



# GEMELA

## Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (pre-1800)

AUGUST 13, 2007

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

### Executive Board

Past President: *Nieves Romero-Díaz*

President: *Lisa Vollendorf*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: *Sarah Owens*

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: *Barbara Simerka*

Web Advisor: *Iván Fernández Peláez*

Secretary: *Grady Wray*

Treasurer: *Susan Smith*

### Conference 2008

**Site:** GEMELA will have its 2008 conference at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.

**Host:** Jennifer Eich

**Date:** October 2-4, 2008. Conference will start in the afternoon on Thursday, with a plenary & reception to follow initial sessions.

**Location:** LMU is situated minutes from LAX and many of southern California's best beaches.

**Hotel site:** We will use a hotel in Marina del Rey, which has a marina, restaurants, and shops. Marina del Rey is a taxi ride away from Playa del Rey, Manhattan Beach, and Venice Beach, which have beaches, restaurants, and nightlife.  
<http://www.visitthemarina.com/>

**CFP:** To appear by October 2007.

**Abstracts:** Due by 15 March 2008 to:  
[congreso2008@yahoo.com](mailto:congreso2008@yahoo.com)

### President's Column

2007 has marked a revolution for GEMELA, as our newly elected web director, Iván Fernández, has rolled out a new website, complete with new design and new capacity for expansion. The site can be found at our new web address: <http://www.gemela.org>

The site went live on June 2, 2007. Suggestions and materials are welcome, please direct them to [webmaster@gemela.org](mailto:webmaster@gemela.org). The old website, <http://www.aaaahome.org>, will be phased out in the following months, please update your bookmarks.

We also have a new listserve, to which all members can post. The address for posting: [list@gemela.org](mailto:list@gemela.org). Also see the following link for subscription information or to change your temporary settings (including vacation stops, digest mode, and other options): [http://www.gemela.org/mailman/listinfo/list\\_gemela.org](http://www.gemela.org/mailman/listinfo/list_gemela.org). You can also make such adjustments via email by sending a message to: [List\\_gemela.org-request@gemela.org](mailto:List_gemela.org-request@gemela.org) with the word help in the subject or body, and you will get back a message with instructions.

Goals for the website and listserve include:

- (1) Development of a syllabus project for any courses related to our primary field of study;
- (2) Improved communication with members;
- (3) Promotion of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century Hispanic gender studies via links and improved communication with other similar organizations around the world.

*Revista de GEMELA*, our e-journal, now has an editorial board, and we are thankful to those members for their ongoing commitment to that project.

We need to amend our constitution, as the organizational name, officers' duties, and language related to our conferences no longer reflect our working practices.

Elections are coming up, which means I have the pleasure of acknowledging and thanking the board members who generously have given their time and energy to the organization. It has been a distinctly positive and truly collaborative experience working with this board. I know I speak for the entire organization when I express heartfelt thanks to the following:

- (1) Sarah Owens has been a supportive and hard working board member whose term as First Vice President is coming to a close.
- (2) Nieves Romero-Díaz has given countless hours to the organization as Vice-President, President and Past-President over the past six years. ¡Brava y gracias!
- (3) Barbara Simerka has worked hard as Second Vice President, particularly to raise GEMELA's profile at numerous conferences over the past years.
- (4) Susan Smith, as everyone who has written a check to her knows, has done been an amazingly thorough, patient, kind, and efficient Treasurer.
- (5) Grady Wray has been an outstanding Secretary whose grace and collegiality are unsurpassed.

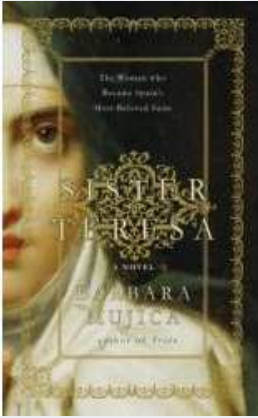
In addition to seeking nominees for elections as per the section below, I would like to encourage members to continue to submit announcements, calls for papers, research grant deadlines, book publication announcements, and other relevant information to the board (see email contacts at end of newsletter).

Os desea a todos y a todas un feliz verano,

Lisa Vollendorf ([president@gemela.org](mailto:president@gemela.org))

## Of Interest to Members

\**Sister Teresa. A Novel.*  
Bárbara Mujica. Overlook  
Press, 2007. ISBN:  
1585678341.



\*"Interrogating Iberian Frontiers", a Special Issue of *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* (Vol. 12.3, 2006). Ed. Barbara Weissberger and others.



Do you have publications or other news to share with members?

Submit your news for the next newsletter.

Subject line: Newsletter

president@gemela.org

## Executive Board Nominations & Elections

GEMELA will have elections in September for several key positions on the executive board. Nieves Romero-Díaz will finish her term as Past President, Lisa Vollendorf will move on to fill that position. All other positions are open for election except that of Web Director. We therefore will take nominations for:

- President
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Send your nominations to *Nieves Romero-Díaz* ([past.president@gemela.org](mailto:past.president@gemela.org)) by September 15. Duties of these positions appear in the constitution that we are sending with this newsletter. If you have comments or questions, please contact Lisa Vollendorf ([president@gemela.org](mailto:president@gemela.org)). *Please note:* We need dedicated members to step forward and nominate themselves for these positions so our organization can continue to thrive. We always are looking for a mix of Latin Americanists and Peninsularists, and senior and junior people. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in service at a national level and to serve an organization that has been crucial for our field.

## Membership Cycle Change

Since GEMELA has shifted to a biannual conference as its default cycle, the Executive Board voted unanimously in June 2007 to also change the membership cycle to match the conference years. This will mean that every time we have a conference we will request two years of dues (\$30 total). This also will help avoid the recent confusion that has occurred with regard to the current membership list, as many members in 2006 thought they had paid through 2007, when in fact membership is by calendar year. The new cycle will allow you to pay dues for the 2008 conference, and have a membership for 2008 and 2009. Renewals will occur in 2010 when conference dues are requested.

For those who are not 2007 members and would like to be, please send \$15 made out to Susan Smith/GEMELA Treasurer, c/o Dept. of Modern Languages Box 172 Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, VA 23943. Thank you!

## Revista de GEMELA

The following people have volunteered to be part of *Revista GEMELA's* e-journal editorial board. Stay tuned for calls for papers and other news!

- Coordinating editors: Emilie L. Bergmann and Nieves Romero Diaz.
- Book review editors: Iván Fernández and Susan Smith.
- Editorial board 2007: Electa Arenal, Oswaldo Estrada, Emily Francomano, Valerie Hegstrom, Barbara Simerka. Editorial Assistant: Sonia Pérez Villanueva.
- Editorial board 2008: Bonnie Gasior, Alison Weber, Stacey Schlau, Rocio Quispe Agnoli, David Castillo. Editorial Assistant: Sonia Pérez Villanueva.

## Proposed Amendments to Constitution

Along with this Summer 2007 newsletter, you should be receiving the constitution with proposed amendments that the Executive Board has written to help strengthen the constitution and make it reflect the working practices of the organization. To note, the amendments do the following:

1. Name: Change AEEA to GEMELA throughout the document.
2. Conference: change of language to refer to our optimal conference cycle of every other year, which previously stated 'annual' conference in constitution.
3. Clarification of duties of officers as per actual practice of the board over the past five years. This includes changing the constitution from having a First Vice President who automatically becomes President to an open presidency nomination structure. We recommend this change because it is very difficult to get people to commit to six years of service: two as First Vice President, two as President, and two as Past President. Reducing the term by eliminating the automatic rollover from First Vice President to President should help incentivize more people to participate on the Board.

We will request a vote to approve these changes when we have elections in September. In the meantime, please send any input or questions you might have to [president@gemela.org](mailto:president@gemela.org).

## Potential Collaboration

In June 2007, Lisa Vollendorf met in Liverpool, England, with Claire Williams and Kirsty Hooper, President and Website Administrator (respectively) of Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies (WISPS), a United Kingdom based organization focused on Hispanism. We discussed possible joint events.

WISPS has had working paper weekends, seminars related to the profession, and regular conferences over the years, so there are numerous possibilities for collaboration.

This kind of international collaboration represents a promising new direction for GEMELA, as it would allow us to continue to build bridges with colleagues in other countries. If you have ideas for making such collaborations work, please contact us.

## MLA 2006 Update ☺

The two sessions organized by GEMELA for the 2006 MLA Convention in Philadelphia were extraordinarily well attended. Anne J. Cruz, Electa Arenal, Amanda Powell, Stacey Schlau, Barbara Mujica, and Alison Weber (presiding) spoke to a packed room on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm on the topic of "Hispanic Women Writers and the Canon (pre-1800)." This inspiring session was followed the next day by an equally energizing panel chaired by Stacey Schlau, at which Alison Weber, Grady Wray, and Emilie L. Bergmann spoke about "New Visions of Teresa of Avila and Sor Juana." ¡Enhorabuena y gracias a tod@s l@s participantes y a l@s que asistieron a las sesiones!

## MLA 2007 Update ☹

Unfortunately, our 2007 proposal to the MLA for a session on Las mujeres en los archivos was turned down. We are still waiting, though, to hear from MLA regarding our pending application to become an Affiliate Organization, which would allow us one slot per MLA convention. Light those candles and say those prayers to the Virgin of Guadalupe or whichever gods and goddesses might help us with this!

In the fall, we will use the listserve to circulate a list of members presenting at the MLA like we did last year. When we request everyone's individual session information, please remember to send it and to support your colleagues by attending their panels if you will be at the MLA.

## Mission Statement Update

- On 9/15/06, GEMELA voted overwhelming to change its name and also to change its mission statement. The new statement read: "The [organization] strives to unite scholars across traditional disciplinary boundaries through its focus on women's cultural production in medieval and early modern Spain and colonial Latin America through 1800. Our purpose is to disseminate information and knowledge about women and their role as cultural producers. Our conferences and publications encourage excellence in teaching and research based on all interdisciplinary approaches related to our principal field of inquiry."
- In May 2007, the Board accepted two friendly amendments to this statement and voted unanimously to excise sexist and otherwise unclear language from the statement. We deleted the words "disseminate" and clarified that we welcome not strictly interdisciplinary approaches, but all disciplinary approaches.
- The official mission statement now reads: "GEMELA strives to unite scholars across traditional disciplinary boundaries through its focus on women's cultural production in medieval and early modern Spain and colonial Latin America through 1800. Our purpose is to distribute information and knowledge about women and their role as cultural producers. Our conferences and publications encourage teaching and research based on all approaches related to our principal field of inquiry."

## Calls for Papers & Upcoming Conferences

- **CFP:** Renaissance Conference of Southern California. February 2, 2008 at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. GEMELA will organize a session or facilitate submissions as desired. Deadline for submission to GEMELA ([president@gemela.org](mailto:president@gemela.org)) is October 1, 2007. Also see website: [www.rcsca.org](http://www.rcsca.org)
- **CFP:** XXVI Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures. March 6-8, 2008. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. *Challenges of the 21st Century: Dilemmas and Frontiers*. Keynote Speaker is Ileana Rodríguez, Ohio State University. Please submit a 250-word abstract postmarked by October 3, 2007 via post-mail or e-mail. On a separate page please include the following information: Title of your presentation, Name, E-mail address, Institution, Academic Rank, Address and Office and home phone number. Abstracts should be sent to Dr. Laura Martins ([martins@lsu.edu](mailto:martins@lsu.edu)), at LSU, Department of Foreign Lang. & Lit., 316 Hodges Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (Phone: 225-578-6616/Fax: 225-578-5074). Papers may be in English, Spanish or Portuguese and should not exceed a reading period of twenty minutes (8-9 pages).
- **CFP:** Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Miami, Coral Gables, SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEDIEVAL, RENAISSANCE, AND BAROQUE SYMPOSIUM: SPECTACLE AND THE SPECTACULAR IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE. February 21 - 23, 2008. This symposium invites papers on

## **Links of Interest:**

Women in Spanish and Portuguese  
Studies

<http://www.wisps.org.uk/>

Spanish Women Intellectuals,  
1880-1920

<http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~chomik/2home.html>

Latin American Studies Association  
Conference Calendar

<http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/conferences.html>

Society for Spanish and Portuguese  
Historical Studies Conference  
Calendar

<http://uweb.cas.usf.edu/ssphs/home.htm>

American Historical Association  
Conference Calendar

<http://www.historians.org/calendar/index.cfm>

Hispanismo Conference Calendar

<http://hispanismo.cervantes.es/agendas.asp?ano=2008&mes=12>

Berkshire Conference of Women  
Historians

(Next meeting = June 12-15, 2008  
in Minneapolis)

<http://www.berksconference.org/>

the many visual events, from religious ceremonies to state policy, that drew crowds of onlookers and that simultaneously reflected and shaped the various cultures of early modern Europe. Topics that focus on public expressions of literary and popular culture, religious and folk beliefs, and state and government practices, such as theater, street diversions, royal entries, religious processions, autos de fe, and trials are welcome. Other possibilities include the popular aspects and cultural implications of fashion, the monstrous, art exhibits, wonder cabinets, and demonstrations of the "other" from all areas of the known world. Presenters are encouraged to provide diverse theoretical and critical approaches to their choice of topic. Keynote speakers: Valeria Finucci, Duke University, "In Search of a Sexual Fix: The Peruvian Elixir." Alison Weber, University of Virginia, "Believing is Seeing: Stigmata, Spectacle, and the Fall of an Aspiring Saint." A one page abstract and brief CV to should be sent by November 1, 2007 to: Michelle Prats c/o Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Miami, P.O. Box 248093, Coral Gables, Florida 33124-2074 or via e-mail to [m.prats@miami.edu](mailto:m.prats@miami.edu). Acceptances will be confirmed no later than December 1, 2007. Papers should not exceed 20 minutes. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Symposium Co-organizers: Anne J. Cruz, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and Guido Ruggiero, Department of History.

- **Announcement for Fall SRBHP Conference:** Nieves Romero-Díaz organized a GEMELA session on Poesía Femenina with Stacey Schlau, Lisa Vollendorf, Nieves, and (as chair) Laura Fernández of the U of Barcelona for the VIII Biennial Conference of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry (18-20 October 2007) at the Universidad de Córdoba. Other GEMELA members attending include: María Mercedes Carrión, Lucía Díaz Marroquín, Dana Bultman, Iván Fernández, Electa Arenal, Oswaldo Estrada, Adrienne Martín, Ted McVay, Julián Olivares, and Anne J. Cruz, who is president of SRBHP. Website (click on Góngora to enter): <http://www.uco.es/~fe1rupe/>
- **Announcement for Fall AILFCH Conference:** The AILFCH conference in Seville from October 24-26, 2007, will feature two special sessions organized by GEMELA. Participants include: Electa Arenal, María Antonia Bel Bravo, Mary Baldrige, María José Delgado, Zoé Jiménez Corretjer, Stacey Schlau, Mónica Díaz, and Lisa Vollendorf. Website: <http://www.denison.edu/collaborations/ailfh/congreso07/propuestas.html>

## **Conference News**

- Rocío Quispe-Agnoli organized a GEMELA session with Jennifer Eich, Stacey Schlau, Mónica Díaz, and Verónica Grossi for the Colonial Americas Studies Organization at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, June 5-7, 2007.
- Stacey Schlau gave one of the keynote addresses at the "Women, Sexuality, and Early Modern Studies" 42nd Annual Comparative Literature Conference, 15-16 March 2007 at California State University, Long Beach. Jennifer Eich, Sarah Owens, Sherry Velasco, José Cartagena Calderón and Lisa Vollendorf also participated. Sarah Owens followed up with a keynote address at the Graduate Student Colloquium at CSU, Long Beach.
- Nieves Romero-Díaz organized a GEMELA session for the Asociación Hispánica de Humanidades, in Madrid (June 2006). Session title: Mujeres, Moral y Ley en la Edad Moderna Temprana de España. Participants: Nieves Romero-Díaz, Mount Holyoke College, Aránzazu Borrachero Mendibil, Queensborough Community College (CUNY), Amanda Powell and Diane Dugaw, University of Oregon (co-presenters).

## **Member News**

***We extend our warmest congratulations to the following authors, editors, honorees, grant recipients, and promotees. We also encourage everyone to ask their libraries to place orders for members' books:***

### **Books and Special Journal Editions**

- Parker, Margaret, and Andrea Morris, eds. *Celebrations and Connections. Selected Proceedings of the 2006 Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Romero-Díaz, Nieves. *María de Guevara. Warnings to the King. Advice on Restoring Spain*. Introduction and Annotated Translation by Nieves Romero-Díaz. Chicago: U of Chicago P, forthcoming September 2007. (Other Voices in Early Modern Europe Series, 112)
- Romero-Díaz, Nieves, and Julio Vélez-Sainz, eds. *Cervantes and/on/in the New World*. Newark, DE: Juan de la Cuesta, 2007.

## Keep in Touch

Thank you for your ongoing participation in GEMELA. We invite you to contact board members if you have questions, comments, or input about how GEMELA can better serve individual and collective needs.

Past President: Nieves Romero-Díaz  
[past.president@gemela.org](mailto:past.president@gemela.org)

President: Lisa Vollendorf  
[president@gemela.org](mailto:president@gemela.org)

First Vice-President: Sarah Owens  
[first.vice-president@gemela.org](mailto:first.vice-president@gemela.org)

Second Vice-President:  
Barbara Simerka  
[second.vice-president@gemela.org](mailto:second.vice-president@gemela.org)

Secretary: Grady Wray  
[secretary@gemela.org](mailto:secretary@gemela.org)

Treasurer: Susan Smith  
[treasurer@gemela.org](mailto:treasurer@gemela.org)

Web Advisor:  
Iván Fernández Peláez  
[webmaster@gemela.org](mailto:webmaster@gemela.org)

<http://www.gemela.org>

- Weissberger, Barbara (with María Judith Feliciano, Leyla Rouhi, Cynthia Robinson), eds. "Interrogating Iberian Frontiers", a Special Issue of *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* Vol. 12.3 (2006).

### Articles and Reviews

- Arenal, Electa. "Women in the Oaxaca Teachers' Strike and Citizens' Uprising." *Feminist Studies* 33.1 (2007).
- Borrachero Mendíbil, Aránzazu. "Catalina de Erauso ante el patriarcado colonial: un estudio de *Vida i sucesos de la Monja Alférez*". *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* 83 (2006): 485-95.
- Borrachero Mendíbil, Aránzazu. "El autorretrato en la poesía de Catalina Clara Ramírez de Guzmán (1618-post 1684?)." *Calíope* 12:1 (2006): 79-88.
- Bel Bravo, María Antonia. "Una línea de investigación en los estudios de género: el ecofeminismo." En *Espacios y mujeres*. Publicado por la Universidad de Málaga, 2006.
- Bel Bravo, María Antonia. "Apuntes para una historia del cristianismo en la Nueva España a través de la literatura y la actividad educativa femenina." *Hispania Sacra* Vol. LVIII, nº 117. Madrid, CSIC, 2006.
- Díaz, Mónica. "The Indigenous Nuns of Corpus Christi: Race and Spirituality." *Religion in New Spain*. Eds. Susan Schroeder and Stafford Poole. Albuquerque: U of New Mexico P, 2007. 179-192.
- MacLean, Katie. "The Mystic and the Moorslayer: Saint Teresa, Santiago and the Struggle for Spanish Identity." *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* Vol. 83.7 (November, 2006): 887-910.

### Awards and Promotions

- *Promotion to Professor*: Alicia Giralt, Weber State University.
- *Promotion to Associate*: Bonnie Gasior, California State University, Long Beach;
- *Administrative News*: Margaret Parker has served as Interim Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Louisiana State University and has been named Associate Dean for 2007-2008.
- *Institutional changes*: Iván Fernández Peláez has moved from Yale University to Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Oswaldo Estrada moved from University of Puget Sound to UNC, Chapel Hill.

### Other Announcements

- Alison Weber will give a keynote address at the University of Miami 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Symposium.
- Barbara Weissberger was appointed Book Review Editor for *Speculum (Medieval Academy)*.

**¡Feliz fin de verano a tod@s!**