President's Column

It has been a great pleasure serving all of you as president of GEMELA. Although the economy has taken a notable downturn this past year, just the opposite can be said of our organization. GEMELA scholars continue to promote women’s cultural production from the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America (pre-1800). We are actively publishing scholarship that recognizes the importance of these works and our field is becoming much more established in traditional literary settings.

We had a very successful conference this past October 2-4, 2008 at California State University, Long Beach. The weather could not have been more beautiful and the conference hotel was top notch. A special thanks to Lisa Vollendorf and Bonnie Gasior for sponsoring this extremely well organized event. We had more than eighty participants, some of whom traveled all the way from Spain, France, Portugal, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. A note of gratitude to Flor de Sirena for their beautiful Sephardic music performance and Asunción Lavrin for her engaging keynote address on the religious literature of colonial Mexico. We would also like to thank Nieves Romero Díaz of Mount Holyoke College for agreeing to host our next conference in late September 2010. Dates, calls for papers, and other pertinent details are forthcoming.

Recently GEMELA participated under our new Allied Status at the MLA in San Francisco. We sponsored two engaging sessions “La mujer y la palabra: Women’s Writing and Education in Spain and the Americas” and a roundtable on “Colonial and Early Modern Women in Translation.” Approximately fifty people attended these sessions and we are already looking forward to next year’s MLA in Philadelphia. See section below for call for papers.

2009 is a non-conference year for GEMELA. However, we will be participating in several sessions at conferences in the USA and abroad. It is important that we continue to present our scholarship at those venues and stay active in the field. For some of us it is a long time to wait for our bi-annual conference, so these mini-affiliated GEMELA sessions are crucial to keep in contact and maintain our wonderful friendships. I encourage all of you to attend these conferences and/or propose new GEMELA sessions at other ones. Any member can organize a special session. The board has also decided to give out small grants ($250) to members who are organizing a conference that promotes GEMELA’s mission statement. See our website for further information and guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact me or post your sessions directly to the GEMELA list-serve: list@gemela.org

¡Prospero año nuevo a todos!

Sarah Owens
President of GEMELA
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2010 GEMELA Conference: Mount Holyoke College

GEMELA will have its 2010 conference at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Hosted by Nieves Romero Díaz (one of GEMELA's past presidents), this will be the first time we hold our conference in beautiful New England. And just in time for the fall foliage! As always, the conference will be an exciting opportunity to meet again after a two-year hiatus. Please be thinking of special panels, roundtables, sessions, and alternate paper presentations that you might propose as the CFP begins to circulate. Any ideas, suggestions and comments should be sent to: Sarah Owens (owenss@cofc.edu). Abstracts are not due until March 15, 2010.

MLA Call for Papers: Philadelphia, December 27-30, 2009

GEMELA will have two sessions at the upcoming MLA in Philadelphia. Please send 1 page abstract and 2 page C.V. to Bonnie Gasior by March 1, 2009 (bgasior@csulb.edu).

1. “Monastic Writings: In and Beyond the Convent”
   Submissions invited on writing in/beyond the convent, including: hagiography, auto/biography, poetry, drama, fiction, letters, and foundational narratives.

2. “Teaching Early Modern & Colonial Women” (Roundtable)
   Submissions invited on theoretical and practical considerations for teaching early modern and colonial women from Europe and the Americas.

Executive Board Nominations

GEMELA will have elections for several key positions on its executive board during 2009. Lisa Vollendorf will finish her term as Past President (thanks to Lisa for all her years of service!) and Sarah Owens will move on to fill that position. Our positions of web advisor and treasurer will carry over for one more year. Therefore we encourage you to consider nominating yourself or another member for the following positions (descriptions of which appear in our constitution and by-laws found on our website):

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary

If you have comments or questions about the duties of each position, please contact Sarah Owens (owenss@cofc.edu). Nominations will be taken between May and August. Elections will be conducted in September, 2009.
Member News:

Book Publications

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the authors of these recent books and encourage everyone to ask their libraries to request them.

Articles, Book Chapters and Reviews

Congratulations to our members on their recent publications:

- ---. Fowler, Keith and Glenn Odom. Personal interview. “UCI’s Production of La Celestina: ’If only we had used that stupid girdle!’”. *Comedia Performance* 5.1 (2008): 169-185.
Continued


Awards and Promotions

- Asunción Lavrin received the “Distinguished Service Award” from the Conference on Latin American History--2009.
- Nina Scott was selected as a year-long Associate (2008-09) at the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, housed at Mt. Holyoke College. Her project is on Sor Juana’s seven oil portraits.
- Gwyn Campbell has been asked by ETS [Educational Testing Service] to serve one final year—the current academic one—as Chief Reader for AP Spanish Language.
- Linda L. Elman received a three-year fellowship from her university (DePauw) to support the research and writing of a manuscript about Old Testament heroines in the Spanish comedia.
- Alison Weber was the keynote speaker for the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Symposium. "Believing is Seeing; Stigmata, Spectacle, and the Fall of an Aspiring Saint.” University of Miami. February, 2008.
- Brad Ellis has been approved for sabbatical for spring 2010 to work on a book project entitled Assimilation, Resistance, and Subversion: Literary Representations of the Moriscas in Early Modern Spain.
- Rocío Quispe-Agnoli has been selected to serve in the American Panel Fellowship (2008-2009) and the International Panel Fellowship (2009-2010) of the American University of American Women (www.aauw.org). She also received the 2008 Outstanding Faculty Award in Latin American Studies at Michigan State University.
- Zoé Jiménez Corretjer won the Premio Nacional de Ensayo 2008 from the Pen Club of Puerto Rico. This prestigious award was in honor of her book publication, La mano que escribe: Literatura, Arte y Pensamiento.
- Promotion to Associate: Maryrica Ortiz Lottman, UNC Charlotte.
- Promotion to Professor: Lisa Vollendorf, California State University, Long Beach.