Dear Members,

It is a real pleasure to work with our association’s dedicated board members Brad, Emily, Iván, Mónica, Nieves and Stacey, and an honor to serve as GEMELA’s president during 2013-15. In this edition of our annual newsletter you will find an update from Vanda Anastácio, the host of our upcoming biennial conference in Portugal, September 8th-10th, 2014. We are very fortunate to have Vanda’s gracious invitation to meet at the University of Lisbon. It will also be a distinct privilege at the conference to recognize Emilie Bergmann, who has contributed so much to GEMELA during her distinguished career, with our Honorary Lifetime Member Award. We can look forward to a full and exciting program with strong participation from our core membership, as well as from many new colleagues from across the Americas and Europe.

Soon the conference committee will send confirmations to participants, as well as information about registration, transportation and accommodations. A preliminary program will be available early in the summer. To participate, please make sure your dues are up to date through 2015 by using the link on GEMELA’s website, Gemela.org. At our general business meeting for all members in Lisbon we will take up the question of the location of our next conference. The board is currently looking for a conference host for 2016. If you would consider hosting GEMELA in the future, or have ideas regarding the 2016 conference planning, please be in touch with me or any of our board members. We would welcome hearing from you.

Also in this newsletter you will find an exceptional item from Sharon D. Voros on the first-known performance of Leonor de la Cueva’s La firmeza en la ausencia. David Pasto directed the performance at Oklahoma City University in November 2013, using Sharon’s English translation. In addition, you will find information on GEMELA’s recent MLA sessions and upcoming participation at other scholarly meetings, as well as the titles of some of the recent books and articles our members have published, prestigious awards our members have received, and other news. Please join me in extending a hearty congratulations to all. 2013-14 has been a great year for GEMELA. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

Warm regards,

Dana

Biennial Conference:
“Traçando Caminhos” / “Trazando Caminos” / “Tracing Paths”

On September 8th-10th the University of Lisbon will welcome the 2014 GEMELA conference at its Faculdade de Letras. Two keynote speakers have accepted our invitation to participate: Tobias Brandenberger from the University of Göttingen, Germany (author of Literatura de matrimonio – Península Ibérica, s. XIV-XVI and La muerte de la ficción sentimental. Transformaciones de un género iberorrománico), and Amelia Hutchinson from the University of Georgia (Director of the NEH funded Fernão Lopes Translation Project).

The last session of the conference will take place at the beautiful Fronteira Palace, host of the Foundation of the Houses of Fronteira and Alorna, which belongs to the descendants of the famous woman writer, the Marquise of Alorna (1750-1839). A visit to the palace’s library and gardens will be part of the program. This conference will certainly be a privileged occasion to reestablish connections and to expand the GEMELA network to include new contacts among colleagues from many different European countries and the Americas.

With all my best wishes,

Vanda
"The First-Known Performance of Leonor de la Cueva’s La firmeza en la ausencia"

Leonor de la Cueva y Silva’s only extant play La firmeza en la ausencia now has a stage history. David Pasto from Oklahoma City University directed the translation into English, Tried and True, by Sharon D. Voros, United States Naval Academy. Opening night was November 21st. Winter weather, however, caused the second performance to be cancelled on November 22nd, as was the Sunday matinee on November 24th. Fortunately, several colleagues were able to attend Saturday’s performance on November 23rd, Robert Lauer, the University of Oklahoma, Kae Koger, the University of Oklahoma, Kerry Wilks with two students from Wichita State University, Christopher Weimer, Oklahoma State University, and Perry Gethner, Oklahoma State University. The play was performed at the Oklahoma City University Stage II, a black-box theater with “minimal design and technical elements,” as described in the playbill. This did not detract from the actors’ lively, engaging performance, the first-known for Doña Leonor in any language. The casting was essential to the success of the performance with Jasmine Richman as Armesinda, Lucas Haupert as King Filiberto, Robert Charles Jamerson, Jr., as Don Juan, Mike Newton as the gracioso Tristán, and Ian Maryfield as Carlos. The supporting cast, Amanda Ack as Princess Celidaura, Lillian

MLA January 2014 Sessions

GEMELA sponsored two panels at the recent Modern Language Association convention in Chicago in January 2014. Our guaranteed session, "Women’s Fears and Fear of Women", featured papers by Beatriz Cruz, Leisa Kauffmann, and Mindy Badia. The snow and ice in the northeast unfortunately prevented Catherine Connor’s flight from making it to Chicago, and her presence was sorely missed. A joint roundtable session, “The Vulnerable Female Body in Early Modern Spanish Literature, was held in conjunction with the Division on Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama. Barbara Simmerka organized and presided over the discussion, which included participants Stacey Aronson, Alyson Cole, Thomas Patrick Finn, Bonnie Gasior and, as a respondent, María M. Carrión. Both sessions were well attended and provoked lively discussion.

MLA 2015 in Vancouver

The title of GEMELA’s guaranteed session for the Modern Language Association’s 2015 convention in Vancouver will be, “In Search of Forgotten Women in Pre-1800 Iberia and the Americas” in connection with the MLA’s theme of “Negotiating Sites of Memory”. Given that medieval and Early Modern women’s histories so often remain untold and thus absent from cultural and scholarly sites of memory, this roundtable session will focus on women who have not yet received full attention by critics, yet whose lives and/or works broke social, legal, and religious boundaries. Participants will be announced soon via the listserv.
GEMELA SESSIONS AT RSA

Our members have organized five panels sponsored by GEMELA at the upcoming Renaissance Society of America’s annual conference in New York, March 27th-29th, 2014. Paper abstracts and details can be found online in the RSA’s conference program.

EARLY MODERN WOMEN NEGOTIATING SPACES AND SUBJECTIVITIES IN SPAIN AND THE NEW WORLD Organizer: Montserrat Pérez-Toribio; Chair: Rosilie Hernández-Pecoraro

Clara Herrera, “Mystical Experience and the Social and Racial Prejudices in Nueva Granada”

Montserrat Pérez-Toribio, “Resolución Varonil and Transnational Exemplarity: Isabel Clara Eugenia and the Countess of Tyrconnel”

Jelena Sanchez, “Female Empowerment: Devotion and Propriety in La viuda valenciana and Marta la piadosa”

NUNS, ACTORS, AND AUTHORS: WOMEN’S ROLES IN EARLY MODERN SPAIN AND COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA Organizer: Margaret E. Boyle; Chair: Bárbara Mujica

Elizabeth Marie Cruz Petersen, “The Education of a Woman Actor”


Nina M. Scott, “One Habit and Two Undergarments for a Nun’s Three-Year Journey”

Bonnie L. Gasior, “Sor Juana’s ‘Hombres necios’ and Three Nineteenth-Century Réplicas: The Politics of Gender?”

WOMEN’S EATING HABITS AND OTHER FOOD PRACTICES IN EARLY MODERN SPAIN AND THE NEW WORLD Organizer and Chair: Carolyn Nadeau

Madera Gabriela Allan, “What We Eat: The Debate over Diet in Inquisitorial Ciudad Real”

Mindy Badia, “You Are What She Ate: Francisco Núñez de Coria’s Del parto humano”

Yolanda Gamboa, “Spanish Women’s Food Habits and Utensils in Colonial Florida”

Isabel Jaén Portillo, “Diet, Gender, Mind, and Procreation in Early Modern Spain”

THE DISCIPLES OF TERESA OF AVILA IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS Organizer: Bárbara Mujica; Chair: Anne J. Cruz

Bárbara Mujica, “Ramillete de Mirra: María de San José’s Open Letter on the Abuses of Nicolás Doria”

Sharon Dahlgren Voros, “Teresa de Jesús and Jeanne Guyon Read the Song of Songs”

Carole Slade, “Letters to Teresa: E-Testaments of Devotion and Inspiration for Her 500th Birthday”

Montserrat Lau, “Ana de San Bartolomé: Florecimiento y difusión Teresiana en Francia y los Países Bajos”

FEMALE PLAYERS ON THE EARLY MODERN STAGE Organizer: Anne J. Cruz; Chair: Rosilie Hernández-Pecoraro

María Cristina Quintero, “Royal Players: Habsburg Queens and the Comedia”

Carmen Sanz, “To Conquer Paris: Spanish Actresses in the Court of Louis XIV”

Anne J. Cruz, “Treachorous Friends: Spanish and English Women Playwrights”

CFP for Panel at SAMLA

"Santa Teresa de Jesús: In Anticipation of the 5th Centenary of Her Birth."

This panel will be in anticipation of the 5th Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa de Jesús (1515-2015), and in celebration of the 4th Century of her Beatification (1614-2014). In tribute to this year’s theme of the conference, “Sustainability and Humanities”, this panel is open to exploring new and future approaches that consider Teresa’s work in a vast array of media, including digital media and culture. Also new approaches and methods to be used in the classroom are welcome. By June 1, 2014, please submit a 250-300 word abstract, brief bio and A/V requirements, to Josefina C. López, Wake Forest University, at lopezjdc@wfu.edu

WWW.GEMELA.ORG
Publications: Books and Articles


Promotions, Awards, Grants, Recognitions, Appointments

- **Barbara Mujica**'s historical novel, *I Am Venus* came out in June 2013 and was a winner of the Maryland Writers’ Association fiction competition for historical novel. Based on the life of Spanish painter Diego Velázquez, the novel focuses largely on the women in Velazquez’s life.

- **Carolyn Nadeau** received a Franklin Research Grant for “Preparing a critical edition and translation of Francisco Martínez Montiño’s *Arte de cocina, pastelería, vizcochería y conservería* [The art of cooking, pie making, pastry making and preserving] (Spain, 1611),” from the American Philosophical Society, 2014.

- **Sarah E. Owens** was promoted to Professor at the College of Charleston. She was also the winner with co-editor Jane E. Mangan of the 2013 Best Collaborative Project, awarded for their book *Women of the Iberian Atlantic* (2012) by the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women.

- **Sonia Pérez** was appointed Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the Department of Humanities at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA in 2013.

- **Amanda Powell** was reclassified as Senior Lecturer in Spanish at the University of Oregon in 2013. Also in 2013 her chapbook of poetry, *Prowler*, was published by Finishing Line Press. She received a 2014 fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts for her translation into English, in progress, of a novel by Uriel Quesada, *El gato de sí mismo* (Editorial Costa Rica, 2005; winner of the Costa Rican Book Award for Best Novel 2006).

- **Mariana Zinni** was awarded with the Isaias Lerner Memorial Award from the CUNY Academy for the Humanities & Sciences in 2013.