

MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

2017

Estelle Irizarry

(1937-2017)



[Submitted to AATSP from ANLE]

Estimados colegas y amigos: Les informo, con profunda tristeza, que ayer 17 [de marzo] falleció en Washington DC nuestra colega en la ANLE Da. Estelle Irizarry. Estelle fue editora de la prestigiosa revista *Hispania* desde 1993 al 2000, numeraria de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (ANLE) y correspondiente de la Real Academia Española. Irizarry era *Professor Emerita* de Georgetown University.

Entre sus innumerables publicaciones se encuentran: *Teoría y creación literaria en Francisco Ayala*. Madrid: Editorial Gredos, 1971. *Martín Fierro, de José Hernández*. Zaragoza: Clásicos Ebro, 1975. *La inventiva surrealista de E. F. Granell*. Madrid: Insula, 1976. *La broma literaria en nuestros días: Aub, Ayala, Gullón, Ripoll, Tiempo*. New York: Eliseo Torres, 1979. *Rafael Dieste*. Boston: G. K. Hall: Twayne's World Authors Series, 1979. *Enrique A. Laguerre*. Boston: G. K. Hall: Twayne's World Authors Series, 1982. *Writer-Painters of Contemporary Spain*. Boston: G. K. Hall: Twayne's World Authors Series, 1984. *Historias e invenciones de Félix Muriel, by Rafael Dieste*. Madrid: Ediciones Cátedra, 1985. *Escritores pintores españoles del siglo XX*. Sada-A Coruña: Do Castro, 1991. *Estudios sobre Rafael Dieste*. Barcelona: Anthropos. 1992. *Estudios sobre la obra de Tomás Barros*. Estelle Irizarry y Luz Pozo García. La Coruña: Universidad de La Coruña & P.V.P., 1992. *Dos poetas de Huelva en América: Juan Ramón Jiménez, cronista, Odón Betanzos Palacios, juglar*. Rociana del Condado: Fundación Odón Betanzos Palacios and Fundación El Monte (Colección Investigación) 1996. *Informática y literatura*. Barcelona & San Juan: Proyecto A/ Ediciones & University of Puerto Rico. 1997. *Altruismo y literatura: Odón Betanzos Palacios*. Rociana del Condado: Fundación Odón Betanzos Palacios and Fundación El Monte (Colección Investigación) 1999. *Sonetos de la muerte, by Odón Betanzos Palacios*. Fundación Odón Betanzos Palacios, 2000. Edition. *Concordancias al Félix Muriel de Rafael Dieste*. Online. [Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes](#), 2004. *Estudios sobre Enrique A. Laguerre*. San Juan: Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, 2005. *El arte de la tergiversación en nuevos cuentos y la novela de Luis López Nieves*. Carolina, PR: Terranova Editores, 2006. *Edición de Seva de Luis López Nieves*. Editorial Grupo Norma, 2006. *La voz que rompió el silencio: la novelística singular de J. Elías Levis, en Puerto Rico post-1898*. San Juan:

Ediciones Puerto, 2007. *Edición de Vida nueva de J. Elías Levis*. San Juan: Ediciones Puerto, 2007. PQ7797.M277 Z73 1997. *Las novelas Estercolero de José Elías Levis*. San Juan: Ediciones Puerto, 2008.

2016

Lillian Corpening

Lillian P. Corpening, 88, of Anthony, NM-TX and a native of the Mesilla Valley, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 7, 2016 at her home in Anthony, TX. Lillian was born December 27, 1927 in El Paso, TX to Luis and Albina (Geck) Provencio. She attended both Loretto Academy in Las Cruces and Valley High School (Gadsden) when Loretto Academy closed. Lillian graduated from Loretto Academy in El Paso, TX in 1945. While attending Valley High School, Lillian met her future husband, John Corpening and were married in 1947 when John returned from World War II military service.

Lillian received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in 1952 from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in El Paso, TX. She later received a Master of Arts degree in Teaching and did post graduate work at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM in 1973. She began her teaching career in 1950 with the Gadsden Independent School District (GISD) teaching first grade in La Union, NM. After ten years teaching first grade at La Union, Lillian was offered a position teaching English and Spanish at Gadsden High School (GHS). During her 25 years at GHS, she sponsored the Spanish club, organized and sponsored a Folklorico Dance group, was President of Gadsden Teachers Association, and had numerous students win awards in Spanish. Lillian retired from teaching in 1986 after 35 years with GISD.

During her career and in retirement, Lillian was active in numerous organizations and honor societies that included Pan American Roundtable, Phi Delta Kappa, President of Las Cruces Deanery Council of Catholic Women, and American Association of University Women (AAUW). Her proudest achievement was being elected national president (1986-1988) of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (National Spanish Honor Society) of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

[Read the complete obituary online](#)

Janet Pérez



Correspondiente de la Real Academia Española

**FALLECE LA PROFESORA JANET PÉREZ,
UNA DE LAS GRANDES HISPANISTAS ESTADOUNIDENSES**

PARA SU DISTRIBUCIÓN INMEDIATA

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Nueva York (20 de mayo de 2016). Ha fallecido la Profesora Janet Pérez, una de las hispanistas estadounidenses más destacadas de las últimas décadas. Miembro de número de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española desde 2010, Janet Pérez ingresó con un memorable discurso sobre las escritoras del exilio del 39, pronunciado en el Instituto Cervantes de Nueva York.

La profesora Janet Pérez era doctora en Lenguas Romances por la Universidad de Duke, y enseñó en la Universidad de Duke, Trinity College, Queens College (CUNY) y en la Universidad de Carolina del Norte en Chapel Hill. Durante muchos años ejerció la docencia en la Universidad de Texas Tech, donde llegó a ser decana de la Facultad de Estudios Graduados (1985-2000), cargo que abandonó para convertirse en editora de *Hispania*, revista oficial de la Asociación Americana de Profesores de Español y Portugués (AATSP).

Entre sus libros, cabe destacar *The Major Themes of Existentialism in the Works of Ortega y Gasset* (Chapel Hill: U of NC P); *Ana María Matute* (New York: Twayne); *Miguel Delibes* (New York: Twayne); *Novelistas femeninas de la postguerra española* [ed.] (Madrid: Porrúa); *Gonzalo Torrente Ballester* (Boston: G.K. Hall); *Women Writers of Contemporary Spain* (Boston: G.K. Hall); *Critical Studies on Gonzalo Torrente Ballester* [ed. c/ Stephen Miller]; *The Spanish Civil War in Literature* [ed. c/ W. Aycock: Texas Tech U P]; *Dictionary of Literature of the Iberian Peninsula* [ed. c/ Germán Bleiberg & Maureen Ihrie], 2 vols. (Westport CT: Greenwood Press); *Modern & Contemporary Spanish Women Poets* (New York: Twayne/Prentice Hall, 1996; on CD-ROM, 1997); *Camilo José Cela Revisited* (New York: Macmillan/Gale, 2000); *Feminist Encyclopedia of Spanish Literature* (Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2002), Ed. (c/M. Ihrie), 2 vols.; *Mapping the Fiction of Cristina Fernández Cubas* (ed., c/Kathleen Glenn), *El exilio español de 1939: las escritoras* (Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española, 2011). Publicó, asimismo, más de 250 artículos en *Hispania*, *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, *Journal of Spanish Studies: Twentieth Century*, *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos*, *World Literature Today*, *Anales de*

la Narrativa Española Contemporánea, Crítica Hispánica, Anthropos, Gestos, Siglo XX/20th Century, Hispanic Review, Revista Hispánica Moderna, Revista Monográfica, Antípodas, Confluencia, etc.

La profesora Janet Pérez fue sin duda una de las hispanistas más eminentes de nuestro tiempo. Son sus libros y estudios sobre narradores y poetas españoles e hispanoamericanos, seminales, modélicos en su prurito esclarecedor —y a veces controversiales—, frutos no ya de una lectura medio asimilada de tal o cual teórico de turno, sino de toda una vida dedicada a las letras hispánicas. Descanse en paz.

JEAN STAHL CHITTENDEN



Jean Stahl Chittenden, beloved mother and longtime Foreign Languages Chair at Trinity University, passed away peacefully at her home in San Antonio on March 8, 2016.

Jean was born Margaret Jean Stahl on March 30, 1924 in Davenport Iowa. Jean's father, Charles Russell "Jake" Stahl was a civil engineer who moved the family to the outpost Panhandle oil "boom town" of Borger, Texas when Jean was only three. Jake became the head of Panhandle Power and Light and Jean went on to become the Valedictorian of Borger High's class of 1940.

Jean spent her first two years of college at Stephens College in Missouri and then graduated from the University of Arizona in 1944, majoring in Spanish. When in Tucson, Jean met a young airman, Robert Chittenden, who left for the European air war and ultimately was interned in a German POW camp. After the war, they married and moved to Champaign-Urbana where Jean taught at Illinois and obtained a Masters Degree in Spanish. A son, Russell William, was born June 23, 1953 in Elmhurst, Illinois. When Jean and Bob divorced, Jean moved the family, now including Jean's mother Margaret, to Austin in 1957 where Jean taught at the University of Texas as she completed her PhD in Romance Languages.

With her PhD in hand, in 1964, the family moved to San Antonio where Jean became a professor of foreign languages at Trinity University. During her 34-year tenure in the Department of Foreign Languages, Jean taught a variety of Spanish courses at all levels, rose to the rank of full professor, and served as Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages (later to become the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures) for more than a decade. One of the first women faculty members to be appointed chairperson, she was an advocate for women and other minorities on the campus and encouraged the employment of qualified female scholars.

In 1994, Jean was honored to be selected as an international observer of the federal election in Monterrey, Mexico, and served along with several other Trinity professors. Jean also served as President of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in 1995.

When Jean retired in 1998, the Trinity Board of Trustees voted to name her Professor Emerita. Jean traveled the world in her retirement, especially relishing trips to Spain, where her interest in Spanish playwrights could be indulged (her doctoral thesis was on "The Characters and Plots of Tirso's Comedias").

Jean also loved the Spurs. In fact, when Serbian Zarko Paspalj joined the Spurs in 1989, Gregg Popovich contacted Jean (then head of foreign languages) to supply an interpreter for the press conference. Jean scrambled to find a suitable speaker and the press conference went off without a hitch (although Paspalj's Spur career proved to be short-lived).

Jean had an indomitable spirit that no one could miss. One summer evening in July, 2002, after being caught in a flash flood at McCullough and Basse, Jean's car sank under many feet of water at the bottom of the Olmos Golf Course. Jean, however, managed to open and crawl through a window as the car sank to the bottom of a fairway. A strong current threatened to sweep her to the Olmos dam, but Jean grabbed a branch at the top of large oak tree and held on. Eventually, SAPD officers used a jet ski to rescue her after the current proved too difficult for the officers to swim. The rescuing officer told a TV newsman that he arrived just in time because Jean couldn't have held on much longer. Jean, however, told her friends that she could have clung to the top of that tree for as long as it took.

Jean passed away on March 8, 2016 at the age of 91. Her kind, loving spirit and keen wit will be missed by her son Russell and all of her many friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Margarite B. Parker Chapel at Trinity University on Saturday, April 16 at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow. You may sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com.

2015

RUTH BENNETT

Ruth L. Bennett passed away on November 20, 2015 in New York City where she was born, raised, and lived her entire life. There are many AATSP members and former officers who were encouraged and mentored by Ruth who served as a role model for many decades.

In addition to her career as a faculty member at Queens College in New York City, Ruth had a stellar presence in numerous AATSP activities. She was the first Coordinator of AATSP Chapter Activities on the national level, was instrumental in bringing career education to the forefront in the AATSP annual meetings and workshops, and worked closely with the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the Education Office first began to work with the AATSP.

Ruth served as AATSP President in 1990 and continued to serve the organization on the Executive Council and as a frequent presenter at the annual conference. She was also very active within the Metropolitan New York AATSP Chapter.

Ruth's health had been declining for the past several years; she would have celebrated her 92nd birthday on December 18th, 2015.

EDRA STAFFIERI



At 94, Edra Staffieri passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at Marquette Manor Health Center, Indianapolis. She was born on May 2, 1921 to Ercole and Augusta Staffieri in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. She grew up in DuBois, Pennsylvania with her two brothers George and Frank Staffieri, who preceded her in death. After graduating from Penn State DuBois, she taught French, Spanish and English composition at her alma mater. She briefly taught at McDowell High School in Erie, PA, and then moved to Indianapolis and taught the advanced Spanish courses at North Central High School for 36 years. Not only was Edra in charge of the IU Honors Program for three years in the nineties, but she also taught Spanish and Italian and coordinated the Spanish Resource Center at IUPUI.

Edra, a lifelong learner, was devoted to her students and fellow world language teaching colleagues alike. She served in many capacities over the years including: the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association, both the executive council (1993) and the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the Indiana Chapter of Network for Early Language Learners, La Gaceta International, and Washington Township Schools Foundation. Among her numerous honors in these organizations, she was recognized as one of the Disney Channels outstanding teachers of 1994, and also received the AATSP Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. Edra was a very active member of St. Luke Catholic Church serving as a Eucharistic Minister at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. masses as well as volunteering for St. Vincent de Paul.

Quite simply, her professional and personal lives were centered on serving others either in the classroom, or in the community. Her diverse travel experiences contributed to her profession on an international level. Her talents and mentoring skills will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched throughout the state and country. Edra is survived by her niece, Mariana Van Meter (Mark) of

Chandler, Arizona, two great-nieces, Mercedes, Malise and one great-nephew, Monty.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2015, at her family burial plot in DuBois, Pennsylvania. Memorial contributions may be given to the Indianapolis Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 3001 E. 30th St., Indianapolis, IN 46218. Contributions may also be sent to Judith Carlstrand, AATSP Treasurer, Franklin Community High School, 2600 Cumberland Drive, Franklin, IN 46131. Arrangements are entrusted to Leppert Mortuary. To share thoughts with the family please visit:

www.leppertmortuary.com

Published in the *The Indianapolis Star* on Nov. 4, 2015

ROMA HOFF

Eau Claire, WI



Roma Hoff died peacefully at home on August 28, 2015 at age 89. Her life was highlighted by worldwide travel, leadership and cultural contributions in the field of world language education, commitment to her church and other favorite organizations, and dedication to her family.

She was born on May 4, 1926 in Madison, WI to William and Esther (Hansen) Borst. She spent her childhood and adolescence in Brooklyn, WI, but through the books of adventurer Richard Halliburton she experienced travel vicariously. As a young girl she undertook a correspondence with his father, Wesley Halliburton, becoming his "adopted granddaughter" and enjoying a correspondence until his death at age 96.

Roma graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1944 as class salutatorian and class president. During her freshman year at the University of Wisconsin – Madison she studied journalism, editing the weekly *Brooklyn Teller* newspaper and winning two Sigma Delta Chi journalism awards. Her passion then turned to Spanish after being introduced to the language and Hispanic cultures by such master teachers as Professors Lloyd Kasten, Eduardo Neale-Silva, Roberto Sánchez, and Luis Crespo. Early teaching experiences included serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant and teaching one year at Edgerton High School. Her graduate studies were also at UW – Madison, culminating in a PhD in Education and Spanish in 1956 and then work in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese as a lecturer.

Roma's life in this period also included international travel and stints of living abroad. Her first two trips to Europe were to Spain, where she spent the summers of 1949 and 1950. Through a stroke of good fortune she was invited to serve as tour director for Eur-Cal Travel's (University of California – Berkeley) 88-day grand European tours during six summers, 1952 to 1957. She taught on the island of Aruba for Standard Oil between master's and doctoral studies, and she studied in Madrid in 1954-55 on a Fellowship from the Institute of International Education.

In 1958 she was married to Donald E. Hoff, M.D. at St. Paul's University Chapel in Madison, WI and moved to Eau Claire, where her husband practiced at the Midelfort Clinic. Roma and Don were blessed with 57 years of marriage. In her initial years in Eau Claire she dedicated her time to her role as wife and mother of Peter, Anne, and Paul. When the children were older, the family began to travel, including memorable trips to Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, and to Germany and Switzerland, where her husband shared his heritage and family connections. Roma enjoyed seeing her children study and live in other cultures. Peter teaches Spanish at UW – Whitewater, speaks many languages, and advises students on study abroad. Anne studied and worked in Japan for 15 years before moving to Maui, HI, and later Seattle, WA, where she practices Roling Structural Integration. Paul is Professor of Spanish at UW – Eau Claire and a veteran staff member at the Concordia Language Villages (Concordia College, Moorhead, MN). Roma took great pleasure in seeing Paul marry Nuria Ibarrechevea Deó of Spain, who also teaches Spanish at UW – Eau Claire; and she also welcomed into the family Peter's partner Paul Patenaude, whose international adventures include foreign medical missions and hiking the St. James pilgrimage routes in Spain and France. Roma's life was lit up by grandchildren Clara, Ana, and Alex, who nicknamed her "Nomi," and they too are growing up multicultural and multilingual. Roma hopes to be remembered in the Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum as "Wife of Don; Mother of Peter, Anne, and Paul; and Grandmother of Clara, Ana, and Alex."

Roma returned to teaching Spanish at the then Wisconsin State University – Eau Claire in 1965. Besides teaching several generations of world language educators, she authored dozens of articles, gave papers and workshops, and had hundreds of color slides published. Starting in 1974 she organized Spanish Travel Seminars, the university's nearly annual offering for students and interested members of the community. These took participants on three-week summer trips through Spain, often including other locales such as Portugal, Morocco, France, and the Canary Islands. After first visiting Central America in 1975, she also nurtured growing interest in that region by organizing tours to Costa Rica, the Yucatan Peninsula, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, and Belize. She helped establish the UW – Eau Claire study abroad program at the Universidad de Valladolid (Spain) and eight times directed the Madrid orientation for the groups.

The trips Roma led were true cultural exchanges. Tour participants met the Hoff's friends in these countries, visited their homes and shops, and got off the beaten path to experience the cultures close-up. Travel occurred in both directions, and the Hoff residence became home to people from many countries over the years as friends visited Eau Claire or came to UW – Eau Claire to perform – the case of Blanca Bartos, a Czechoslovakian lutenist; Joaquín Díaz, a Spanish guitarist and folk singer; and Feliciano y Salva, Spanish folk musicians. The depth of these exchanges intensified in 1986 when Roma was named cultural adviser for the first CAMPUS (Central American Program for Undergraduate Scholars) group of 16 young people from various countries in Central America who came to study at UW – Eau Claire. They were followed by four more groups, 72 students in all, who called Don "Papa Hoff" and Roma, well, just "Roma," which backwards spells *samor* – Spanish for "love."

Roma was many times honored for the passion and dedication that characterized her career. In 1985 she was named Distinguished Foreign Language Educator of Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers (now Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers). In 1989 she received

the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages – National Textbook Company award for developing Community Interest in Foreign Languages. In 1990 she was named Outstanding Teacher of Spanish – College-University Level by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. In 1991 she received the Founders Award of the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The UW-EC Center for International Education and the Honors Week Steering Committee honored her on campus, and the national office of Sigma Delta Pi, national Hispanic honor society, gave her its Premio de Mérito in 1992. In 1993 the North Central Council of Latinamericanists gave her its Award of Merit for Promoting an Awareness of the Countries, Peoples and Cultures of Latin America. In that same year she won UW – Eau Claire's Excellence in Teaching Award and subsequently was Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade, "cover girl" on *The View* and speaker at the August 1994 graduation.

Roma served as adviser to the UW-EC chapter of Sigma Delta Pi for 30 years and the chapter won six national awards between 1987 and 1994. She saw 448 students initiated into the local chapter, which sponsored many cultural programs for the university and the community.

While serving as President and Secretary of Phi Kappa Phi, she and Dr. Ormsby Harry were co-founders of Honors Week in 1972, and she remained active on the Steering Committee each year. She served again as President in 1999-2000. She was an honorary member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Eta Sigma (the men's freshman honor society).

Roma was also active in various endeavors with her husband. The Hoffs were charter members of the Newman Parish, where Roma served as a reader for many years. Their long-time commitment to the Concordia Language Villages earned them a place on the National Advisory Board and the Soli Deo Gloria award. The road to the new Spanish Village has been named for her: Paseo de Roma. In 2000 Roma and Don were recognized for their lifetime of dedication to UW – Eau Claire international students.

In retirement Roma continued to lead travel tours abroad (including seven Alumni Association cruises) and to travel with her husband and various family members. As foreign travel became unfeasible, she enjoyed hearing of the adventures of her children and grandchildren; participating in events closer to home at the Newman Parish and the Concordia Language Villages; and receiving visits from friends and former students. She felt that her life was a great trip!

A funeral mass for Roma will take place at the Newman Parish (110 Garfield Avenue) at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 5, 2015, with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. and special music at 11:40 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Concordia Language Villages (for the "El Lago del Bosque Museo-Tienda fund"), 901 8th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56562, or the Roma Hoff Scholarship (Valladolid, Spain study) at the UW – Eau Claire Foundation, Schofield Hall 214, UW – Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702.

DAVID J. VIERA

June 9, 1943 - September 11, 2015



Dr. David John Viera, age 72, a resident of Oak Ridge, passed away, September 11, 2015, at NHC of Oak Ridge.

Dr. Viera was born June 9, 1943 in Warren, Road Island.

Dr. Viera received his bachelor's degree from Providence College in Education-Foreign Languages. He graduated with a master's degree in Spanish and a doctorate in Iberian Studies from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. During his graduate studies he received diplomas from the Universities of Barcelona, Lisbon, and Coimbra. His scholarship led him on numerous and extensive travels to the Azores, Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Austria, Canada and Great Britain.

Dr. Viera has published more than ninety articles, six books and twenty five book reviews on Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, and Italian language and literature, as well as English as a second language and Portuguese immigration to the United States. He is also an expert on Iberian culture.

Dr. Viera ranks as an internationally recognized authority on the literary works of the 14th century Franciscan priest Francesc Eiximenis, a major philosopher and medieval writer, and Valencian friar and renowned preacher Vincent Ferrer.

One of three scholars in North America engaged in extensive research on Eiximenis, Dr. Viera was honored with the Ferran Soldevila Prize, a rare award given by the Salvador Vives Casajuana Foundation in Barcelona for his book, "An Annotated Bibliography of the Life and Works of Francesc Eiximenis."

A first-generation Portuguese-American, Dr. Viera collaborated with other scholars to update Leo Pap's authoritative source for researchers on Portuguese in the United States. Dr. Viera's supplement to Pap's work took 14 years to research and write.

Other widely recognized works by Dr. Viera include the pioneering "Medieval Catalan Literature: Prose and Drama." He also co-edited "English in Specific Settings," a collection of articles dealing with teaching English to university students of business, economics, computer science, nursing, medicine and the physical sciences.

"He is a prolific researcher, a fine teacher and a superb colleague in the area of humanities," said Phillip J. Campana, professor of German.

"He is one of the rare members of the teaching profession who combines immense knowledge with humble bearing." said Peter Coccozell, professor of Spanish at State University of New York at Binghamton.

Dr. Viera is preceded in death by his parents: John Viera who was killed in action in World War II, and by his mother Josephine Viera.

Dr. Viera is survived by sons, John M. Viera and Robert Hampton Viera, by daughter in law, Megan Viera, by sister, Diane Viera Giggey, by nieces, Dana Giggey Pappas and Joanne Giggey Cherian, by granddaughters, Madeline Viera and McKinley Viera. Dr. Viera is also survived by a cousin, Eugene

Barboza and wife Beverly Barboza, by friends, Evelyn Collopy and Marie Overstreet, by brother in law, Richard E. Giggey.

Receiving of friends will be held, Tuesday, September 15th between the hours of 6:00pm & 8:00pm in the chapel of Sharp Funeral Home. The funeral will be held Wednesday, September 16th at 1:00pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oak Ridge. Burial will follow at Anderson Memorial Gardens. Sharp Funeral Home is serving the Viera family and we invite you to share your messages and condolences at www.sharpfh.com

JOHN M. FEIN

1922 – 2015



PORTLAND - Dr. John M. Fein, 92, died at home on August 18, 2015 in Portland. He was born on Dec. 23, 1922 to Louis and Lola Fein in East Chicago, Indiana. He married his high school sweetheart, Lucyle Blumenthal, in 1946, a marriage that lasted 53 years until her death in 1999.

He received his B.A, magna cum laude, from Harvard in 1944, and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1950, moving into a long and distinguished career as a faculty member (Spanish and Latin American Studies) and administrator at Duke University. He served three terms as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages, and also a term as Vice Provost and Dean of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences at Duke, and published two important books and many articles on Latin American literature.

He was awarded a Fulbright Lectureship to Chile, and also held visiting appointments at several institutions including [Indiana University](http://www.indiana.edu), Stanford, and Dartmouth. Throughout his teaching career and well into retirement he maintained a passionate love of literature. His other interests included travel, contemporary Latin American art, and gardening. He had a special love for the family summer house on Thompson Lake in Maine, the site of many happy family reunions. He will be especially missed and remembered for his wit, sense of humor, intelligence, as well as the encouragement he generously shared with his children and grandchildren, and the pride he took in their achievements.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Lucyle, and his brother, George. He is survived by son, David, and wife, Rita, of Greensboro, N.C., his daughter, Judith, of Durham, N.C., daughter, Jody, and husband, Robb of West Gray and daughter, Laurie, and husband, Dave, of Portland; as well as grandchildren, Aaron, Dana, Margot, Sarah, Nathan, Jack, and Luisa, and six great-grandchildren.

Please visit www.advantageportland.com to sign John's guestbook and leave memories and condolences for the family. [Click here](#) to read more.

2014

LYNN A. SANDSTEDT



Long-time member, Past President, and previous Executive Director of the AATSP, passed away yesterday, Thursday, October 30, 2014 at the age of 82. The AATSP would like to express condolences to his family including his beloved wife Phyllis, his two sons, his daughters-in-law, and the grandchildren.

Lynn A. Sandstedt (October 19, 1932) was a native of Colorado and spent most of his life and career in that state. He received his PhD in Spanish Language and Literature from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He taught at the University of Northern Colorado for 22 years where he also served as the Chairman of the Foreign Language Department and the Department of Hispanic Studies. Dr. Sandstedt co-authored several textbooks for use at the university level including the popular intermediate series comprising the textbooks *Conversación y repaso*, *Civilización y cultura*, *Literatura y arte*. Lynn was very active in the profession and served on committees and boards of numerous organizations and associations. He was elected to the ACTFL Executive Council and later was elected as the 1991 ACTFL President. Lynn served the AATSP in various capacities. He was elected as the 1984 President of the AATSP and several years later was selected as the Executive Director of the Association; he served in that position from 1993-2001. Several years later Lynn stepped in to serve as the Interim Executive Director of the AATSP from June 2004 to August 2005.

Lynn received several prestigious awards for his work in foreign language education. Two of the most recent honors have been the Robert G. Mead, Jr. Award for Distinguished Leadership and Scholarly Contributions to the Profession given by the AATSP and The Cross of Alfonso X given by King Juan Carlos and the Ministry of Education of Spain for outstanding contributions to the teaching of Spanish.

Lynn had a long and illustrious career within the field of foreign language education and Hispanic studies but always took the time to help others with their own careers. He served as mentor to many pre-service teachers and in-service faculty members and guided many individuals as they served on organization boards and committees. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.

FRED PITTMAN ELLISON

1922-2014

Fred Pittman Ellison was born January 11, 1922, in Denton, Texas, the son of Lee Monroe Ellison and Hixie Pittman Ellison and brother of the late Edith Lanier Ellison. Early on he pursued an interest in foreign languages, starting with Latin, Spanish, and French in high school and continuing with German and Portuguese, principally at the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation with a bachelor's degree in Spanish in 1941, he went to New York to work for the FBI as a translator and later as a special agent with foreign language specialization until 1944. To be part of America's effort in World War II, he joined the U.S. Navy as an ensign, serving two years as a communications officer. After World War II he earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in romance languages and literatures from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1952.

While stationed in California during his time in the Navy, Fred met his future wife, Adeline Story, a fellow officer in the Navy. Family lore has it that Fred's marriage proposal was greatly influenced by the fact that Ad owned a set of The Great Books, she outranked him, and as a payroll officer, she toted a side arm—a special kind of woman, indeed. They were married for 65 happy years.

Though primarily involved in literary studies, Fred also worked to develop, with others, methods and materials for the teaching of foreign languages. He received awards from his professional organization, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) in recognition of 30 years of pioneering work in the field of Portuguese. As an assistant professor at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, he taught experimental classes in Spanish at both elementary and high school levels in a research project funded by the U.S. Department of Education. In 1962, on arriving at the University of Texas, he initiated the teaching of Portuguese in Austin, at Saint Edward's High School and was coordinator, with a Brazilian colleague, of a major project involving four other writers that eventuated in *Modern Portuguese*, an influential textbook used in U.S. universities for many years. In the sixties he founded the Portuguese Language Development Group of the AATSP, a nationwide group that continues to meet every year.

Throughout his career Fred was especially drawn to Brazil, its people and its literature, a little-studied area which he had begun to explore in his dissertation on the Brazilian novel. As a way to make that country's novelists and poets better known in the English-speaking world, he contributed translations of contemporary Brazilian works such as *The Three Marias* by Rachel de Queiroz and *Memories of Lazarus* by Adonias Filho, as well as books and articles on literary history and criticism. In 1964 he was invited to the White House by President Lyndon B. Johnson to attend a luncheon honoring the president of Brazil. He was elected to the Brazilian Academy of Letters in 1982. After his retirement in 1991, the Brazilian government decreed him a special distinction accorded non-Brazilian honorees, membership in the Order of Rio Branco, with the rank of Commander. This honor was conferred upon him in a ceremony at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

With all of the accomplishments of our "Commander of Letters," the Ellison clan would argue that his most prestigious achievement is the unconditional love he had for his family and the people around him, always concerned about the wellbeing of others over his own even in his final days.

Fred will be greatly missed by his friends and family who appreciated his love of the arts, valued his wise

counsel, and treasured his unwavering support. He was a life-long Democrat whose sense of social justice was shaped when, as a young boy, he witnessed violence against and unfair treatment of African Americans in his community. His love of poetry was legendary in our family. The highlight of Easter and Thanksgiving meals was Fred reading a poem he had created especially for the occasion. His poems at base were about the love he had for his dear wife, setting for all of us an example of strength in family, love, and marriage.

Professor Ellison was preceded in death by his wife, Adeline Story Ellison. Survivors include their five children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren: daughter Carol Lanier Ellison and her partner Clark Boykin of Austin; son, Thomas F. Ellison, his wife Pat, their two daughters, Paige Ellison Lasley, her husband Toby, and their children, Ellison Lauren and Thomas Michael of Austin, and Taylor Ellison, also of Austin; Jamie Ellison Krieg and her husband Gregory of Richardson, Texas, and their four children, Amanda Krieg Voith, husband Patrick, and their daughter, Kennedy Claire, Daniel Ellison Krieg, Kaylynn Emily Krieg, and Meryl MacKenzie Krieg, all of Richardson; Cynthia Lee Ellison of Austin; and son John Story Ellison and his wife Debbie, of Colleyville, Texas.

A memorial service for Fred will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2014, at 2 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Summit at West Lake where Fred has resided for the past four years. Donations may be made in Fred and Ad's name to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin or the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

DR. CAROLYN J. HARRIS

September 20, 2014

A Western Michigan University faculty member since 1985, Harris served the Department of Spanish as a teacher, advisor and researcher.

She was undergraduate advisor to Spanish students from 1987 to 1999 and became a co-advisor for its 300 Spanish majors and 275 minors in 2003. Harris was still serving in that capacity at the time of her death. Her classroom duties included coordinating the Spanish Composition 3160 class since 2009.

Harris served on several dissertation committees and from 1999 to 2001, before the Spanish department was formed in 2003, headed what was then the Spanish section of today's Department of World Languages and Literatures.

She also was the first faculty director of the University's study abroad program in Burgos, Spain. She directed that program from 1999 to 2001 and again from 2005 to 2007.

Harris was recognized for her superior classroom skills when she was selected as a recipient of a WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award in 2002. At the time, she was one of only 129 University scholars to have received the honor in the award program's 35-year history.

A specialist in contemporary peninsular literature and women's studies, Harris focused her research on 20th-century and current Spanish theater with an emphasis on women writers. In addition to receiving

numerous scholarly honors and research awards from WMU, she wrote one book and co-wrote another as well as wrote numerous bibliographies, journal articles and reviews.

Her professional activities included work on the editorial board for *Estreno*, a journal of contemporary Spanish theatre; as a reader for the Spanish Advanced Placement Exam; and as a chair or member of numerous departmental and College of Arts and Sciences committees at WMU.

During her career, Harris taught at the University of Richmond in Virginia; the University of Iowa; the Instituto de Politécnico in Toledo, Spain; and Bryan Junior-Senior High School in Omaha, Nebraska. She received a bachelor of science degree from Iowa State University; licenciatura from the Universidad Zaragoza in Zaragoza, Spain; and both a master's degree and a doctoral degree from the University of Iowa.

DANIEL DIBLASI

2014

Whitestone, NY

SEYMOUR MENTON

March 8, 2014



March 6, 1927 - March 8, 2014 Distinguished scholar and professor of Latin American Literature at UC Irvine, and beloved husband, father, brother, and mentor to several generations of students, Seymour Menton passed away peacefully at his home in Irvine, surrounded by his loving family. A memorial "Celebration of Life" is being planned. In a long and distinguished career, Seymour traveled widely throughout the world, meeting authors and lecturing on the literature of Latin America. After teaching at the University of Kansas, he came to UC Irvine in 1965 as founding chair of the department of foreign languages, recruiting faculty and creating a lasting legacy of excellence at the university. His published works include book-length studies on the literature of Guatemala, Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico, all of which were revised and updated in later editions. Other books cover the Historical Novel in Latin America, Magic Realism in painting, and the literature of Brazil and Costa Rica. He also published a textbook, two critical editions, two translations, and a book of original short stories. His anthology of the

Latin American short story, first published in 1964, was republished in its tenth updated edition in 2010. His numerous awards and honors include the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest award from the Mexican government to a foreigner, for his contributions to the world-wide understanding of Mexican literature; the Order of Miguel Angel Asturias, given by the Guatemalan government, and the Order of Andres Bello and the Order of Francisco de Miranda from the government of Venezuela. His outstanding teaching was recognized by the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award. The UC Irvine Spanish Department Conference Room is named in his honor. His passions for tennis, singing, and story-telling were well-known. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Cathy, sons Tim and Allen, and many loving relatives, friends, colleagues, and students.

[Published in the *Los Angeles Times* from Mar. 10 to Mar. 11, 2014](#)

MARGARET RAMIREZ

February 2014

Mays Landing, NJ

ANGEL JULIAN VALBUENA

February 5, 2014



A memorial service will be held Thursday, February 20 for A. Julian Valbuena. [Click here](#) for more information.

Ruth Eloise Metzger

January 28, 2014

Peoria, IL

2013

PAUL W. SEAVER, JR

October, 2013

West Chester, PA

MARGARET MISTRY

September 2013



Margaret "Maggie" Egan Mistry, of Penrose, transitioned on her celestial journey on Friday, September 13, 2013. She was born to Margaret (Ferenci) Egan and Joseph Egan in New York. Margaret was always full of life, had a positive attitude, loving and kind to all people and animals, and had a unique ability to make everyone feel special and loved. Margaret earned her first Masters Degree in Spanish while attending university in Seville, Spain. Her second Masters, in English, was earned at the [University of Michigan](#). In 2012, she achieved her professional and personal dream of achieving her PhD in Educational Leadership and Innovation. For 29 years, she was a high school Foreign Language teacher at Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs, instructing students in Spanish, Russian and Latin. She was chairperson of the Foreign Language Department for many years. She started at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 1984 teaching Foreign Languages, which included Spanish, Russian and Latin. Most recently, she was employed by UCCS as a Senior Professor of Spanish. She was a life long learner and always sought ways to improve her life. She was an announcer on KCME for classical and jazz music which contributed to artistic self-growth. Margaret was instrumental in building the online radio station at UCCS. Her love of music was diverse and eclectic. She is survived by her husband of 26 years, Hoshedar "Hoshi" Mistry; family George, Gail and Lauren Frizzell, of New Jersey; Fred and Barbara Bunce, of New Jersey; Adil, Korshed, and Xerxes Mistry, of Houston, Texas; Kernaaz, Kersi, Rayomand, and Aiesha Engineer, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Brenda and Patrick King of Canon City, Colorado Margaret will be missed by her numerous family members, friends, and colleagues. She managed to touch so many lives. An Irish Wake will be held Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at the family home in Penrose. Please plan to visit between 6:30-8:30 p.m. A Celebration of Life Funeral mass will be held Thursday, September 19, 2013, 9:45 a.m. at St Michael's Catholic Church in Canon City. Interment will follow at Union Highland Cemetery, Florence, Colorado. The family requests flowers be purchased from The Garden Wall in Penrose, CO. Arrangements are under the care of Holt Family Funeral Home. Online condolences @ <http://www.holtfamilyfuneralhomes.com/>

Published in *The Canon City Daily Record* on September 18, 2013

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/canonicitydailyrecord/obituary.aspx?n=margaret-mistry&pid=167016382&fhid=3171#fbLoggedOut>

MARI HAAS

April 17, 2013

[Click here](#) to view the complete obituary.

IDA GROBER

March 2013

Information submitted by Bernie López, President, New York Metropolitan Chapter

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of long-time AATSP member Ida Grober. Ida passed away March 18, 2013 at Staten Island Hospital at the age of 83.

Ida began teaching Spanish in the 1950s at McKee Vocational and Technical HS on Staten Island, NY. Ida served on the board of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the AATSP since the 1970s and stepped down in the 1984. She retired from teaching in 1991.

Ida was a lover of languages and history and was licensed to teach both Spanish and Russian. She learned Russian as a recipient of an NDEA (National Defense Education Agency) Program scholarship in the early 1960s; the NDEA gave scholarships to individuals to learn and teach critical languages such as Russian. Ida began the Russian program at what is now known as Staten Island Tech. Over time her program increased in size and eventually became the largest high school Russian program in the United States.

We ask you to please keep Ida and her family in your prayers.

ANA MARTÍNEZ-LAGE

January 2013

The following is the official Middlebury College obituary:

To the Middlebury College Community:

I write with the sad news that Ana Martínez-Lage died yesterday after a long battle with cancer.

A member of the Spanish and Portuguese Department, Ana arrived at Middlebury in the fall of 1996 and retired from the College last fall so that she could spend more time with her family. During her years on the faculty, Ana proved to be a gifted teacher and scholar of language pedagogy. Her research in

linguistics and curricular development brought her national recognition and had a significant impact on the teaching of languages at Middlebury. She was also a pioneer in the use of digital courseware materials and led the development of the online Spanish immersion program for Middlebury Interactive Languages, a contribution that may well have a lasting influence on language education far beyond Middlebury.

Born in Pamplona, Spain, and educated at the Universidad de Navarra and at the Université des Sciences Humaines in Strasbourg, France, Ana received her Ph.D. in 1992 from Penn State University in Spanish Applied Linguistics/Second Language Acquisition. Before taking a position on the Middlebury faculty, she taught at George Mason University and directed their Spanish Basic Language Program. She was first introduced to the College through her teaching in the Spanish Language School. When Ana did join the Middlebury Spanish Department, it was, one of her senior colleagues noted, "with the understanding that she would try to look at our teaching methods and work with us in introducing new teaching strategies." Ana accomplished this goal with skill and diplomacy, and soon became known on campus as an invaluable resource for language faculty. She received tenure in 2002, and was promoted to full professor in 2011. She served as Chair of the Spanish Department, Director of European Studies, and Associate Dean of the Language Schools, and was a member of several important College committees, including the Educational Affairs Committee. When she was appointed to the MIIS Program Task Force in 2002, it was with the hope she would help develop a linguistics program for Middlebury, which she did. Teaching was an essential part in Ana's life, the classroom a space that brought her and her students much happiness. She taught a full range of courses in the Spanish Department, and was an active scholar, publishing articles in scholarly journals, book chapters, and several textbooks. Her first year Spanish textbook, *Tú dirás*, co-authored with several colleagues, has been used over the years in more than 200 colleges and universities nationally.

Ana had a deep love of languages and, most of all, loved teaching language to others. She made language learning an adventure--for her children, her friends, and herself. During one of her academic leaves, she studied Basque, with moderate success, but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. When she went to dinner parties at friends' homes, the night often ended with dictionaries out and everyone looking up the etymology of words. She was a generous colleague and mentor; one year, she organized a session at her home in Shoreham to demystify the tenure process for faculty coming up for review. Ana left her mark on Middlebury, and she will be remembered.

She is survived by her daughters Amalia Herren-Lage and Marina Herren-Lage; her father, José Manuel Martínez-Lage; and her siblings Pablo, Pedro, Juan, Jaime, María and Belén.

A Celebration of the Life of Ana Martínez-Lage will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 19 in Mead Chapel. A reception will follow at 12:30 p.m. in Crossroads Cafe in McCullough Student Center. All are welcome.

2012

CHARLES AHNERT

July 2, 2012

Charles H. Ahnert, 81, of Buchanan, Michigan passed away at Lakeland Medical Center in Niles on July 2, 2012. He was born on April 20, 1931 in Peru, Indiana to the late George C. and Terresa (Radel) Ahnert. Charles is survived by a daughter Valerie (William) Hill of Marietta, GA, a granddaughter, Emily Ripley and a great-granddaughter Lila Ripley. His wife Opal Ahnert preceded him in death in 1980.

Charles was married to Opal Curtis on May 29, 1955 in Muncie, IN. He was a Navy veteran serving as a Corpsman during the Korean War. Charles graduated from Ball State University with a Master of Arts Degree in Foreign Languages. He taught at Dowagiac Junior-Senior High School, Buchanan High School, Southwestern Michigan College and Benton Harbor High School. Charles was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to Peru to teach English at the Gran Unidad Escolar San Miguel, where he also served as the Director of the Ministry of Education Teacher Training Institute. Charles has received many awards and honors including the MIWLA's Barbara Ort-Smith Award, an Instructions Grant with MIWLA in his name, he also received commendations from the American Theatre, the United States Navy, the Michigan Department of Education and the Governor of Indiana. Charles was dedicated to his community and served as a member of the American Legion, the BPO Elks, the Knights of Columbus, as lector and on the Liturgical Worship Committee at St. Anthony's Church, Michigan Education Association, AATSP, AATF, Michigan Classical Conference, as a founding member of the MIWLA and ACTFL and as a member and Executive Treasurer of the MIWLA. Charles also enjoyed visits with his daughter, her husband and his grandchildren.

Visitation will be on Thursday, July 5, 2012, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Swem Chapel, 301 W. Front St., Buchanan. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Anthony Catholic Church, 509 W. Fourth St., Buchanan with Father Carl Peltz officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus or Saint Anthony Catholic Church both at 509 W. Fourth St., Buchanan, MI 49107. Those wishing to sign his guestbook or leave a condolence message may do so by visiting our website www.swemchapel.com.

GILBERTO PAOLINI

March 3, 2012

Gilberto Paolini, *Profesor Emerita Tulane University* y miembro de la AATSP por más de cincuenta años, nació en S. Pio Fontecchio (L' Aquila), Italia. Asistió al Liceo Classico "D. Contugno" en L' Aquila donde obtuvo el título de "Maturità Classica." En vez de seguir los estudios de medicina en la Universidad de Roma, continuó sus estudios en los Estados Unidos en la Universidad de Buffalo (NY) donde recibió los títulos de *Bachelor of Arts* y *Master of Arts* con especialización en literatura española. También completó estudios avanzados en literatura italiana en la Escuela Italiana de Middlebury College (VT). Después, asistió a la Universidad de Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN) donde obtuvo el título de Ph.D con especialización en literatura española e italiana, con énfasis en el Naturalismo/Verismo.

Empezó su carrera académica enseñando literatura italiana y latina en la Universidad de Massachusetts (Amherst). Se trasladó a la Universidad de Syracuse (NY) donde enseñó literatura española e italiana. Por

treinta años fue catedrático de literatura española en la Universidad de Tulane (New Orleans, LA). Su campo de especialización es la literatura del siglo XIX en cuanto se trata de psicopatología, antropología criminal, y Naturalismo/Verismo.

Ha participado en congresos literarios nacionales e internacionales en España, Italia, Méjico, Puerto Rico y los Estados Unidos. Es autor de muchos ensayos críticos, y sus contribuciones han sido significantes en el estudio de la interrelación entre la literatura y las ciencias sociales.

En 1977 fundó el capítulo local de AATSP en Nueva Orleans y un capítulo de la Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Sigma Delta Pi en la Universidad de Tulane. En 1979 fundó LA CHISPA, un congreso bienal internacional sobre la literatura hispánica y las relaciones literarias italo-hispánicas. Publicó nueve tomos (1981-1999) de actas selectas del congreso LA CRISPA.

El 24 de junio, 1984, el Rey Juan Carlos I de España le otorgó *La Cruz de Caballero de Isabel la Católica*, el honor más alto que un individuo que no sea español puede recibir.

Entre sus libros publicados se encuentran los siguientes: *Bartolomé Soler novelista: Procedimientos estilísticos* (Juventud, Barcelona, 1963); *An Aspect of Spiritualistic Naturalism in the Novels of B. P. Galdós: Charito* (Las Américas, NY, 1967); *La Vita Transe colare del Contado Aquilino: Villa S. Pio, Fontecchio e Familia Paolini di Aquila* (Andrómeda Editrice, Colledara (TE), Italia, 2003); *Chiesa e complesso monástico Santa Maria Agraiano in S. Pio Fontecchio, Extra et intus moenia Aquilae, sec. X-XXI* (Gruppo Tipografico Editoriale, L' Aquila, Italia, 2007) y *Fisiología del Naturalismo en Evolución en España: Materialismo hacia el Mejoramiento Moral* (Gruppo Tipografico Editoriale, L'Aquila, Italia, 2009). En 1996, un tomo, *Studies in Honor of Gilberto Paolini* (Mercedes Vidal Tibbits, Universidad de Howard), fue publicado por Juan de la Cuesta Editions (Newark, DE).

2011

LILLIE BELLE HAMILTON

October 2, 2011

Lillie Belle Hamilton (July 15, 1919 – October 2, 2011), a lifetime member of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, was born at the time when Congress had just passed the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote...the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. Lillie upheld the principles of the movement through her own involvement in the political scene as a voter as soon as age permitted and later as a poll worker. She even attended both a Democratic as well as a Republican Convention and was pleased to have heard both Claire Booth Luce and Herbert Hoover speak. This was also a time when Edmund Walsh of Georgetown University had been appointed by the War Department to a board of five educators who designed the studies for the Students' Army Training Corps. His experience led to his conviction that education in the United States did not provide adequate studies in diplomacy, international relations, and foreign languages. Again, Lillie took his findings to heart in her own pursuit of languages, Spanish and Latin, and served a two-year stint at a Woman's Teacher Training College in Tripoli, Libya. She was very proud of the letter (partly in Latin) from Adlai Stevenson, written when he was the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, regarding his opinion of the value of foreign language study. A graduate of Agnes Scott with a Master's Degree from Middlebury,

Lillie shared her language skills and love of learning with countless students over her teaching career—from elementary school, junior high, to high school in the Fulton County School system—retiring in 1981 from College Park High School, the same year she was inducted into the Georgia Teacher Hall of Fame. She had previously been selected as the Foreign Language Association of Georgia (FLAG) Latin Teacher of the Year in 1968 and the FLAG Spanish Teacher of the Year in 1973. As a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Beta Nu Chapter for key women educators, she held various offices and spearheaded many projects. She headed up a delegation that helped found a sister organization in Great Britain and received the Delta Kappa Gamma State Achievement Award in 1996. She was a firm believer in professional participation and served also as a president of the National Spanish Honor Society, Co-Chair of the Georgia Junior Classical League, Contest Chair for the National Junior Classical League (participating in 32 NJCL national conventions), and was one of the original founders and a past president of the Foreign Language Association of Georgia from whom she received the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding service and contributions to foreign language education in Georgia. For a woman who never drove a car, she visited over 116 countries endeavoring to bring back and share cultural and historical insights with her students inspiring many to follow in her footsteps as teachers. She is survived by her two daughters, Cynthia and Hillary Hamilton.

DONALD BLEZNICK

July 5, 2011

From the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 24, 2011

HYDE PARK - Dr. Donald W. Bleznick was a distinguished scholar, author and mentor who taught at the University of Cincinnati for 28 years. For five years, he headed the department of Romance Languages and Literature at UC.

He will be remembered for his dedication to his students and family, as well as for his special interest in helping the visually impaired. For more than 20 years, Dr. Bleznick read the sports news over the radio for the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired as a volunteer.

Dr. Bleznick, who was 86, died on July 5.

Dr. Bleznick was known globally as one of the foremost American scholars in Spanish literature. He specialized in the 16th-century, specifically Cervantes' novel, "Don Quixote." Among his many honors, he was knighted by Juan Carlos, King of Spain, in 1977 in Madrid for work in his field.

"The most outstanding thing is that a nice Jewish boy from the Bronx was knighted by the King of Spain," said his wife of 59 years, Rozlyn.

He wrote more than 200 academic articles and at least 20 books. He was selected to co-write a two-volume Spanish college textbook that is still in use today.

Editor-in-chief for a decade of the academic journal *Hispania*, the journal of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), Dr. Bleznick was influential at the national and international level, modernizing the journal and expanding its circulation. Dr. Bleznick served as

president, vice president and on the executive council of AATSP for 19 years. In 1997, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the organization's highest award.

Dr. Bleznick was born in the Bronx, N.Y. in 1924. A graduate of City College of New York majoring in Spanish, he was talented in languages and aspired to be a high school teacher in New York City.

But when he returned from serving in the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps. (1946-47), he was unable to find a teaching position. A City College scholarship and the GI Bill enabled him to pursue a master's degree at the Universidad Nacional de Mexico.

After returning to New York to pursue his doctorate at Columbia University, he answered an ad to be an instructor at Ohio State University.

"He went for the interview out of desperation. He needed a job. We were poor. We lived through the Depression," his wife said.

He won the job, and for several years, Dr. Bleznick drove back and forth between Columbus and New York to complete his Ph.D. At Ohio State, he taught Spanish classes live on WOSU radio, and directed theatrical performances that were attended by hundreds of students, said his daughter, Susan Bleznick, of San Jose, Calif. After six years in Columbus, he was appointed professor at Penn State University, where he taught for 12 years.

Dr. Bleznick came to Cincinnati to become department head at UC in 1967. In 1974, he was a visiting professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He retired from UC in 1995.

"He personified the American dream and the ideals of public education. He often said he exceeded his own expectations," his daughter said.

Dr. Bleznick was devoted to his many students, one of whom visited him last year to thank him 40 years after he had helped her pursue graduate work.

He learned patience and empathy as a high school student, when he tutored and read to another student who was blind, his wife said. Years later, when looking for volunteer work, he decided to volunteer for the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

During his tenure at UC, Dr. Bleznick worked to bring students from Spain and Latin America to do graduate work, including the most important poet of Honduras, Roberto Sosa, said Nicasio Urbina, the department's current chairman.

He was also instrumental in starting the Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literature, the oldest Graduate Student Conference in the country.

He is also survived by a son, Jordan L. Bleznick of New York, and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Freestore Foodbank, 1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202; Crayons to Computers, 1350 Tennessee Ave., Cincinnati OH 45229 or Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 2045 Gilbert Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

ROBERT AUSTIN HUNTER, JR.

July 13, 2011

Dr. Robert Austin Hunter, Jr. (Bob), 67, was born to Robert Austin Hunter and Mary Bessie Huling Hunter in Freeport, TX, on Feb. 4, 1944. He spent his life there until 1958. It was then he enrolled as a freshman at Schreiner Institute. After graduating in 1962, he completed 2 more years at Schreiner College, making him the only 6 year man on the Schreiner Campus.

It was while at Schreiner that Bob became an accomplished musician, and shortly before he died he wrote, composed and published.

Despite being blind and suffering from diabetes, he completed a B.A. and an M.A. in Spanish and German at Southwest Texas State University, a.k.a. Texas State. Then, continuing his education, he received a Ph.D. at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

While working on his degrees, Bob worked as a counselor at the Gary Job Corps in San Marcos, and later he taught Spanish and German at Bandera High School for 10 years.

Upon completion of his doctorate, Bob accepted a position at his Alma Mater, now called Schreiner University. As an Associate Professor, and later as a Professor, Bob fulfilled his dreams as he traveled extensively throughout Latin America delivering his papers and fully dedicating his life to academic excellence and higher learning.

Never allowing blindness to deter him, Bob made the most of what his life had to offer.

Always active playing his guitar, conquests on the racquetball court, traveling, exercising at his favorite gym, Ultrafit, he always made time for others.

He married his high school sweetheart, Nancy Pagel, in July, 1964 and they had three children.

Those left to honor and cherish his memory are his three children, Bobby Austin Hunter, and his wife, Laura, of Austin, Joey Maldonado, and her husband, Joel, of Hondo, and William Hunter of Lubbock; 4 grandchildren, Jolianne, Christian, Jobe, and Lucinda, and another upcoming blessing, a granddaughter due in November.

His life will be celebrated in a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, July 18, at the First United Methodist Church on Thompson Drive, Kerrville.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers a donation may be made to either the Lion's Camp of Kerrville or the American Diabetes Association.

VLADIMIR HONSA

May 8, 2011

Vladimir Honsa, 89, passed away on May 8, 2011 in Glendale, Arizona, where he lived for the past five years. He was born on December 28, 1921 in Netolice, Czechoslovakia to the late Frantisek and Marie (Eiblova) Honsa. Vladimir is survived by his wife of 64 years, Vlasta Petrova Honsa, daughters Patricia and Eva, and grandchildren David and Elizabeth.

Vladimir received his BA degree in Romance Philology from Charles University, Prague in 1947. His advanced graduate studies were at the University of Paris (1948-49) and at the University of Madrid (1948-51). He received his MA and PhD in Romance Linguistics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1953-57).

His teaching career in the United States and Latin America began as an assistant professor of Spanish at Marquette University, Milwaukee from 1956-58. He became an assistant professor of Spanish and Linguistics and Acting Chairman of Linguistics at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles from 1958-62. While serving as Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics at Indiana University, Bloomington from 1962-70, Vladimir received a Fulbright Professorship of Spanish Linguistics at the Instituto Caro y Cuervo in Bogota, Colombia from 1964-65, and the University of Uruguay, Montevideo in 1965. He was also a Visiting Professor of Spanish and General Linguistics at Florida State University, Canal Zone Branch, Panama in 1970. From 1970-1988, he served as Professor and Chairman of Linguistics and Latin American Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Vladimir retired in 1988.

His extensive research was in the areas of Dialectology of Romance Languages, Modern Spanish Linguistics and Dialectology, Spanish Historical Linguistics, Medieval Spanish Literature, and General and Implied Linguistics. Vladimir collected samples of Spanish in every Spanish speaking country.

His books include Old Spanish Grammar of 'La Conquista de Ultramar', Lang, 1986; An Old Spanish Reader: Episodes from 'La Conquista de Ultramar', Lang, 1985; Six Books of Sonnets, 1st Books, 2000; Papers on Linguistic and Child Language, Ruth Hirsch Weir Memorial Volume, CoEd, Mouton, 1978. Other publications and articles include: Peripecias en el Camino del Espanol, Scripta Philologica, 1992; Linguistic Acculturation and the Dialects of Spanish in the Dominican Republic, Mouton, 1978; Clasificacion de los Dialectos Espanoles de America y la Estructura de los Dialectos de Colombia, Actas del Simposio de Montivideo, Mexico Ed Galache, 1975; The Inter-American Program in Linguistics and Language Teaching and Its Four Symposiums, Language Sciences, 1968; Alois Richard Nykl (1885-1958), Arabist and Hispanist: A Biography and Bibliography, Orbis, 1967; Romance Linguistic Studies at Major Universities in the United States, Orbis, 1965; The Phonemic Systems of Argentinian Spanish, Hispania, 1965; La Extension de la Influencia Francesa Sobre la Estructura del Castellano Medieval, Anuario de studios Medievales, 1965; Old Spanish Paragodic 'e', Hispania, 1962; A Study of the Contamination of the XIIIth Century Spanish Prose by Dialects and Foreign Languages, Orbis, 1961; Teaching of Spanish as a foreign Language in the XVIIth Century, Hispania, 1960; Gabriel Richard. A Biographical Essay, Orbis, 1957; Linguistic Studies at the University of Michigan, Orbis, 1955.

Honors include: Offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary in congresses and annual meetings of professional and learned societies in the USA and Latin America, 1954-86; two Fulbright Grants by the US Department of State for teaching Spanish Linguistics in Colombia and Uruguay, 1964-66; three Ford Foundation Grants, 1967-69 and six Indiana University Grants, 1965-68. He served as a member of the Advisory Board of Hispanic Journal, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 1981-88 and is listed in several biographical dictionaries.

Submitted by Eva Honsa-Hogg

2010

MARILYN V. J. BARRUETA

November 4, 2010

Marilyn V. J. Barrueta died November 4, 2010 of pneumonia as a side complication to stage IV breast cancer.