-bearing pre-study abroad courses in Italian and Spanish, modeled on an existing class offered by Paul McDowell, a member of the French faculty. Students receive an overview of the host country’s culture and society while developing strategies to achieve learning objectives for their time abroad. The new courses were led by Alessia Blad and Theodore Cachey (Italian) and Kristine Ibsen and Shauna Williams (Spanish).
- a two-day faculty workshop on “Assessment and Evaluation,” which featured nationally prominent experts Judith Liskin-Gasparro of the University of Iowa and John Norris of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Over 50 participants from Notre Dame’s language and literature departments, Saint Mary’s College, and other area colleges took part in the workshop.

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Louis MacKenzie, associate professor of French, was one of 17 Notre Dame faculty members who received the first Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (formerly the Kaneb Teaching Award).

After visiting the University twice during 2006–07, **Zygmunt Baranski**, Albert J. Ravarino Family Distinguished Visiting Professor in Italian Studies, is in residence at Notre Dame this fall. Serena Professor of Italian at the University of Cambridge, Baranski is a world-renowned scholar of Dante, medieval poetics, and modern Italian literature, film, and culture. He is teaching the undergraduate course “Italian Cinema: The Realities of History” as well as the graduate-level “Dante: Poet and Intellectual.”

Jacques and Raïssa Maritain: Beggars for Heaven (Notre Dame Press), a biography by Jean-Luc Barré translated by **Bernard Doering**, professor emeritus of French, won a 2006 Book Award from the Catholic Press Association. The Association of American University Presses also named the book one of its outstanding titles for public and secondary school libraries.

The Italian Studies program held a “**Work In Progress**” colloquium last October that included presentations by members of the Department, other Notre Dame faculty, and visiting scholars. In December, a **departmental colloquium**

featured papers by faculty representing the French and Spanish programs.

Suzanne Jill Levine of the University of California, Santa Barbara, gave a lecture on “Biography and Translation: Two Approaches to Manuel Puig” in conjunction with Notre Dame’s acquisition of an incomparable collection of the Argentine author’s correspondence.

Several graduating seniors won prestigious fellowships to teach abroad. **Juan Gastelum**, **Mary Anne Lukeman**, and **Mary Miglioizzi** received Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships in Spain, Uruguay, and Italy, respectively. **Samantha Alarie-Leca**, **Michael Barrett**, **Danielle Danaher**, and **Andrea Nolet** all received French Government Teaching Assistantships in France.

Kristina Leszczak, a double major in Spanish and political science, was the co-winner of the 2007 John J. Kennedy Prize, awarded by Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies for the best senior essay on Latin America. **Paul Kane** and **Andrea Dreyfuss**, students in the

Portuguese program, received the George Monteiro Prize, which is given jointly by the Department and the Kellogg Institute for the two best undergraduate essays, written in Portuguese, on a subject related to the Lusophone world.

The Department’s **annual theatre projects** continue to be a signature feature of undergraduate education. Celebrating its 15th year, L’Illustre Théâtre de l’Université de Notre Dame du Lac, founded and directed by Associate Professional Specialist Paul McDowell, presented Molière’s comedy *Le Médecin malgré lui*. Under the direction of Laura Colangelo (B.A. ’02) and Associate Professor Colleen Ryan-Scheutz, the Italian Theatre Workshop produced Carlo Goldoni’s *La Locandiera*. Nancy Márquez led the Spanish Theatre Workshop as it staged a Latin American play, Julio Cortázar’s *Nada a Pehuajó*, for the first time.

2007 M.A. recipients **Mary Broome** (French), **Luca Cottini** (Italian), **Katia Pansa** (Italian), and **Mara Pastor** (Spanish) are all now pursuing Ph.D.s in top-20 programs, Broome at UCLA, Cottini at Harvard, Pansa at Stanford, and Pastor at Michigan.

2007 DEPARTMENTAL CONVOCAATION SPEECH

As Romance Languages and Literatures majors, our students have steady contact with some of the most inspiring and challenging works the many cultures they study have to offer. And then they graduate. At the Department's annual convocation, Christian Moevs, associate professor of Italian, offered a reflection on life after commencement, saying daily demands shouldn't obscure the "infinite in the finite." An excerpt of his remarks is reprinted here.

One morning this past January, *The Washington Post* did an experiment. They asked a young man to play some tunes on an old violin at rush hour in a Washington subway station.

It wasn't just any old violin. It was the Gibson ex Huberman . . . made in 1713 by Antonio Stradivari . . . [and] worth \$3.5 million.

It wasn't just any young man. It was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest violinists on earth . . . One reviewer has said that his playing "does nothing less than tell human beings why they bother to live."

It wasn't just any tunes. Joshua Bell played six of the greatest pieces ever written for solo violin. The first piece he played, the "Chaconne" from Johann Sebastian Bach's *Partita No. 2 in D Minor*, is in fact one of the greatest pieces ever written for any instrument, indeed, as Bell himself says, it is "one of the greatest achievements of any man in history: spiritually profound, emotionally powerful, structurally perfect."

So that was the experiment: have one of the world's greatest violinists play some of the greatest music ever written on one of the greatest violins ever made, but have him do it in jeans and a baseball cap, standing near a trash can in an arcade at rush hour, with his violin case open for spare change.

What happened? Not much. In the 43 minutes that Bell played, 1,097 people came through the arcade. Exactly seven stopped for a minute or more. Twenty-seven gave money, for a total of \$32.

What does one conclude from this experiment?

One could question our educational system . . . [b]ut the response to beauty is not really a question of education. It is innate in the human soul. In fact, one of the people most drawn to Bell's playing was a 40-year-old career busboy in a cafe in the arcade. He was working hard, but every chance he got, he'd stand at the very edge of the cafe, craning his head out to see and listen. When they asked him later, he said he had no idea what the violinist was playing, but it gave him peace.

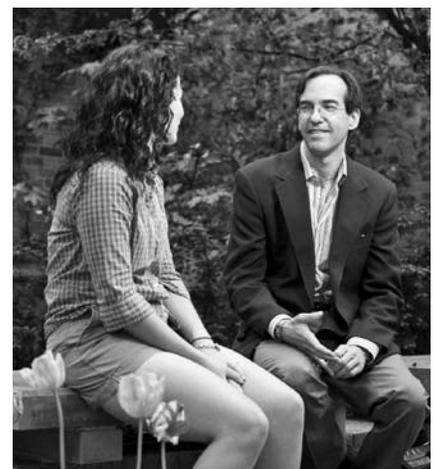
Peace. Peace is the innate nature of man; it is a bottomless, shoreless ocean in the heart. Great music is the ocean calling to the wave, which is really the deep calling to the deep. When the soul responds to that call, it is awakening to its own infinity, its freedom, its transcendence of nature and time. That is the experience of beauty. This experience of the eternal in time, of the infinite in the finite, is what great music and art and literature are about; it is what Bach's "Chaconne" is about. Our response to beauty is our response to God.

How do we lose God? Like those people at rush hour who walked by Bach and Joshua Bell. Those people had things to do, things to become, with an eye on their watches. We lose eternity, and enter the prison of time, by striving to be this or that . . . We must play our roles in the world, do what God has given us to do, as well as we can. But we must not live for our roles. Let us live only for God, who has given us those roles. That's what Bach did. He worked as hard as anyone ever has. He also inscribed "For the glory of God" on top of every piece he wrote, including the "Chaconne."

There was one demographic group in that rush hour crowd that did respond unanimously to Bach and Joshua Bell. That was the children. Every single child was instantly mesmerized, tried to stop, kept turning back. And every single one of them was pulled away by an adult, who had someplace to go.

I want to leave you with that image: the child turning back to Bach, entranced by beauty, longing for the ocean, and being pulled away by an adult.

Will we do that to our children? Will we do that to ourselves?



Christian Moevs with student

Moreno-Anderson and Vitulli Join Faculty

The Department's Spanish program welcomed two scholars to its teaching-and-research faculty this fall.



Marisel Moreno-Anderson (Ph.D. Georgetown University), an assistant professor of U.S. Latino literature, has taught regularly in the Department over the last nine years and is a fellow of the Institute for Latino Studies. Trained in both Latin American and U.S. Latino literatures, Moreno-Anderson has a particular interest in mainland and

insular Puerto Rican and Dominican literature and culture. Her current book project examines the literature of Puerto Rican women authors both on the island and the U.S. mainland.

Juan Vitulli (Ph.D. Vanderbilt University), whose research focuses on Golden Age Spanish literature and transatlantic studies, also joined the Department as an assistant professor. Through the works of Juan de Espinosa Medrano, a 17th-century priest in Peru, Vitulli has traced the connections between



early-modern peninsular Spanish literature and culture and their colonial Latin American counterparts. Originally from Argentina, he won the E. Inman Fox Award for Excellence in Teaching from Vanderbilt's Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

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