

# Center for Basque Studies

## NEWSLETTER

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## Writers in between languages

### Minority Literatures in the Global Scene

by Estibalitz Ezkerra; translated by Lisa Corcostegui

The Center for Basque Studies hosted the conference “Writers In Between Languages: Minority Literatures in the Global Scene” May 15 through 17, which was attended by many well-known scholars of the Iberian Peninsula.

Two days after the Center for Basque Studies’ conference, Dr. Elena Delgado of the University of Illinois sent a message to the organizers and her fellow participants thanking them for an experience that she referred to as an “oasis in the desert.” This sentiment was shared by all of the participants who saw

the conference as a catalyst for voices within the academic community that in recent years have been calling for a revision of the canon of Iberian literature. The current orientation of the discipline has hindered an accurate reflection of the multiple cultural and linguistic realities that coexist in the Iberian Peninsula.

One of the most salient observations that resulted from the intense three-day conference was that minority literatures have not been studied on an individual basis, but rather in relation to the dominant language, Spanish.

*(continued on page 2)*



Literature conference participants, kneeling, l. to r.: Nerea Arruti, Luis Cifuentes, Estibalitz Ezkerra, Marijo Olaziregi; in center: Aurelia Arcocha, Iban Zaldua, Miren Meabe; back row: Teresa Vilarós-Soler, Bernardo Atxaga, Xabier Irujo, Marta Pascual Llorens, Xavier Pla, Rikardo Arregi, Alfredo Sosa-Velasco, Mario Santana, Joseba Zulaika, Michael Ugarte, Joan R. Resina, Mariasun Landa, Igor Calzada. [Photo by Iñigo Aztiz]



As this newsletter goes to print, we are in the process of moving into the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center (above) and will report more in the next issue. Please note that the Center and Basque Library's mailing addresses and phone numbers have not changed (use of the building name is not needed in the address). [photo: Theresa Danna-Douglas]

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*(continued from page 1)*

Participants concluded that this situation can only be rectified by reversing or deactivating this mindset so that these literatures may be evaluated on their own terms.

Conference organizer Dr. Mari Jose Olaziregi remarked that the papers presented throughout the conference revealed that despite geographic and cultural differences, these Iberian minority literatures face many of the same challenges. Olaziregi considered the conference a success in that it provided a venue in which to take stock of the current situation and reflect upon the need to develop joint strategies to decentralize and re-theorize minority literature studies.

**A Wide Range of Topics**

The conference title, "Writers In Between Languages: Minority Literatures in the Global Scene," allowed for infinite possibilities and interpretations and this was reflected in the nineteen papers that were delivered. Some of them focused on the present and future of the field of philology. This was the case of Joan Ramon Resina's paper entitled "Post-Hispanism, or the Long Goodbye of National Philology." Dr. Resina, Chair of the Spanish and Portuguese Department at Stanford, called for ending Spanish-language hegemony in Iberian philology. He also stressed the need to re-examine the methodology currently employed to analyze literary texts as it focuses too heavily on linguistic aspects and too little on theory.

In her paper titled "The Astigmatic Eye and the Location of Minority Languages," Elena Delgado, professor in the Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Department at the University of Illinois, proposed the decolonization of the current paradigm in order to establish points of convergence between literatures and avoid hierarchies and centralization around the dominant literature. In order to do this she advocated envisioning the problem through an astigmatic eye in which there is not one single and exact point of vision, but rather multiple points, just as there are multiple stories written in a single language.

Teresa Vilarós-Soler, chair of the Hispanic Studies Department at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, presented "D'un temps, d'una llengua: Salvador Espiriu como escritor marrano." In this paper she proposed a different terminology, using the label "marrano

writers" to vindicate authors that were discriminated against because they did not write in the dominant language. There was a time when the term *marrano* was used derogatorily to refer to Catalanian Jews in the same way we see the term "terrorist" used today to refer to those who challenge centralized authority. Vilarós-Soler views the appropriation of this derogatory term as empowering for marginalized authors.

Empowerment of voices from former Spanish colonies in Africa, specifically Equatorial Guinea, was the point of "Exile, Dissemination, and Homogenization: The Case of Equatorial Guinea as the Space of a Minority Language," offered by Michael Ugarte, professor in the Department of

*"The conference was a catalyst for voices within the academic community that are calling for a revision of the canon of Iberian literature."*

Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Missouri. In his paper, Ugarte examined racial and sexual stereotypes that affect Guinean literature written in Spanish. Considered a minority on its own soil and overlooked in Spain, the Spanish-language literature of Equatorial Guinea finds itself in a situation that can only be resolved by consciousness-raising efforts.

Eztibalitz Ezkerra presented "Not Everybody Sings from the Motherland. Diasporic Basque Voices and Their Place in Basque Literature," in which she argued that the notion of Basque identity, traditionally linked to a specific geographical area and language (Euskara), should be revised to include voices from the diaspora, such as that of North American author Robert Laxalt.

The concept of "nation" was examined by Harvard professor Luis Fernández Cifuentes in his paper, "Charting National Territories: The Excursion Mode," in which he analyzed travel literature and how it articulates with national identity. Xavier Pla, professor of Catalan Contemporary Literature and Literary Theory in the Department of Philology and Philosophy of the Universitat de Girona, spoke about the national relevance of Catalanian literature in "Josep Pla: Localism, or a Complete Way of Viewing the World."

**The Role of Language**

The status of invisibility to which some languages are relegated once works are translated was the subject of Mario Santana's "On

# Advisory Board Meeting of February 2008

Visible and Invisible Languages: Bernardo Atxaga's *Soinujolearen semea* in Translation." The University of Chicago professor explained that it has become fairly common practice not to mention in a book whether or not it has been translated from another language. Thus, the language of the translation, which merely serves as a bridge between the author's work and the reader, is passed off as original. Inserting words in the original language (Basque) into the translations of works like *Soinujolearen semea* (The Accordionist's Son) is one way of combating this phenomenon that often renders minority languages invisible.

University of Cincinnati professor Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco presented a paper titled "Memory, Past, and Writing in the Global Scene: Bernardo Atxaga's *El hijo del acordeonista* and Carme Riera's *La mitad del alma*." He considers both of these works as "places of memory" and maintains that along with memory, language should be preserved as an element that defines the community that speaks it.

Basque authors who participated in the conference also focused on the importance of language. Rikardo Arregi presented a paper titled "I Don't Know Who 'I' Is," in which he talked about the impossibility of defining oneself. Aurelia Arcocha's "Writing in Basque and in French in the Global Frame: The Experience of Hybridization" examined the situation of authors who work between two linguistic and literary systems (French and Basque). On a similar note, Mariasun Landa discussed how enriching it can be to be situated between two languages in "Identity, Language, Creation (An Autobiographical Approach)." In her paper, "Five Reasons to Write in the Language of the Neighborhood," Miren Agur Meabe emphasized feelings associated with language use. Iban Zaldúa addressed the attendees with his paper, "Eight Crucial Decisions (That a Basque Writer Is Obligated to Face)" in which he called for free use of language and avoidance of essentialist discourse.

The role of Basque-language literature in nation-building was examined by Mari Jose Olaziregi in "Old Nations, New Identities: Basque Literature and Its Others," and by Bernardo Atxaga in his paper "The Cork and the Anchor." Both agreed that the desire to keep a language alive is not enough to make a literature or the language it is written in thrive. Atxaga pointed out that the first

(continued on page 4)

Our spring Advisory Board meeting was held on February 23 in the new Crowley Student Union building. Present were Board members Anita Anacabe Franzoia, Michonne Ascuaga, Mike Bidart, William Douglass (vice chairman), Emilia Doyaga, John Echeverria (chairman), Pete Ernaut, Eric Herzik (co-director of the CBS), Justice Ron Parraguirre, Pello Salaburu, Koldo San Sebastián, Nikolas Skalomenos (on behalf of Antonio de Ynchausti), and Joseba Zulaika (co-



Mike Franzoia, husband of Advisory Board member Anita Anacabe Franzoia, with Board Administrator Sandra Ott beside a display of Center for Basque Studies publications.

director of the CBS). In addition were guests Bernardo Atxaga (the William A. Douglass Visiting Scholar at the CBS), Kate Camino (CBS office manager), John Carothers (vice president, Development and Alumni Relations at UNR), Milton Glick (president of UNR), Stuart Golder (CLA director of development), Heather Hardy (dean of the College of Liberal Arts, UNR), Xabier Irujo (CBS faculty), Cheryl Miglioretto, Lloyd

and Diane Root, Sandra Ott (Advisory Board administrator), and Carmelo Urza (director of USAC).

Words of welcome were given by University President Milton Glick and Liberal Arts Dean Heather Hardy. The president outlined his strategies for creating a culture of completion on campus and for dealing with a three million dollar shortfall, following cuts in the higher education budget by Nevada's Governor.

Eric Herzik's leadership during the budget crisis played an essential role in the Center's ability to cope with the cuts.

The annual report on CBS activities and accomplishments, given by Eric Herzik, covered our publications agenda, our Ph.D. program, and outreach activities such as conferences and newsletter distribution. The Board then accepted Philippe Acheritogaray of San Francisco and Steve Trounday of Reno as new board members.

Representing his uncle, Antonio de Ynchausti, Nikolas Skalomenos presented the Philippine Report 2007 for the Ynchausti Foundation and encouraged collaboration between the Center, its Board, and the Ynchausti Foundation as it lays the groundwork for its Basque Studies Center.

Board members later toured the new premises in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. The Center and Basque Library will move there in July, and the building opens to the public August 11. The chairman proposed an official opening of the Center's new quarters, possibly in spring 2009.

expenditure of \$15,000 to provide these books to the students.

*Sweet Promised Land* is Robert Laxalt's book about his Basque immigrant father, who was a shepherd in the American West. During orientation sessions, the students met in groups to discuss the work and its significance to Nevada.

## An addendum

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that the fiftieth anniversary edition of *Sweet Promised Land* was sent to all fall 2007 freshman students to read prior to the start of the semester, as part of the Summer Scholars program at UNR. We neglected to note that the Center's Advisory Board executive committee for our quasi-endowment fund had authorized an

literature may have been politically or ideologically motivated, and perhaps this type of motivation may be more important than we realize. Certain French intellectuals say that the dominance of English is unnatural. However, it goes without saying that Antonio Machado, Paul Valery, Graham Greene, Cesare Pavese, Ernest Hemingway, and many other authors owe their fame to their readers more than anything else.

Although Basque literature has a large following on its home turf, Olaziregi remarked that Basque literature is still markedly absent from the international scene with the singular exception of the works of Bernardo Atxaga. To address this, Olaziregi recommends analyzing the strategies that have been employed until now to detect flaws, and find more effective alternatives. According to Atxaga, part of the problem lies in the fact that for some authors, writing in Basque is an easy way to get published. A contemporary Basque writer benefits from staying within that realm, in his own asteroid; that is the shortest path to becoming known in the literary world.

The conference also served as a venue to discuss the role of literature in conflict resolution. Dartmouth College professor Annabel Martin presented a paper titled "Critical Basque Studies: Literature or the Political Contours of the Possible," in which she appealed to the power of literature as a vehicle for a pedagogy of peace. Also along these lines, University of Aberdeen professor Nerea Arruti examined the role of literature and its capacity to address the "elephant in the middle of the room," such as the armed conflict of Ireland, in her paper, "On the Lightness of Being: The Conflict of Belonging in Basque Literature." Arruti spoke of social problems that are difficult to address appropriately and pointed out the need for open spaces in which multiple tensions that reside in Basque society can be voiced.

In addition to conference sessions, participants also had the opportunity to visit some of the Reno area's tourist destinations including Pyramid Lake, Lake Tahoe, and Virginia City.

The Conference on Literature was broadly reviewed in the Basque Country media, with lengthy articles appearing in *El Pais*, *Berria*, *Diario Vasco*, *El Correo*, *Deia*, ETB, and *Gara*. The press was very favorable in their reports on the conference.

## Bernardo Atxaga, CBS Douglass Scholar, receives literary awards

Celebrated Basque author Bernardo Atxaga, this year's William Douglass Distinguished Scholar at the Center for Basque Studies, has been awarded two coveted prizes in Italian literature for his novel *The Accordionist's Son* (titled *Il libro del mio fratello* in Italian).

In January he was awarded the Grinzane Cavour Prize for a foreign work, and recently was also granted the Premio Letterario Internazionale Mondello-Citta di Palermo, or Mondello Prize.

The Mondello Prize is one of the most prestigious in Europe. Atxaga was unanimously chosen for the foreign writer category for *The Accordionist's Son*.

The Mondello prize was awarded on May 23–24, 2008. In addition to the award ceremony, a roundtable was held with some of this year's winners, including Bernardo Atxaga, Andrea Bajani, Antonio Scurati, Flavio Soriga, and Tzvetan Todorov.

The 34th Mondello Prize is sponsored by the Banco di Sicilia Foundation and the Andrea Biondo Foundation. Previous winners include major authors in world literature, including Nobel Prize winners Josef Brodskji, Doris

Lessing, Günter Grass, Octavio Paz, and José Saramago.

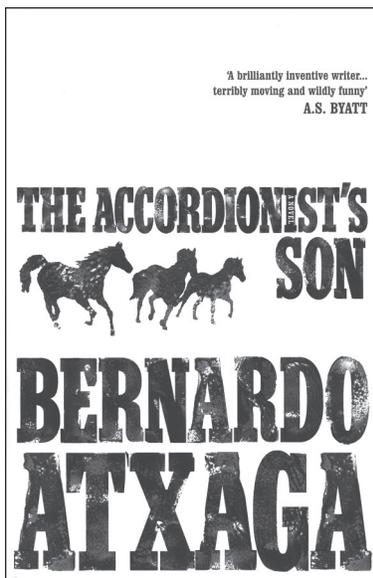
Atxaga's work will now compete with that of two other authors for an even greater prize, an annual award promoted by the Piedmont Region of Italy and the CRT Foundation (Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, or Turin). The prize is internationally renowned and in some cases has been the precursor to a Nobel

Prize. The final award will be decided in June by twenty-seven judges from Italy and other countries, as well as literary critics.

*The Accordionist's Son*, first published in Basque in 2003, has been translated into ten languages. It was recently published in English translation by Harvill Press (U.K.) and has received excellent reviews.

Bernardo Atxaga is a well-known author in Europe and his work has earned many literary awards and much critical acclaim. International recognition came after the publication of his novel

*Obabakoak* (1988), which was awarded the Spanish National Fiction Prize. It has been translated into over twenty-six languages. He also writes short stories, poetry, and essays. Three of his other novels, *The Lone Man*, *The Lone Woman*, and *Two Brothers*, have also been translated into English.



\* \* \*

The proceedings of "Writers in Between Languages: Minority Literatures in the Global Scene" will be compiled and published by the Center for Basque Studies in their Conference Papers Series within the next year.

[This article was originally published as "Necesidad de una Nueva Cartografía" (Re-Mapping Minority Literature Studies) in the Mugalari section of *Gara*, May 31, 2008. Translated from the Spanish by Lisa Corcostegui, Center for Basque Studies.]

# Basque Ph.D. students complete degrees

This spring, two of our Basque Studies Ph.D. students successfully completed the dissertation defense process and achieved their doctoral degrees.

On May 7, Ph.D. candidate Juan Arana presented his dissertation, "Jorge Oteiza: Art as Sacrament, Avant-Garde and Magic." His area of emphasis was philosophy, focusing on art and aesthetics, with Center co-director Joseba Zulaika serving as director of his research.



*Joseba Zulaika and Juan Arana.*



*Oscar Alvarez and Argitxu Camus Etchecopar.*

Argitxu Camus Etchecopar, who completed her Ph.D. in Basque Studies with an emphasis in history, defended her dissertation on May 8. Her dissertation was on "A Historical Comparative Study of Basque Institutions in the United States." Ms. Camus' committee co-directors were Joseba Zulaika and Oscar Alvarez of the University of the Basque Country, Vitoria-Gasteiz, who traveled to Reno to participate in the event.

The Center congratulates our students on their success. *Zorionak*, Argitxu and Juan!

# Visiting scholar Igor Calzada receives prestigious award

Igor Calzada, sociologist and senior researcher-director for a project on the Mondragón Cooperative at Mondragón University (Spain), is a visiting scholar at the Center for 2008–2009. Dr. Calzada is conducting research at UNR on "The Basque City: Social Innovation and Creativity" and recently received a research award for the project, presented by the Spanish prince of Asturias Felipe de Borbón, in Madrid on May 28. The project is being developed in collaboration with the Center.

Dr. Calzada has worked as Project Director and Principal Researcher at the Mondragón Innovation and Knowledge Research Center (MIK), of one of the largest corporations in Spain; and MCC Group, Mondragón Cooperative Corporation. He is also a professor at Mondragón University, teaching postgraduate courses on management, innovation, and cre-

ativity. He holds Ph.D. degrees from Helsinki University (Finland) and Deusto University (Spain). For further information, please see: <http://www.igorcalzada.com>.



*Cristina Garmendia, Minister of Innovation, with Igor Calzada.*

# Basque Scholarship awards for 2008–09

The Center has granted three scholarship awards this year to students attending the University of Nevada, Reno. The undergraduate scholarships are for Nevada residents of Basque descent.

Amaya Zaga of Lamoille, Nevada received the Dolores Saval Trigerero Scholarship of \$1,000, to be divided between the fall and spring semesters. She plans to major in Health Ecology and eventually go to medical school. Shelby Graham of Lovelock, Nevada was awarded the Peter Echeverria Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, which will also be divided between fall and spring semesters. We were unable to award the Ordoqui Scholarship because none of the applicants had enrolled in the Basque minor.

Ph.D. student Mariann Vaczi was awarded the Frances A. Echeverria Graduate Student Award, designed to assist the student in completing a dissertation. Ms. Vaczi is pursuing her doctorate with an emphasis in anthropology, focusing on an ethnography of the soccer team Athletic Bilbao. She has been a Research Assistant at the Center since fall of 2007. She has three Master's degrees: 2005, Sociology and Social Anthropology at Central European University, Budapest; 2006, American Studies, ELTE University, Budapest; 2007, Translation Studies, ELTE University, Budapest.

We wish to thank the generous donors who have made these awards possible, and also to congratulate the scholars and wish them the best in their studies.

# Basque topics presented in weekly articles

The North American Basque Organizations, Inc. (NABO) offers a weekly online news and information report, "Astero," delivered to interested readers via e-mail notification. The reports, produced by John Ysursa of the Chino Basque Club, have included such topics as the Basque population of the U.S., NABO's Basque Cultural Literacy project, Basque genealogy links, and many others.

To subscribe to this service please send an e-mail to [info@nabasque.org](mailto:info@nabasque.org). You can also view the archived articles by going to the NABO web page at [www.nabasque.org](http://www.nabasque.org) and clicking on "Astero."

# Basque Symposium held at UC Santa Barbara

A Basque Studies Symposium, the first of a series of Basque Studies conferences, took place at the University of California, Santa Barbara on May 14, focusing on linguistics and literature considered from broad perspectives. Organizer Viola Miglio reported that the conference was well-attended with over a hundred people at the opening session, and fifty to seventy attendees at the specialized sessions on linguistics and literature.

It is hoped that the success of the conference will help keep an interest in Basque Studies alive at UC Santa Barbara, and that they may soon open the search for the endowed Barandiarán Chair and again offer courses in Basque topics on a regular basis.

The papers addressed a number of topics: Basque syntax and words, language policy and rights, the status of women authors, contemporary Basque literature, and projecting the identity of a small nation onto a global scene. Speakers included Ricardo Etxepare of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Bayonne, France; Xabier Irujo of the Center for Basque Studies; Julen Manterola Agirre of the University of the Basque Country, Vitoria-Gasteiz; José Ignacio Hualde, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Juan Uriagereka, University of Maryland, College Park; Mari Jose Olaziregi, Center for Basque Studies and University of the Basque Country, Vitoria-Gasteiz; and Estibalitz Ezkerra, University of Nevada, Reno. A round-table discussion on Literature and Translation was conducted by Basque writers Aurelia Arcocha, Mariasun Landa, and Miren Agur Meabe.

Papers presented by Center staff included Dr. Olaziregi's lecture on "Basque Literature Today," which offered a description of the evolution of Basque literature, and a comment on the works of authors such as Landa, Arcocha, and Meabe. Questions regarding the actual literary system, gender, and the connections between Basque literature and the Nation also were addressed. Dr. Xabier Irujo gave a presentation on "Basque Language Rights," discussing the situation in both the Spanish and the French regions; and Estibalitz Ezkerra spoke on "Not Everybody Sings from the Motherland. Basque Diasporic Voices and Their Place in Basque Literature."

The event was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Latin American



*Basque Symposium participants (back, from left) Mariasun Landa, Miren Meabe, Esti Ezkerra; (front, from left) Aurelia Arcocha and Marijo Olaziregui.*

and Iberian Studies Program, Comparative Literature Program, and Linguistics Department of UCSB; IKER/CNRS Basque Texts and Language Study Center (Bayonne, France); the University of Nevada, Reno; and Boise State University.

## Bernardo Atxaga lecture presented



*Bernardo Atxaga*

Bernardo Atxaga, William Douglass Distinguished Scholar at the Center for 2007–2008, gave a presentation on April 24 at the University of Nevada, Reno on "Sobre la Poesía." He incorporated readings of several English-language poems into his lecture, as well as reflections on some of his experiences in the United States. Atxaga is a well-known Basque author whose work has earned many literary awards, most recently for his novel *The Accordionist's Son* (see story on page 4).

In addition to novels and poetry, Atxaga also writes short stories, children's literature, and essays. His poetry volumes include *Etiopia* (Ethiopia) in 1978 and *Nueva Etiopia* (New Ethiopia) in 1997. Many of his poems have also been translated into other languages and published in prestigious European journals.

## Bakersfield presents Basque Symposium

The 3rd Annual California State University-Bakersfield Basque Studies Symposium was held May 3, 2008 at the Dezember Leadership Development Center. Xabier Irujo spoke about the *fueros*, or ancient civil laws of the Basque Country, Joxe Mallea spoke about Basque tree carvings, and European Parliament Member Mikel Irujo discussed the Basques and the European Union.



# Highlights

On January 11, **Mari Jose Olaziregi** was a visiting lecturer at the University of Valencia (Spain) where she gave a postgraduate course on "Literature and Ideology." Also, while in Spain she served as a member of the jury for the Donostia Hiria Literary Award.

**Joseba Zulaika** gave a paper entitled "Political Radicalisation in the Basque Country" at the conference on "Radicalisation and Terrorism," South African Institute of International Affairs, March 6–8.

In February, **Dr. Olaziregi** taught a post-graduate seminar on Contemporary Basque Narrative as a visiting professor at the University of Bayonne (France).

On January 10, 2008, **Pedro J. Oiarzabal**, a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Nevada Oral History Program, was invited by the University of Navarre's Basque Language and Culture Department to give a talk entitled "Basque Identity Today: The Basque Country and its Diaspora."

The Oxford University journal, *French History*, published an article by **Sandra Ott** in its March issue entitled "The Informer, the Lover and the Gift Giver: Female Collaborators in Pau, 1940–1946." The article focuses on letters written by a Nazi officer to a woman in Pau (the gift giver). His letters and his relationships with the three women provide an unusual opportunity to recapture a sense of day to day life in occupied France. The article was published online as well.

**Sandra Ott** taught a new one-credit course, "Basques in the Sweet Promised Land," through Extended Studies in April. The course entailed literary analysis of Robert Laxalt's memoir within the context of Old and New World Basque culture.

In April, **Mari Jose Olaziregi** served as a judge for the Koldo Mitxelena Literary Award, in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain.

**David Río**, Professor of American Literature at the University of the Basque Country, published a review of the fiftieth anniversary edition of Robert Laxalt's *Sweet Promised Land* in *Western American Literature* 42: 4 (Winter 2008), 448–49.

On April 10, **Joseba Zulaika** attended a presentation of the book *Learning from the Bilbao Guggenheim*, a collection of papers from the conference of that name (Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno, 2004), at the LACE Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions in the company of John Welchman, Andrea Fraser, Anna Maria Guasch, Sere Gilbert, and Allan Sekula. Zulaika and Guasch are the co-editors of the volume.

**Joseba Zulaika** and **William A. Douglass** co-authored "The Terrorist Subject: Terrorism Studies and the Absent Subjectivity," published in *Critical Terrorism Studies*, 1:25–36.

In April, **Sandra Ott** presented a paper at the annual conference of the Society for French Historical Studies, held at Rutgers University. Her paper, titled "The Location of Power in Franco-Basque-German Relations during the Occupation," formed part of the session on Resistance and Collaboration in Twentieth-Century France. Archival research for the project was generously funded by a College of Liberal Arts Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant.

This past spring, Dr. **Sandra Ott** received official confirmation of tenure as an associate professor in Basque Studies.

Dr. **Mari Jose Olaziregi** gave an invited lecture, an "Introduction to the Literary Universe of Bernardo Atxaga," at the University of California, Davis on April 6.

**Axier Oiarbide** of the Department of Physical Education, University of the Basque Country gave a presentation on March 31 at UNR on "Una etnografía sobre fútbol: el Ordizia Kirol Elkarte en la preferente Guipuzcoana." Mr. Oiarbide is completing his doctoral dissertation based on a comparison of three physical activities: mountain trekking, aerobic exercise, and soccer (fútbol). He was a visiting scholar sponsored by the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

**Mari Jose Olaziregi** served on two Ph.D. committees in Spain, one at the University of Santiago de Compostela and one at UPV-Vitoria. She attended the thesis defenses of both Dr. Monica Dominguez and Dr. Hernandez Abaitua.

**Pedro Oiarzabal** published two articles: "A Review of Theoretical Approaches to Identity: the Basque Case," in the *Journal of the Society of Basque Studies in America*, Vol. 27 (2007); and, with Dr. Fernando Molina of the University of the Basque Country, "Basque-Atlantic Shores. Ethnicity, the Nation-state, and the Diaspora in Europe and America (1808–1898)," in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 31 (2008).

**Lisa Corcostegui**, a graduate of the Basque Studies Ph.D. program, has been hired as a part-time assistant to update and improve the Center's web site. We are grateful for her expertise and look forward to her creative contributions.

**Mari Jose Olaziregi** published the article "Bernardo Atxaga: un escritor del desierto" in the *Boletín Galego de Literatura* No. 36–37 (2006–07): 247–54.

**Pedro J. Oiarzabal** has published a book review on Paddy Woodworth's latest work, *The Basque Country: A Cultural History* (Oxford University Press, 2007) in the *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 16: 2 (2008).

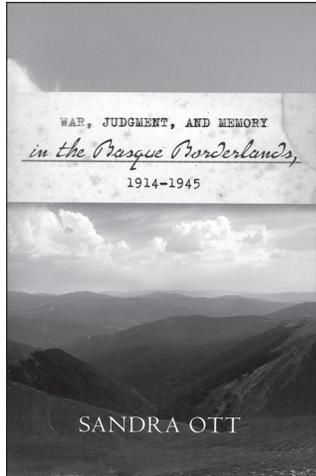
During spring semester, **Sandra Ott** was a McNair Scholar Mentor to an undergraduate geography student, **Gretchen Hill**, who has a special interest in the Basques of the Great Basin. On October 20, 2007, she presented a poster at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers annual conference held in Long Beach, California. Her poster, "Major Expressions of Basque Identities in the Great Basin," received the President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate Student.

Spring 2008 courses offered by the Center for Basque Studies were: Elementary Basque I and Second-year Basque, taught by **Kate Camino**; Basque Culture, taught by **Sandra Ott**; Basque Politics by **Xabier Irujo**; and Museums, Architecture, and City Renewal: the Bilbao Guggenheim (online) by **Joseba Zulaika**.

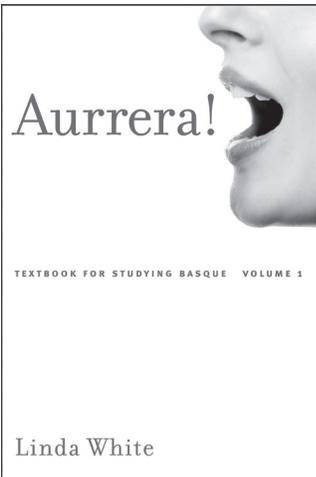
**Mari Jose Olaziregi** was a visiting scholar at the University of Konstanz, Germany from June 8–13, and taught a course on contemporary Basque literature. June 16–30, she gave a Ph.D.-level course at the University of the Basque Country on "Postmodernism and the Novel."

# New publications from the Basque Series

Sandra Ott's book *War, Judgment and Memory in the Basque Borderlands, 1914–1945* is now available from the University of Nevada Press. The work examines the impact of war and occupation on four Basque communities in the Basque Pyrenean province of Xiberoa. Using archival documents and interviews with numerous Basque witnesses, the author recounts how these tightly knit communities reacted to wars, occupation, resistance, and denunciations, as well as to the upheavals of liberation. Often citing the candid observations of Basques who had direct experience with these events, she analyzes how war and occupation affected the Basques' perceptions of themselves, outsiders, and the boundaries of their moral and social community. (ISBN: 978-0-87417-738-1; 288 pages; hardcover, \$39.95)



Sandra Ott, a social anthropologist, is an associate professor at the Center for Basque Studies. Dr. Ott's research interests include Basque culture, Northern Basques under Vichy and German Occupation; trans-Pyrenean relations in Xiberoa, Béarn, Navarre, and Aragon; and contemporary French history and culture. She teaches two capstone courses at the University of Nevada, Reno: War, Occupation and Memory; and Basque Culture.



Dr. Ott discussed her research in the Basque region at a book presentation and signing held at Sundance Bookstore in Reno on May 8. An additional presentation and book signing will take place on Sunday, October 19 at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco, California. The presentation will immediately follow the BCC members' lunch at approximately 3:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. For information, contact the Basque Cultural Center at 650.583.8091.

*Aurrera! A Textbook for Studying Basque, Volume 1*, by Linda White, is a beginning-level text in the Basque language. The Basque language is one of Europe's most ancient, its origins as mysterious as those of the Basque people themselves. It is also the official language of Euskadi, the bustling, modern Basque Autonomous Region of Spain, and the preferred tongue of tens of thousands of Basques and their descendants living in the European Basque Country and in diaspora around the world.

*Aurrera!* is a comprehensive text for beginning-level students who are learning Basque (the *batua* or unified form approved by the Academy of the Basque Language) in a classroom setting or on their own. Each chapter introduces an element of grammar and offers students written and spoken exercises, vocabulary, dialogues, and other activities, plus Basque reading texts that will entertain while they illustrate the points of the chapter. The complexities of Basque grammar are explained in clear, easy-to-understand terms.

Volume 1 covers material for the first two semesters of college-level classroom work, and will give independent learners a sound foundation in the language to allow them to communicate in Basque and to read basic Basque texts. (Available August 2008; ISBN 978-087417-726-8, 456 pages, cloth, \$65.00)

Linda White is emerita professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Basque Studies, where she taught Basque for many years. She is the coauthor, with Gorka Aulestia, of the *Basque-English, English-Basque Dictionary* and the *English-Basque Dictionary*, both published by the University of Nevada Press, and has translated numerous works from Basque and Spanish.

*Speaking Through the Aspens: Basque Tree Carvings in Nevada and California* by J. Mallea-Olaetxe is now available in a paperback edition.

Hikers in the mountains of the Far West have long known about mysterious carvings found on aspen trees but few have researched their intent or significance. Historian J. Mallea-Olaetxe has spent more than two decades recording and studying these arboglyphs, which were largely the work of Basque shepherders. The carvings—names, dates, phrases in several languages, even human and animal figures—provide a unique and important record of the lives of the solitary Basque shepherders. For the first time, these men, who contributed so much to the development of the region, speak for themselves about their experiences.



Author Mallea-Olaetxe analyzes the content of thousands of arboglyphs in the mountains of Nevada and California. In addition, he has examined artifacts such as sheep camps and bread ovens, conducted extensive interviews with former herders and sheep company personnel, and undertaken research in immigration and other records. The result is a highly original work of history. Enhanced by 94 photographs and line drawings,

this book is essential reading for scholars and anyone interested in the Basque experience. (Available August 2008; ISBN 978-087417-762-6, 256 pages, paper, \$29.95)

J. Mallea-Olaetxe is an independent scholar at the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

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## Basque sheepherder exhibit at regional park in Reno

A Basque sheepherder camp has been recreated in the Great Basin Adventure area of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in Reno. The display includes a traditional oven, along with a replica of a sheepherder's camp with a wagon and a vintage tent. Many Basques came to the West from their homeland in the Pyrenees mountains of northern Spain and southern France to work as herders.



*Basque oven, used primarily to bake sheepherder's bread.* [photo by Megan Berner]

Dixie May of the Wilbur May Foundation Board of Directors, which helped fund the project to showcase Basque culture, said that the Great Basin Adventure is about the cultures of the Great Basin. Since Basques are a

### Irish journalist presents new publication

Irish journalist Paddy Woodworth gave a presentation on February 12 at the University of Nevada, Reno on "Magic in the Landscape, Blood on the Streets." He discussed issues related to Basque and Spanish multiple identities and violence, and also read passages from his new book, *The Basque Country: A Cultural History* (Oxford University Press, 2007) accompanied by images of the Basque region. His book has been called "a marvelous guide to the culture and landscape of one of the most intriguing places on Earth."

Woodworth's previous book, *Dirty War, Clean Hands* (Cork University Press, 2001), is a study of terrorism and state terrorism in contemporary Spain.

prominent minority in the region, the exhibit was felt to be an important addition to the park. May initiated the project and a committee was established, with donations and assistance coming from many sources.

William Douglass, former director and Professor Emeritus of the Center, served on the planning committee along with Carmelo Urza, the director of the University Studies Abroad Consortium. Douglass wrote the text for the interpretive signs that accompany the exhibit to explain the Basque presence in the area and their contributions. Also on the committee were local Basques Janet Inda, Leroy Arrascada, Larry Landa, donor of the tent and artifacts, and Pete and Gloria Fundis, who donated the herder's wagon. The traditional bread oven came from Robert and Nanette Marshall's ranch in nearby Spanish Springs. Park personnel and Bill Ware also assisted with planning.

At the dedication on May 25, the Reno Basque Club's Zazpiak Bat Dancers, led by Kate Camino, performed and everyone enjoyed sheepherder's bread that had been baked in the brick oven.

Rancho San Rafael Park is also home to the Monument to the Basque Sheepherder, a large sculpture created by Basque artist Nestor Basterretxea and dedicated in 1989.

### Seminar held on 1936 Gernika incident

The bombing of Gernika by the Nazis' Legion Condor in 1936 was the subject of a seminar/discussion presented April 26, the 71st Anniversary of the event. Basque historian Dr. Xabier Irujo gave a brief explanation of this historical event and the later development of the Basque conflict, interpreted through the symbol of Gernika, followed by a presentation by Dr. Joseba Zulaika. Afterwards, those present opened a discussion of the theories and experiences of political conflict resolution, especially with relation to the Basque conflict.

## From the Basque Library

The Basque Library has seen several staff changes over the past year. After the departure of Nere Erkiaga, who served as interim Basque Librarian for 2007–08, daily operations were handled by Library Technician Shannon Sisco. In May, we were pleased to welcome Marimar Ubeda as the new Basque Librarian. She is from Zumarraga (Gipuzkoa), and obtained her master's degree in library and information science from the University of Granada (Spain). She says that her work experience in several libraries has given her a well-rounded vision of the job. In her previous post, she served as director of the medical library of the Donostia-San Sebastián Hospital.

Ms. Ubeda plans to continue to develop the library collection with a focus on the Basque diaspora, and to provide patrons with the materials and assistance to carry out their research. Ms. Sisco also assists students and visiting scholars, and helps with collection organization. Other staff include graduate stu-



*Basque Library staff, from left, Esti Ezkerra, Shannon Sisco, and Marimar Ubeda.* [photo by Megan Berner]

dent Estibalitz Ezkerra, a part-time employee since July 2007, who has been organizing the slide archive which will soon be digitized. She is also recording the content of some of the family archives in the Basque Library's collection—the Orella and de Basaldua family archives will be ready by fall.

Graduate student workers Brandon and Hilda Scutt have been instrumental in completing the slide database project and the move to the Knowledge Center. In addition, they have served as the Library's first line of contact with visitors.

*(continued on page 10)*

## Udaleku 2008 held in Buffalo

NABO's annual Basque culture camp for kids, called Udaleku, was held June 15–27 in Buffalo, Wyoming. Kate Camino directed the camp and Lisa Corcostegui participated as an instructor teaching Basque culture and dance. Three other instructors from the Basque Country also contributed: Eneko Espino teaching txistu; Jexux Larrea who taught dance; and Joseba Etxarri who taught language. Elisa Etchemendy of Douglas, Wyoming, Marty Camino of Buffalo, and Marcel Gaztambide of Salt Lake City also helped as aides. Internal director of the camp was Teresa (Escoz) Fieldgrove who coordinated all the meals and outings, and found hosting families for the students.

The camp was attended by 43 students aged 10–15 from six different states (California, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming), two from the Vancouver Basque club in Canada, and two from the Basque Country. The kids spent the two weeks learning about Basque culture, dance, language, txistu (flute), and *mus*, a Basque card game. They also participated in other special projects according to their interests, such as advanced dance, photography, singing, *txalaparta* (Basque percussion instrument), skits, and yearbook. The children's new skills were showcased at a final performance at Buffalo High School with over 300 people in at-

tendance. The camp wasn't just about work, however. The kids also toured a woolen mill, the local museum and Basque exhibit, went swimming, played pala at the local YMCA, bowled, and attended two rodeos.

The highlight for many was the weekend outing to the local youth camp in the Big Horn Mountains. There, several local Basques shared their experiences as sheepherders, and showed the kids how to bake bread in the ground. Saturday night was dedicated to song and dance and, for those who wished, spending the night in a sheepwagon. Sunday morning began with a walking tour through the aspen groves to see carvings left behind by herders. Jean Escoz led the tour and also explained life in a sheepwagon to the campers. Mike Rodriguez then brought a few head of sheep to the camp and did a shearing demonstration and ended with docking (castrating) two lambs in the old tradition, using his teeth. The cooks then prepared the testicles and the tails for the kids to try if they wished. Sunday ended with mass celebrated by Fr. Ron Stolcis of Sheridan.

According to camp director, Kate Camino, the camp was a great success. "Really, I can't express what a wonderful experience this camp has been. I couldn't have asked for better instructors, or participants, or coordination and help on site, and being able to have it all in my hometown of Buffalo was the icing on the cake."



From the Basque Library, *continued*:

The Basque Library is accessible to the public, and remote users can contact them by phone at 775.682.5590, letter, or e-mail: [basquelibrary@unr.edu](mailto:basquelibrary@unr.edu), to obtain access to materials. The library is part of the Inter-Library Loan system and has loaned books to people worldwide.

The library has also collaborated with authors, filmmakers, etc., by supplying photographic, archival, or bibliographic support. For example, this May, for the award-winning National Public Radio production "The Kitchen Sisters," they helped make photos available for the program on "Basque Hidden Kitchens." The text can be found online at [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) under "Hidden Kitchens."

## Center saddened by death of Enrike Knörr

The Center for Basque Studies is deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Enrike Knörr (University of the Basque Country, Leioa). Professor Knörr was nominated to be the Center's Douglass Distinguished Scholar for the year 2007–2008. He had accepted the invitation and was eager to spend the year at the Center, but in the end declined to come due to his medical condition. We hoped and expected that he would improve and eventually be able to accept the same invitation for the next year, but unfortunately he was unable to come. The Center has enormously valued his contributions and his friendship. We offer our sincerest condolences to his family, colleagues, and friends.

## Antique Basque implement donated

The Center for Basque Studies and the University Studies Abroad Consortium each received the gift of an antique Basque farming implement called a *laia*, donated in May by longtime friend of the Center, Nekane Oiarbide of Donostia-San Sebastián.

Nekane has collaborated on several activities of the Center from the early days. After completing a Fulbright program in Philadelphia in 1972, she came to the Basque Studies Program to help with a project on the Basque diaspora, despite a lack of



*Joseba Zulaika holding a laia.*

funds to cover housing costs. She was welcomed into the home of University librarian Yoshi Hendricks, who cataloged Basque materials, and spent "seven unforgettable months" here. Nekane later assisted with fundraising in the Basque Country for the Monument to the Basque Sheepherder project, working with Bob Laxalt and Warren Lerude, and on a similar tribute in the Basque Country to the Basque herders of the Americas.

Ethnographer Fermin Leizaola of Donostia-San Sebastián kindly provided information on the *laia*, a tool used in the Basque region for centuries. It consists of a long, two-pronged fork of forged iron attached to a short wooden handle. Through about the 1930s it was common to see lines of people breaking up the soil in the fields with these tools, one in each hand, working backwards across the field.

Many thanks—*eskerrik asko*—to Nekane Oiarbide for her thoughtfulness in donating these implements.

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*Pau students explore the Basque countryside.*

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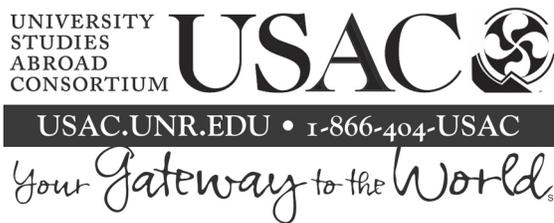
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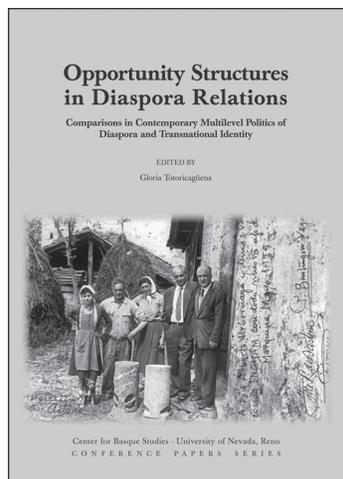
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## Conference Papers Series publication

*Opportunity Structures in Diaspora Relations: Comparisons in Contemporary Multilevel Politics of Diaspora and Transnational Identity*, edited and with an introduction by Gloria Toticagüena, consists of papers from the April 2006 international symposium on diaspora politics of the same name. The conference was sponsored by the Center for Basque Studies of the University of Nevada, Reno. World-renowned experts present their research on such topics as the main characteristics and organizational structures of contemporary ethno-national diasporas, and how their relationships with their homeland and host-society governments might develop; communal strategies and tactics used by diasporas, and how effective they are at influencing the foreign policy of central governments; opportunity structures for diasporas in the post-modern and trans-state social, economic, and political systems; and ways diaspora activities, and ethno-national identity maintenance in general, influence social and political security issues both domestically and in foreign policy.



Papers included in the anthology are "Multilayered Politics in the African Diaspora: The Metadiaspora Concept and Minidiaspora Realities," by Kim D. Butler; "The Making of 'Modern' Diasporas: The Case of Muslims in Canada," by Nergis

Canefe; "Creolization and Diaspora: The Cultural Politics of Divergence and (Some) Convergence," by Robin Cohen; "In Search of the Basque American Diaspora," by William A. Douglass; "Diasporic Politics in the European Union: Paris's City Hall and the Jewish Quarter," by Michel S. Laguerre; "Democracy, Pluralism, and Diaspora Identity: An Ambiguous Relationship," by William Safran; "The Diaspora Phenomenon in the Twenty-First Century: Ideational, Organizational, and Behavioral Challenges," by Gabriel Sheffer; "Stateless Power and the Political Agency of Diasporas: An Armenian Case Study," by Khachig Tölölyan; and "The Political Agency of Ethnic Diasporas: Paradiplomacy and the Construction of Political Communities in the World System," by Gloria Toticagüena.

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