

Center for Basque Studies

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Important subscription information

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University of Nevada, Reno / MS 2322
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Embracing Nevada

by Zoe Bray

Zoe Bray is a newly-appointed Assistant Professor at the CBS.

Introducing myself to the readers of this newsletter gives me an opportunity to reflect on the three months that have passed since my arrival in Reno. I already feel very much at home, thanks to the warm welcome I immediately received from colleagues and neighbors. The smooth transition from Europe to Nevada has also been aided by my previous experiences. Throughout my life I have moved from place to place and have had to re-accommodate to my new living conditions. Readapting has thus become an integral part of who I am, personally and professionally, for, in many ways, being an anthropologist also entails immersing oneself in new situations and reflecting on the familiar and the strange.

I had no idea what to expect in Reno. Even though I had visited the USA at least five times, I now see that I had quite a European-centric view of the country and its people. Back home, many friends and acquaintances reacted with astonishment to the news that I would move to Nevada. Most could not imagine what living there could possibly be like. In fact, as I was soon to discover, Reno is one of the USA's best-kept secrets. I was immediately struck by the quality of life here. I understand now what a privilege it is to be a part of this country, to be able to observe its complex realities from the inside and to take part in its aspiration for excellence.

Discovering the University of Nevada, Reno, has also been extremely inspiring. Orientation meetings organized for new faculty were very welcoming, friendly, and helpful. One



immediately saw that UNR cares for the well-being of its employees and is committed to producing well-rounded, well-educated students. On my first morning in the office I met with Sandy Ott, whom I knew from her Oxford days in England. A card signed by all of my new colleagues welcomed me to the Center. My new office has a beautiful view of the campus and mountains beyond. Later, Joseba emerged from his "cave," as he called it, having just put the final word to the manuscript he had been working on intensely for four years. We celebrated over lunch together in a nearby restaurant. Until my interview here last December, I had not seen Joseba since he briefly passed through Florence some six years ago. It was good to see both Sandy and Joseba in their professional base, which would henceforth also be mine. I also met Dan Montero, managing editor of the CBS Press, who impressed me by nonchalantly stating that he cycles over eight miles into work practically every day. My first day of work happened to

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Hal Morton of Verdi, Nevada donated a collection of paintings and sketches by his late wife, Mariejeanne Etcheberry Morton, to the CBS. The paintings are of Basque subjects, including landscapes and towns in the Basque Country. Mariejeanne had also contributed artwork to the Zazpiak Bat Basque Club of Reno over the years.

The painting above depicts the fishing village of St.-Jean-de-Luz in the French Basque Country.

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Sandra Ott, editor

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(Embracing Nevada, continued)

coincide with the beginning of the 4th of July weekend, which I celebrated with Sandy and her equally welcoming neighbors over my first American barbecue.

Being an avid cyclist, I was keen to get a bicycle immediately so that I could explore my surroundings. Although Joseba tried to persuade me that cycling was not the recommended mode of transport here, I was able to buy a quality second-hand bike in the Bike Project, a funky cooperative for cycle enthusiasts.

In early August, the Center held its annual Advisory Board meeting, and I got to meet many of its eminent members. The Board held an evening reception for UNR President Johnson and his wife Karen in an elegant suite at the Nugget. The following morning gave me a chance to introduce myself and my work to the Board. I explained that I am both a social anthropologist and a painter in the realist and naturalist tradition. Of dual British and French nationality, I was born in Paris. My father is English and my mother is part French Basque, although, quite typically for her generation, she does not speak Euskera. As a child and adolescent, I moved with my family successively to Rome, Brussels, back to Paris again, and then to Madrid. Living in different countries, each time for several years at a stretch, enabled me to identify with the local cultures and become fluent in Italian, Spanish, English, and French.

I started to learn Euskera when I decided to do my MA in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. For my dissertation I studied social relations in the French Basque village of Ossès/Ortzaize and in its three primary schools: the French state school, the Catholic “private” school and the *ikastola*. Then, after a year working in Brussels for the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, I got a scholarship to do a PhD in Social and Political Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence. My research focused on cross-border relations around the bay of Txingudi, made up of the towns of Irun, Hondarribia, and Hendaia on the Basque coast. This work led me to theorize on frontiers and symbolic boundaries as central to understanding the construction and expression of identity. In my first book, *Living Boundaries*, I showed that Basque identity can be constructed and expressed in a multitude of ways, depending on the context and social interaction.

As an artist, I work in oils and charcoal. I received my training at the Charles Cecil

Studio and the Florence Academy of Art. I also worked briefly with Antonio Lopez and Guillermo Muñoz Vera in Spain. People and places are my main subject matter, and my interest is to work directly from life. I have come to discover that painting someone’s portrait provides a unique ethnographic opportunity, as the painter and sitter spend an exceptional moment together, which enables them to relax in each other’s presence and open up. Over the past few years, I have painted or drawn the portraits of many individuals from the Basque Country, including *bertsularis* and, most recently, illustrious figures such as the sculptor Nestor Basterretxea, the painter Jose Antonio Sistiaga, and the choreographer and writer Filipe Oyhamburu, in the intimacy of their homes. My latest exhibition, entitled “People and Places / Lekuko Jendea,” took place in the Museum of Biarritz/Miarritze during July and August 2011.

An important part of my work at the Center involves teaching. This semester I am giving a course on gender relations with a focus on the Basques. Next semester I look forward to teaching Basque Art and Politics, which will give me an opportunity to share my new research interests with UNR students.

As I write this, the sun continues to shine, although the air is getting fresher and many trees have begun to shed their leaves. The summer has been marked by a series of other adventures: buying a 1989 van from a local Mexican family, taking part in Burning Man in the middle of the Black Rock Desert, going up in a hot-air balloon thanks to Steve Trounday (a CBS Advisory Board member), discovering the spawning season of Taylor Creek salmon, exploring the local music and art scene, and attending my first Basque-American festivals. I look forward to getting to know members of the Basque diaspora better and even to possibly painting their portraits. As the season changes, I know that yet more great adventures are around the corner.



2011 Conference on Language Rights

Xabier Irujo and Oscar Álvarez organized a conference on “The Protection of Cultural Diversity: Language Rights and Legal Pluralism,” which took place at the Center from March 22 to March 27, 2011. It brought together a select group of scholars from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania whose research broadly relates to Cultural and Language Rights, Ecology of Language, Language Imperialism and Discrimination, and Proactive Language Policies. Subthemes included Language, Minorities and Human Rights, Legality and Diversity, Collective Rights: Group Self-Preservation, Freedom of Speech and Language Rights, Linguistic Imperialism, Endangered Languages, and Self-Determination and Language Revitalization.

Pierre Foucher, Fernand De Varennes, and Andre Braen were among the speakers. The conference also brought together native speakers of Washoe and Paiute in Nevada who explained the desperate situation of these two languages today. The Center will publish the proceedings in next year’s Conference Papers Series. On the second day of the conference, a folk music festival was organized at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center Auditorium with performances by the Eagle Wings Pageant Dancers and the Noka Basque singing trio from California.



Prof. Iñigo Urrutia from the law school of the University of the Basque Country presents a paper on “Freedom of Language and Language Rights” at the 2011 conference.

Kate Camino receives Lifetime Achievement Award, “Bizi Emankorra”

Gure Kate, our Kate Camino, received a lifetime achievement award for her contribution to Basque culture at the North American Basque Organization’s national festival in the summer of 2011. The Center is extraordinarily proud of her for getting this well-deserved recognition.

After growing up and dancing with her sisters in Buffalo, Wyoming, Kate went on to graduate from UNR with a Master’s degree in French, learn Euskera and become an instructor at the Center, teach dances to children for twenty years, and serve as president of Reno’s Basque club from 1998–2000, and again from 2009 until today. In addition, she has organized several “Udaleku” summer camps for children. In 1998, she became the office manager of the Center for Basque Studies and, as a result, a central figure in the daily life of the Center. Through her work at the Center and her involvement with NABO activities, Kate has become a well-known figure not only within the local Basque community, but also among Basques in the diaspora. She provides an indispensable link between the Center and the many scholars and students who annually contact and visit us.

As office manager, she oversees the daily office operations, keeps track of the various accounts, assists scholars with visa and lodging information, writes grants, and keeps students and faculty informed of upcoming deadlines and regulations to be followed. She is also the first point of contact in the organization of special events. Fluent in Basque, French, Spanish, and English, Kate is also the Center’s Euskera instructor. She is a former member of the American Translators Association and has worked as an interpreter. While living in the Basque Country, she taught English at Lauro Ikastola in Bilbao.

Asked about what gives her the most enjoyment in her work, Kate replied, “Teaching, either kids at Udaleku, dancing, or Basque at the university. That is our future, and the future of Basque culture in the US requires our attention. We all need to start paying attention, whether in our Basque clubs or in our Basque institutions, because if we don’t, it will disappear one day.” Kate also points out



Kate Camino, recipient of the Bizi Emankorra Award.

that the large number of scholars, artists, and friends with whom she has become acquainted at the CBS provide a great source of satisfaction for her. The Center became a salient point in her career as it allowed her to network with and get to know personally all sorts of people related to Basque studies and culture.

Kate is the youngest recipient of the Bizi Emankorra award. “I’m thrilled by the honor,” Kate says. She is also very appreciative of the University’s recognition of this honor, first by a story on the UNR website and now as the first person to be recognized as part of the Campus Spotlight. This year UNR’s athletic department is taking advantage of the crowds they draw to highlight other events happening on campus that otherwise many in the community would not be aware of. On Saturday, October 8, Kate was recognized at the first home (UNR-UNLV) football game of the year. “What a phenomenal experience! One of those once in a lifetime moments, really.” Her next challenge? “We need new leaders to keep the Basque organizations running, and we need to attract youth. This is a challenge, as new generations of Basques live basically in an all-American culture.” What Kate’s insights tell us is that only a generational effort that combines the academic side of instruction and reading with people’s daily lives can create a real Basque community in the diaspora. *Zorionak, Kate!*

William A. Douglass Visiting Scholars, 2011–2012

News from the CBS Advisory Board

At its meeting in August 2011, the Board elected two new members: Laree Perez, a vice president at Deroy & Devereaux Private Investment Counsel, Inc., and Dale Erquiaga, currently senior advisor to Nevada's Governor Brian Sandoval.

Laree Perez is the former president and CEO at Medallion Investment Management Co., Inc. She earned a B.B.A. from Baylor University where she recently completed her service as vice chairman of the Board of Regents. She previously served on the Board of Trustees of New Mexico State University. Laree has also served as chair of the Development Committee for the Mayo Clinic Arizona. Although of Galician rather than Basque origins, Laree and her family have a great interest in the Basques as a result of their experiences as ranchers in New Mexico and their recent visit to the CBS.

Of Basque origin, Dale Erquiaga assists Governor Sandoval with policy development and communications. He also served as former Governor Guinn's Cabinet officer for cultural affairs and as Nevada's chief deputy secretary of state. Before joining Governor Sandoval's office, Dale was the executive director of government affairs, public policy, and strategic planning for the Clark County School District. He was previously a vice president with R&R Partners in Reno and marketing director for the Howard Hughes Corporation.



In the 2011–12 academic year, the Center is delighted to welcome two William A. Douglass Visiting Scholars to campus. Clara Urdangarin and Joseba Etxebeste are both professors at the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU) and belong to the Department of Physical Education and Sports in Vitoria-Gasteiz. The following interview was conducted by Joseba Zulaika.

JZ: Tell us something about your professional background.

CU: We both began working in Catalonia at the Institute for National Education and Sports, first in Barcelona and then in Lleida. Joseba began teaching rugby in Lleida at the university. Later we went to the University of the Basque Country. Our field of study was children's games (Joseba), and the role of physical education in games (Clara). Most of these studies were focused on the biological aspects of play and sports, not on the social ones. We decided to research the social and cultural components of play. Why people play, what is the meaning of certain sporting events, what are the social consequences, and so on, and how much it all had to do with physical education.

JZ: Where did you complete your doctorates?

JE: In 1994, we decided to go to the Sorbonne to study with one of the leading figures in our field, Pierre Parlebas. We knew his work, and first we invited him to Vitoria to give a lecture at the Basque Institute for Physical Education, where I was dean. (In 2005, the Institute became the College of Physical Activities and Sports at the University of the Basque Country.) At the time, these areas of specialization were rarely taught in Spanish universities, and we felt the need to go abroad for our doctorates. We both studied with Parlebas, and I completed my doctorate at the Sorbonne in 2001. My dissertation was about traditional games and the socialization of Basque children; it was mostly about children's games and their relationship to culture.

CU: I finished my doctorate later. I finished the course work at the Sorbonne, but I

did not do my fieldwork until we spent the year 2003–04 in Reno. I studied the dances performed by Basque Americans in Reno's Zazpiak Bat club. I also made an ethnographic analysis of the relationship between these dances and the Basque American community, and the cultural context in which the dances were immersed.

JZ: How would you describe your field of study overall?



photo by I. Murua

JE: We study the grammar (so to speak) of the games and the grammar of the motor functions communicated by them. We look into the social meaning of the games, their implications for education, and how the social meaning of games differs from one culture to another. We also explore the ways in which physical activities are also forms of communication, how each player interprets the game, and the pattern of social relations created by sports.

JZ: What are your goals for this year here at the Center?

JE: Our main goal is to analyze data and publish the results of research we have been doing during these past years. We aim to show the relationship between play and culture through three cases: the Basque case in Europe, American football as a paradigm of American culture, and the Basque-American case through the lens of dance and community relations, that is, through the eyes of the emigrant who leaves Europe to settle in the States.

Ongi etorri, graduate students!

The Center welcomed three new graduate students in fall 2010: Iker Arranz, Iban Gallettebeitia, and Tania Arriaga. A fourth new PhD student, Imanol Murua, joined us in January 2011.

During the past year, Iker has developed a research interest in the French philosopher, Badiou, and is doing his doctorate in conjunction with the Philosophy Department at UNR. By contrast, Iban focused his attention on the Irizar cooperative, originally part of the Mondragón cooperatives, in addition to his course work in Political Science. Tania has been very active studying forums using the new social media, specializing in a group of mainly Navarrese people from a range of professional backgrounds in “Navarra-San Francisco” or Nasf, a forum that promotes innovation. Tania’s degree is in conjunction with the School of Journalism. A prize-winning journalist, Imanol Murua is interested in exploring the recent period of the Basque political conflict, focusing on the current resolution process. His doctorate is in conjunction with the History Department. Iker, Tania, and Imanol continue their studies with us this fall, and are making admirable progress.

In fall of 2011, the Center was delighted to welcome “home” Mariann Vaczi, who spent the previous year doing field work in Bilbao on its soccer team, Athletic Bilbao. The subject of her dissertation is “Sports, Gender, Nation: Soccer Madness among the Basques.” In 2010–11, Mariann received a generous research grant from the Reed Foundation for her fieldwork. She has published an article in the *South African Review of Sociology* and has presented several conference papers in Great Britain, South Africa, and the States. Mariann is also helping with the organization of the Center’s annual international conference for spring 2012, which will focus on sports. She is spending the current academic year writing her dissertation.



(from left) CBS graduate students Tania Arriaga, Imanol Murua, and Mariann Vaczi.

CU: What we want to show is how the analysis of games and physical performances is a vehicle with which to study society, in our case Basque society. But we are also interested in gaining insights into American culture by studying football and in exploring how cultural practices can be blended and expressed through games, sports, and leisure activities such as Basque dances.

JZ: How is studying American football going to help you understand the role of games in Basque society and the construction of social relations? How is studying Basque games going to help you grasp what is specific about American sports?

JE: We view football as a sport central to American culture. Basque-Americans know that culture. But they also know their Basque traditions—they mix both. By participating in football you become American—and engage in American values, ways of playing sports, and in relating to space and time.

JZ: Do you think, then, that the kind of identity promoted by American games is different from the one promoted by Basque games?

CU: That’s our hypothesis.

JE: We are convinced it is so. The grammar of American football is quite different from the grammar of Basque *pelota* or soccer or other types of sports. Football works by means of “short sentences,” by fractions:

you make a play, you confront the opponent, and the play ends. Whereas in *pelota* or soccer, the functions are not as divided. There is a different kind of flow and strategy: you attack and defend at the same time; you don’t have the division of football into functions, tasks, and protocols.

JZ: How is it that soccer among the Spanish Basques is so hegemonic, whereas here in the States, even if many people play soccer, it is almost entirely invisible in the media?

CU: It is invisible because it does not transmit American values in the way football or baseball or basketball does. Soccer is a way of thinking in which each player has to be constantly making decisions in reference to moves that are not marked by any protocol. Football designs each move for the player,

who has to do what has been decided in advance, and players are changed if a different move is needed.

JZ: Statistics are big in football.

JE: Statistics can also be compiled for soccer, but they don’t mean the same thing as in football, because communication among soccer players is much more dynamic. The quantity of passes made does not mean much in itself, it doesn’t mean your team is going to win. Soccer takes a more global view. The action of one player, for example making a pass, is not isolated from the rest of the game. It doesn’t say anything by itself. It means something only in relation to the actions of the opponents and other teammates.

JZ: Returning to children’s games, how many of them did you study?

JE: I analyzed 861 games. The group Etniker made an ethnographic atlas of all Basque children’s games, and I used it as my reference. I examined the structures of all the games in relation to space, time, relations among the players, and to material objects.

Doing gymnastics on a floor or wind-surfing on the ocean are not the same—their use of space is entirely different. In gymnastics, space does not provide you with any new information. Different cultures support different use of spaces. In today’s society there is a tendency to “tame space.” Even wild spaces are less risky than they used to be.

CU: The tendency is toward a more controlled space. The Olympic games favor that direction. What we observe in children’s games is that a wider variety of spaces (than ever before) are being lost. There are many more networks for the players, many more diverse space and time relations.

JZ: And then there is a difference between play that is competitive and play that is not.

JE: In Basque we distinguish between the idea of *jolasa* as non-competitive and *jokoa* as competitive play. In *jolasa* there is a mixture of winning and losing at the same time. In the playing of hide-and-seek, for instance, the idea of a winner does not make sense; the play always ends without any winner. In Eng-

(continued on page 6)

(Douglass scholars, continued)

lish, “play” is a much more polysemic term.

JZ: What about the use of animals in traditional games. How has that changed?

CU: It remains in traditional Basque games. Nowadays, however, the practice has been largely lost. In our courses at the University of the Basque Country we teach and discuss Basque games in order to keep them alive, so that we preserve variety and an element of our heritage. Nowadays children are far too preoccupied with video games in front of a television screen—you only move your fingers. The social network of the solitary player becomes much reduced.

JE: Traditionally, animals were not only symbolic elements in children’s games; actual animals were involved in the play. Catching crickets or butterflies or other insects was part of playing. It was a sort of initiation into later hunting. As the role of animals changed in the experience of rural and urban societies, as the material world changed, play reflected those changes.

JZ: Taking advantage of your work and your presence, next spring we are going to have a

conference here at the Center on games and sports, with the participation of specialists from the States and Europe. What do you expect from the conference?

CU: It will be interesting to see the interaction between scholars from here and there. We know the people with whom we work in Spain and France. It will be interesting for these colleagues to present their work here in Reno for an English-speaking audience. What they have written in French or Spanish is not known here, and the conference will provide an opportunity for them to broaden their professional networks and to make their own research more widely known. Their contributions on the motor functions of play, in particular, should be of interest to American scholars of games and sports. In Europe the tendency is to begin with the grammar of physical activities and then to expand into its social functions, whereas in the States researchers begin with the spectacle and the practical aspects of the game or sport. Both approaches are complementary. We look forward to the conference!

Basque 101 class has record enrollment



The first-year Basque language class for fall 2011, taught by Kate Camino, has the largest enrollment ever in the many years it has been taught at UNR. There are fifteen students in the class, and out of those thirteen are of Basque descent. The majority of the students are from northern Nevada. Many are familiar with the Basque country or their Basque culture through participation in local Basque clubs.

Kate stated that “It is really exciting to have so many students, especially since they can share language they have heard in their own households, representing the gamut of Basque dialects.”

Celebrating 30 years of introducing students to the Basque Country, culture, and languages

by Carmelo Urza, Director of the University Studies Abroad Consortium

By 1980, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Boise State University (BSU) had both attempted to create ongoing study abroad programs in the Basque Country. UNR had offered summer study, attracting enough students to create the necessary economies of scale about every third year. In 1974–75, BSU launched its first offering, an academic year-long (two semesters) program in Oñati. It, too, was successful about every third year. In the early 80s, Dr. William Douglass, director of the Basque Studies Program (later called the Center for Basque Studies), and Dr. Pat Bieter, a history professor at BSU and former director of the defunct Oñati initiative, began discussing how to create a sustainable program in the Basque Country. Each convinced his respective university president—Dr. Joseph Crowley, President of UNR, and Dr. John Barnes of

BSU—to support this collaborative approach (William Jensen, the dean of Continuing Education for BSU, was also instrumental).



(from left) Dr. Ibon Zamanillo, Resident Director, Bilbao; Dr. Patricia O’Connor, Resident Director, Donostia-San Sebastián; and Julie Mathews from the USAC Central Office, by the beautiful bay of La Concha in San Sebastián.

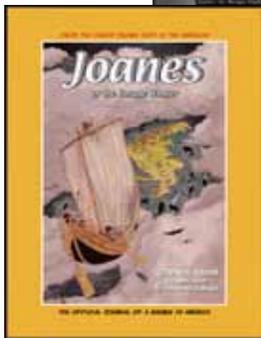
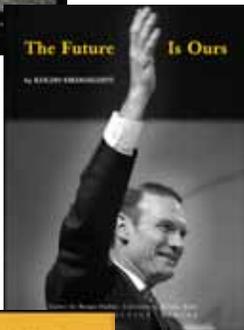
In 1982, I was hired to create this new venture. One-time seed monies came in the form of \$7,500 each from the two institutions (the BSU funds were advanced by the Lynne Fereday Foundation) and a \$7,500 donation from Dr. Douglass. The new entity came to be called the University Studies in the Basque Country Consortium (USBCC). Dr. Gregorio Monreal, first rector of the newly-founded University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU), also played a pivotal role by offering to host the program on his Donostia campus.

Dr. Sandra Ott, now co-director of UNR’s Center for Basque Studies (CBS), was brought in to implement the first year of the program. It was a daunting task and Sandy did a marvelous job. The initial group of twenty-two students arrived in September of 1983 for a two-semester stay. Space was at a premium and Dr. Monreal generously relinquished use

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CBS Press continues to grow

The past year has been incredibly productive for the Center's press. This year alone we plan to present thirteen new books at our main yearly event, the Durango Azoka (book fair) in the Basque Country in December. Among our titles are academic studies, the reprint of an anthology of writing by the Basques of Buffalo, Wyoming, a comic book, and much more. Our online store (<http://basquebooks.myshopify.com/>) and catalog continue to be very popular. The CBS Press is internationally recognized not only as the preeminent English-language publisher in Basque Studies, but also as a professional publishing house that produces increasingly high-quality products. How can you be a part of our success? Well, it's easy! Just visit our web store or ask your local bookseller to order one of our books, then sit back, and enjoy!



Three new titles from the CBS Press: *War, Exile, Justice, and Everyday Life, 1936–1946*, edited by Sandra Ott; *The Future Is Ours*, by Koldo Ordozgoiti; and *Joanes, or the Basque Whaler: 2/Whale Island*, a graphic novel by Guillermo Zubiaga.

A Letter from the Co-Directors

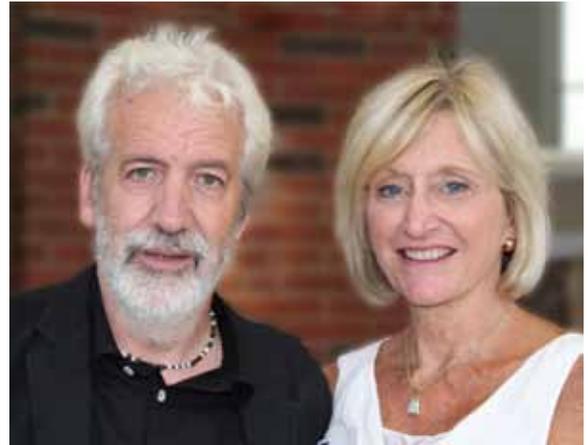
Dear Readers,

As co-directors of the CBS since the fall of 2009, we take great pleasure in bringing you up to date with the activities and accomplishments of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. Those of you who try to stay in touch through our web site will know that the past year has been an extremely busy one. For the sake of brevity, we will summarize here only key highlights.

As interim president Marc Johnson noted last June, the past year has been a time of great change at UNR. We mourned the sudden passing of UNR President Milt Glick. The University was yet again deeply affected by a major financial crisis in the state of Nevada. In April, the Center faced the prospect of losing all state funding by June 2012 and possible “down-sizing” if we failed to raise \$519,000 (the amount we receive from the state) in 2011–12. In June we learned that the Center would continue to receive the full support of President Johnson and now Provost Heather Hardy and that state funding would continue, at least for the foreseeable future. In the end, the Nevada System of Higher Education had to reduce its state allocation by 15% for the new biennium. The reduction is being handled by means of a 13% increase in undergraduate student fees, a 5% increase for graduate students, a 2.5% salary cut for UNR faculty and staff, and a 2.3% cut from annual faculty and staff furloughs. The Center emerged from this difficult period as a stronger, more focused department that is determined to achieve ever greater excellence in what we do for the Basque diaspora, for Basque heritage, and for this university.

Owing to the support of President Johnson, in particular, we were able to appoint a new faculty member, Dr. Zoe Bray, who joined the Center in July 2011. This was a major achievement, given the economic times. Both a professionally trained portrait painter and a social anthropologist, Zoe has already greatly enhanced the Center with her thoroughly international background in Europe and research interests in art, ethnography, and politics. *Zorionak*, Zoe!

A major highlight of the year came with the news that our longstanding administrative



assistant and Basque language instructor, Kate Camino, received the Bizi Emankorra lifetime achievement award for her more than twenty years of dedicated service to NABO and other Basque organizations. Kate is the youngest person ever to receive this prestigious award. *Zorionak*, Kate!

Other extremely good news came in the appointment of Daniel Montero as managing editor of the CBS Press. This new classified position is full-time, and Daniel continues to help us take the CBS Press to new and higher levels, in terms of management and professionalism. *Zorionak*, Daniel! As Daniel Montero's report on the achievements of the CBS Press shows, we will produce a record-breaking number of books in 2011: thirteen! One of them, *War, Exile, Justice, and Everyday Life, 1936–1946*, constitutes the proceedings of the 9th annual CBS conference, which took place in April 2010. The book is unusual in that it brings together the work of scholars variously specializing in contemporary Basque, French, Spanish, and German history, as well as specialists in Basque and Catalan literature.

Xabier Irujo and our 2010–11 William A. Douglass Visiting Scholar, Oscar Alvarez, organized the highly successful 10th annual CBS conference, “The Protection of Cultural Diversity: Language Rights and Legal Pluralism,” which took place in March 2011. The conference brought together language rights specialists from diverse nations and communities.

We are also delighted to announce that two of our former doctoral students, Argitxu Camus Etchecopar and Juan Arana Cobos,

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(Letter from Co-directors, continued)

have just been appointed (respectively) as lecturers in Euskera at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Liverpool in the U.K. The lectureships are funded by the Etchepare Basque Institute which is dedicated to promoting the Basque language and culture world-wide.

Finally, the Center continues to receive the steadfast support of its Advisory Board, led by Michonne Ascuaga (chair) and Jeri Echeverria (vice-chair). Through the many-stranded efforts of the Board, the Center is able to nurture existing individual and institutional ties with Basques on local, regional, national, and international levels. *Eskerrik asko* to all of you who continue to support and to encourage us in our endeavors.

Sandy Ott and Joseba Zulaika,
Co-Directors of the CBS

Oscar Alvarez completes Visiting Scholar term

In June 2011, Professor Oscar Álvarez Gil successfully completed his term as the 2010–11 William A. Douglass Distinguished Visiting Scholar. Dr. Álvarez has a PhD in history and teaches American history at the University of the Basque Country. His principal research interest is international migration during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a special focus on mass migrations from the Basque Country to the Americas.

During his tenure at the CBS, Oscar participated in a wide range of conferences, workshops, and other Basque Studies-related activities across the United States and in Europe. In May 2011, Oscar presented the paper “Sheep, Wine, Baskets, and Bullets: Almost a Hundred Years of Basque Immigration in American Cinema” at the Basque Studies Symposium organized by the California State University Bakersfield in Bakersfield, CA. The paper summarized the initial results of the research that he conducted during his stay at the CBS. At present, Oscar is working on his book manuscript, *Basques in American Cinema*, which the CBS Press will publish in 2012 as the third volume in its Douglass Scholar Series.

CBS Faculty News

Zoe Bray

In June 2011, Zoe gave lectures at the Freie Universität, invited by the Basque lecturer Mikel Babiano Lopez de Sabando, on “Art and Ethnography,” and to members of the Association Femmes 3000 on “Painting and Ethnography” in Uhart-Cize/Garazi, French Basque Country. She also had a solo exhibition of her recent portraits and landscapes at the Historical Museum of Biarritz through August. In September, Zoe wrote a short piece for publication with academic faculty members of the University of the Basque Country and artists on different perspectives of current Basque politics. She also designed the poster for the Basque Contemporary Art Prize for Young Creator—GazteSaria, organized by the Association Itzal Aktiboa (of which she is a member) together with the Basque Cultural Institute, announced mid-October. Since her arrival at UNR, Zoe has made contact with individual artists and collectives in Reno and the Bay Area. In October, as vice president of the European University Institute Alumni Association, she went to Florence, Italy for the General Assembly Meeting.

Xabier Irujo

Xabier Irujo has two books in press, *The Code of Laws of Estella* with the University of California, Santa Barbara, and *Gernika 1937: The Market Day Massacre* with the University of Nevada Press. His co-edited book on *Basque Political Systems* (CBS Press) was published in 2011. Xabier published two book chapters in this volume. He also has a book chapter in the conference volume, *War, Exile, Justice, and Everyday Life, 1936–1946*. In addition, he has a co-edited book on *The Massacre of Basque Whalers in Iceland (1613)* in press with the University of California, Santa Barbara. For the second time, he received a Junior Faculty Research Grant from the College of Liberal Arts at UNR. Xabier co-organized the CBS conference “The Protection of Cultural Diversity: Language Rights and Legal Pluralism,” to which he contributed a paper on “The Ideological Background of Monolingualism.” Xabier continues to teach courses on Identity across Borders and Basque Politics. He also taught a weekend course at Boise State and lectured at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Sandy Ott

During the past year, Sandy Ott edited the CBS conference book, *War, Exile, Justice,*

and Everyday Life, 1936–1946, which includes chapters by several distinguished historians of the Basque Country, France, Spain, and Germany. Sandy also wrote the introduction to the book and contributed a book chapter, “The Enemy as Insider: German POWs as Trial Witnesses in the Basses-Pyrénées.” She wrote the introduction to the first English edition of Philippe Veyrin’s *Les Basques*, and translated parts of it for the CBS Basque Classics Series. In addition, she gave papers at the two main annual conferences for historians of France and presented talks about Basque cheese-making at two international festivals for artisan cheese-makers. Her service achievements included membership in the Personnel Committee at the College of Liberal Arts. The Dean also asked her to give a talk at a major fund-raising event. She taught her courses on War, Occupation, and Memory, 1914–1945 and Basque Culture at UNR and taught a one-credit weekend course for Boise State University. Her service also included acting as co-chair for the Intercultural Council, a Presidential Diversity Committee at UNR; as chair of the search for a new faculty member; as a member of the Diversity Task Force for the College of Liberal Arts; as a member of the CBS Editorial Board; and director of graduate studies for the Center. Sandy also acted as faculty mentor to UNR’s men’s and women’s rugby teams. During the summer of 2011, Sandy continued her archival research on Franco-German relations in occupied and liberated France, 1940–47, with a special focus on the trials of suspected collaborators. She is working on her third book, *Living with the Enemy: Franco-German Relations in Occupied and Liberated France, 1940–1947*.

Joseba Zulaika

Joseba Zulaika published numerous articles in 2010, including “The Terror/Counterterror Edge: When Non-Terror Becomes a Problem and Real Terror Cannot be Detected by Counterterrorism” in *Critical Terror Studies*, and “Terror of Minarets” in *Etнологia*. He also completed a major manuscript on Bilbao and published a book chapter, as well as a book (in three languages) on Basque traditions for the Etchepare Institute. Joseba gave eight lectures and keynote speeches during the past year and gave bi-weekly talks on Basque Public Radio. At UNR he taught Basque Culture online and his course on the Bilbao Guggenheim, as well as a weekend course for Boise State University.

Academic visitors, 2010–11

Xabier Intxausti: From November 2010 to January 2011, the Center hosted Xabier Intxausti, a philosophy professor from the University of the Basque Country. Xabier came with a mobility grant from his home institution to continue his research on German idealist philosophy. He has been particularly interested in the thought of Hegel, later moving on to explore German critical theory, especially that of Adorno and Benjamin. From there he went on to study other philosophical currents developed by French contemporary thinkers such as Derrida, Foucault, Lacan, and Badiou. Xabier says he sees “a clear development in this whole process, a perfecting of a toolkit which enables us to establish social and political critiques and alternatives much more adapted to reality.”

Xabier chose to come to the Center because “in order to understand what is currently happening in the world, it is necessary to understand American reality at present,” and also “because debates drawing on the works of the main contemporary French philosophers are in English.” Another reason is that the Center closely follows the Basque

political and social reality, which is Xabier’s chosen case study. In collaboration with the Center, Xabier went on to organize a course during the summer of 2011 at the University of the Basque Country in San Sebastián, entitled Basque Country: Reality and Utopia. Participants included Joseba Zulaika, Xabier Irujo, and Oscar Álvarez, who was the Distinguished William A. Douglass Visiting Scholar at the Center during 2010–11. Other key participants included Brian Currin, Juan José Ibarretxe, Joxe Azurmendi, and Pako Aristi. Their presentations will soon appear in a book to be published by Elkar.

Izaro Arroitia Azkarate: The Center was delighted to have Izaro Arroitia Azkarate as a visiting scholar during the spring semester 2010. Izaro is a doctoral student at the University of the Basque Country under the supervision of Professor Marijo Olaziregi (EHU-UPV) and Jaume Peris Blanes (Universitat de València). Izaro’s topic is “Historical Memory and National Identity in Basque Literature.” During her stay, Izaro made excellent use of the Basque Library (as well as making many friends at the CBS).

Maitane Ostolaza: During the summer, the Center welcomed Maitane Ostolaza to campus as a recipient of a Begoña Aretxaga summer stipend. Maitane’s research project focused on “*The bertso paperak and bertzo-laritzak* in the Basque diaspora.” Maitane is a professor at the University of the Sorbonne (Paris IV) and a member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Contemporary Iberian Worlds (CRIMIC). She also belongs to the University of the Basque Country’s research team, working on “Basque Nationalism in Comparative Perspective,” directed by Santiago de Pablo. Maitane is a historian who specializes in education and the processes of acculturation in the Basque Country during the nineteenth century. The Aretxaga stipend enabled her to pursue her particular interest in the oral poetic genre of *bertsogintza* as a cultural practice. While these poems or *bertsos* are traditionally improvised orally in public settings, many were noted down, or

even composed by people in private. These written *bertsos* make up what is known as the *bertso paperak*. The CBS and Basque Library have a rich collection of such papers, including an array of letters and notes

written by Basques both in the USA and in the Basque Country. As she noted in an interview with new faculty member, Zoe Bray, the letters “express very powerful notions of the self and sense of group belonging, and reflections on what it is to be Basque, to be religious, and to be part of Euskal Herria.”

Her husband, **Enric Porqueres**, is professor and director of studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). A travel grant from the EHESS enabled him to do research at the CBS last summer as well.

Pedro Oiarzabal: A graduate of the Center’s PhD program, Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal also received a Begoña Aretxaga summer stipend in 2011. Although delays in obtaining a visa prevented his spending his proposed one month at the Center, Pedro finally arrived in Reno in late August to spend a week doing archival work on the Basque boarding house and contacting former owners and former lodgers in these Basque American institutions, which played such a central role historically in the American West. Pedro is currently a researcher at the University of Deusto in Bilbao.

National Monument to the Basque Shepherd

Sometime last spring, the National Monument to the Basque Shepherd that stands in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in Reno, Nevada was vandalized. Most of the bronze plaques and some of the large bronze letters above them were stolen from the wall of the monument. A couple of months later, the large bronze map of Basque settlements in the United States, as well as the large letters marking the cardinal points, also disappeared.



In part, the fact that the Monument is in an unprotected area on the outskirts of Reno may make it more vulnerable. But other bronze plaques were also stolen from the urban setting of the Police Memorial in Reno. The only plaque not stolen is the one at the foot of the sculpture displaying artist Nestor Basterretxea’s poem, “Solitude.” (Ironically, this is the one plaque that we have wanted to replace for many years, since the translation of the poem into Basque is not particularly good!) Andy Mink, the district manager for the park districts that include Rancho San Rafael Park, has been working with the insurance company and a sign company to determine loss and the cost of replacement. The theft is covered by insurance and the items will be replaced, perhaps in a different material, at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

A number of families and individuals have expressed interest in having their loved ones’ names that were not on the original plaques added to them now. Apparently, that is not an option. However, it will be possible to add a small plaque for the new donors and an “in memory of” plaque. The fee will be \$300, the same as the original price. Interested parties should contact Carmelo Urza at curza@unr.edu or call 775.682.5888.

Give your student the gift of discovering their Basque heritage while earning university credit

USAC has offered programs in Euskal Herria for nearly thirty years. These three sites offer summer, fall, spring, or yearlong options as well as housing in homestays, residence halls, and apartments. All offer internships (some paid, as with the Teaching Assistantships to teach English conversation in local schools), volunteering opportunities, and service learning.

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Field Trips: Madrid, Burgos, Gernika, Lekeitio, Bermeo, Mundaka, San Sebastián, St. Jean de Luz (French Basque Country).

Pau, France

Courses offered: French language (beginning-advanced), literature, culture, cuisine, history, art history, business, and much more.

Field Trips: Paris, Pyrenees, St-Bertand-de-Comminges, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Carcassonne, French and Spanish Basque Country.



Bilbao program students visit the Tree of Gernika and learn about Basque history.



Students from the first USAC program in San Sebastián, 1983.



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The University of the Basque Country has always been host to USAC.



USAC student Lauren Seymour volunteer-teaches at a Basque school.



Bilbao students become ardent fans of the Athletic soccer team.

Scholarships

Thanks in part to generous donors, USAC awarded over \$250,000 in scholarships last year. Some awards are specifically relevant to those interested in Basque topics. Donations are matched by a fund set aside by the USAC Board.

USAC Legacy Scholarship

New Legacy Scholarships are now available to the families—children, siblings, and spouses—of USAC alumni to attend a USAC Program. \$500/semester and \$300/summer session.

- Félix Menchacatorre Memorial Scholarship

Available to students attending a semester program in Donostia/San Sebastián or Bilbao/Getxo; \$500/semester.

- R. J. Simcoe Memorial Scholarship

Available to UNR students attending a semester program in Donostia/San Sebastián or Bilbao/Getxo; \$500/semester.

USAC, your gateway to the world, also offers other programs in Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and Turkey.

(Thirty Years, continued)

of his personal office to USAC. A summer program in Donosti was added in 1984 and another at the University of Pau in September of 1985 (Pau is the regional capital of the northern Basque provinces). A year-long program was initiated in Leioa/Bilbao in the fall of 1995.

The programs at all three cities are well and thriving to this day. They have profited from exceptional stability in their faculty and staff. Luis Mokoroa, the Basque Cuisine teacher, is still introducing university students to classical Basque dishes. Dr. Eli Areizaga has taught for twenty-seven years, and several others for nearly as long. After Dr. Ott, the late Dr. Felix Menchacatorre was our resident director in Donostia until he moved to Bilbao to begin that program and work as Resident Director until 2008. Dr. Patricia O'Connor has been the RD of the Donosti program since 1995, and Robina Muller has directed the Pau program the last two decades. Through the extraordinary dedication of the resident directors, professors, and staff, the opportunities awaiting students are almost unlimited. Our students have been afforded the opportunity to take intensive courses in the three languages in the area (Basque, French, and Spanish) and the convenience of having the pre-approved courses transfer back to their

home universities in the United States. The programs also organize field trips to areas of cultural and historical importance, optional excursions to the capitals, internships (paid and unpaid), and volunteer opportunities. There are also Basque dance classes and introductory classes in the Basque language and culture that have been tremendously popular.

Over the years, approximately 9,500 students from 711 universities have attended the USAC Basque programs and approximately 180 professors from twenty-three member universities in the US have taught at the three programs. Some students had never heard of Basques before they enrolled in the USAC programs; others are what are now called "heritage" students, those whose forefathers had emigrated to the US from Euskadi. In either case, after a semester or two in the Basque Country, these students have become enthusiastic ambassadors and fans. I believe that the experiences of these thousands of USAC students have contributed to the revitalization of Basque culture in the US.

Whether they are young Basque American university students who were drawn to the Basque Country to find their roots, to connect again with family or town of origin, or not of Basque heritage, our students come to experience the culture first-hand, including the contemporary expressions of rock bands,

rappers, and other artists and musicians. They have been soaked by the *sirimiri* (fine, gentle rain), they have fallen in love with the Athletic de Bilbao or the Real Sociedad soccer teams. They have lived with Basque families, listened to the *txalaparta* and to *bertosolaris*, learned Basque dances and participated in festivals. They have made lifelong friends, walked the elegant boardwalks, climbed the famous mountains. Many of them have returned to the US with a boyfriend or husband. A few have stayed. Mostly, they have come to internalize a Basque identity, informed by that knowledge and experience, to be shared with their families and communities and Basque clubs in the US.

As we celebrate our thirtieth anniversary, we hope the students who have enrolled in the programs in Euskalherria, whether Basque or not, have been well served. It has been an honor for me and my many caring and talented colleagues to make these programs a reality. The USBCC evolved into USAC (University Studies Abroad Consortium). From two founding universities, it now has grown to thirty-three participating American university members and offers study abroad courses in twenty-four countries around the world. But it all started in Donostia thirty years ago when our entire library operated out of the trunk of Sandy Ott's car!

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