

Center for Basque Studies

N E W S L E T T E R

FALL
2012

NUMBER 80

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An annual publication of the
Center for Basque Studies
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-2322

Prof. Irujo gets personal in new book on Basque exile

By Kimberly Daggett

Professor Xabier Irujo discusses his new book, shares his personal experiences from living in exile, and introduces us to some of the most famous characters from the Basque government-in-exile.

In your new book, Expelled from the Motherland, about the Basque government-in-exile, you tell the story of the multitudes of Basques who were forced by war and oppression to flee their homeland. You and your family were also forced into exile, how did your personal experience influence the writing of your book?

I am the fifth generation of Basque exiles in my family. I am the great grandson of exile and, naturally, this has had a big influence on my work. Exile has been the axis of my life and of my family. I was born and raised in exile in Caracas, Venezuela and so had the honor of personally shaking hands with some important figures of the Basque exile such as Jesús María Leizaola, Juan Ajuriagerra, Julio Jauregi, Joxe Mari Lasarte, Telesforo Monzon, Jon Bilbao or, Manuel, Andrés and Pellomari Irujo, and many others.

Among the many important figures who appear in the book, one of particular interest and dear to our heart here is Jon Bilbao, one of the founding figures of the Basque Studies Program. Could you talk a little about Jon's role in the exile and how he ended up in Reno?

Jon fought in the war in the Basque Country between 1936 and 1937 and, after the Francoist forces captured Bilbao, fled into exile. Between 1939 and 1940 he headed the delegation of the Basque government in Boise and, between 1942 and 1945 while in New York, he collaborated with the Basque government in its war against the Axis powers in South America. For his work, Jon Bilbao was decorated as a Knight of the Order of the Belgian Crown after



Professor Irujo and Jon Ander Escosura at the Basque Center in Caracas, Venezuela

WWII. Bilbao continued to collaborate with the Basque government-in-exile until the establishment of the Basque Studies Program at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1967. The anthropologist William A. Douglass, who headed the program, realized he needed a colleague to help develop his initiative and was fortunate to attract Jon Bilbao. Jon was my mother's cousin and I met him for the first time in our house in Altzuza, after Franco's death.

Your book not only discusses the government-in-exile but the previously little-known exile activists: writers, politicians, soldiers, intellectuals, and Basque patriots. How did you conduct your research into these figures?

Cultural activity is one of the less known phenomena of the Basque exile. The Western Hemisphere saw at least 130 Basque periodicals published in thirteen countries across three continents between 1877 and 1977. Approximately eighty thousand pages of the periodical press were published outside the Basque Country. The publication *Ekin*, headed by Andrés Irujo, occupies a prominent place in the cultural endeavors of Basque political exiles in the Americas. By 1954,

(continued on page 2)



Josette Dacosta is an artist based in Saint Jean Pied de Port / Donibane Garazi, in the province of Lower Navarre in the Basque Country. She donated the painting entitled Etxea defendituko dut loreekin to the CBS to commemorate the links between the region of Donibane Garazi and Nevada, the destination for so many Basques who left their homes in the Pyrenees to seek their fortune in the United States. Josette's grandfather was one of these migrants, in the early 20th century, and her daughter, Zoe Bray, is now a professor at the CBS. The painting depicts a typical Basque farmhouse with flowers of hope. More info on Josette Dacosta: www.itzal-aktiboa.net

The Center for Basque Studies Newsletter is an annual publication that is available to any interested readers. The newsletter is available electronically on our web site, and will also be made available in paper format to those who request it. Please see the relevant information on page 1.

The Center for Basque Studies Newsletter is published by:

Center for Basque Studies / 2322 University of Nevada, Reno Reno, NV 89557-2322

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(Professor Irujo interview, continued)

Ekin had published the works of forty Basque exile authors in a total of 151,200 copies, 82,180 of which corresponded to the Library of Basque Culture, which had published 42 titles by that year. Books written in Basque accounted for a total of four thousand copies. By 1977, Ekin had published almost 100 books. We should underline that the galleys of the books in Basque were prepared by professionals who, obviously, did not speak Basque, for which reason the type was set letter by letter! Fifty years later, the Center for Basque Studies Press is the largest press on Basque topics outside the Basque Country.

Expelled from the Motherland covers the entire experience of Basque exile from its beginnings in the turbulence of the war that broke out in 1936 until the death of Lehendakari Jose Antonio Agirre in 1960. For you as a researcher and as a member of the exile, what are events that stick out as key points that people interested in the breadth of the exile should know about? What events strike you personally?

One of the facts that most strikes me is how the Basque government-in-exile cared for their people. The Basque government took care of the wounded and sick refugees. The ministry of health under Eliodoro de la Torre created five hospitals in exile. La Roseraie hospital was inaugurated on August 25, 1937. From 1937 to 1940, 726 Basque soldiers and 823 Basque refugees were interned in La Roseraie. Between August 1937 and mid-1939, approximately 7,500 consultations and 2,400 operations took place. The first children of exile were born at La Roseraie, 143 in total, including my own father. No Basque was left behind, explaining why when the Germans occupied Western Europe almost no Basques were captured and sent to Mauthausen or Auschwitz. My grandparents were liberated from the Sidi-el-Ayachi Vichy concentration camp by the Basque government and arrived in Argentina in April 1942; in fifteen days, they were provided with a house, a job, and an Argentinean passport. The same thing happened in Chile, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It was only possible thanks to the network of Basque centers and associations working in coordination with the Basque government-in-exile.

Reading the book, it is clear that from its beginnings in the war of 1936–1939, through World War II and into the Cold War that followed, foreign powers played very different key roles in the exile. Could you talk a little bit about this and about the government-in-exile's differing relations to the governments that it had to relate to?

Diplomatic international relations became one of the most relevant policies of the Basque government-in-exile. In August 1940 the Basque National Council in London

agreed with the British government that in the event of hostilities breaking out between the Spanish and British governments and, in the event that Great Britain should win the war, his majesty's government would do "everything in its powers to assure the establishment and guarantee the safety of a Basque state." Later, in May 1942, the Basque government signed a cooperation agreement with the Roosevelt administration in virtue of which the Basque secret services would cooperate militarily with the U.S. Office of Strategic Services fighting Nazi and Fascist agents in South America. The Basque government was also instrumental in the creation of the European Communities from 1945 until the late 1960s.

One particularly interesting story that comes out of the book is Lehendakari Agirre's harrowing journey into the jaws of Nazi oppression (he was actually in hiding in Berlin for a time!) before being able to escape to rejoin the government-in-exile. Could you tell us a little more about this extraordinary episode?

WWII surprised President Agirre in Dunkirk in June 1940, the sight of one of the worst battles of the early war. Unable to flee from Europe to the south or across the English Channel, at the end of 1940, Agirre opted to leave his family in Belgium and go to Germany to obtain passage for his family to the Americas through Sweden. In January Agirre went by train to Hamburg where he met Guardia Jaén. On January 12, Agirre and Guardia Jaén arrived by train in Berlin under the disguise of being a member of the Panamanian consulate. During his stay in Berlin, Agirre visited the Foreign Ministry, the imperial palaces and various delegations, consulates, and embassies. "Stung by curiosity," he attended the funeral mass of the Spanish King Alfonso XIII, which was organized by the Spanish Embassy in Berlin with the acquiescence of the German authorities. On March 27, Agirre attended a rally addressed by Hitler who was accompanied by Hermann Goering and Joachim von Ribbentrop. Agirre wrote in his diary: "I was about 50 meters [away]. I have seen under cover the famous exit to the balcony of the Chancellery. I had in my hand a Nazi and Japanese flag that some members of the SS [had] 'so gently' given to us." In October 1941 he arrived with his family in the Americas where he was received by the President of Uruguay and honored as a freedom fighter against totalitarianism.



2012 Sports Conference

The Center for Basque Studies organized its annual international conference entitled, "Play, Games, and Sports: Bodies of Practice, Communities of Desire" on April 19–21, 2012. The conference focused on play, games and sports as dislocating realms of social and subjective relevance. The Center for Basque Studies invited various international and Basque scholars to address sports and games from a social scientific perspective including anthropology, sociology, cultural and gender studies, and motor praxeology. The conference volume will be published in 2013. The conference featured the following scholars and subjects:

Gary Armstrong: "Securing and Sustaining the Olympic City"

David Brent: "The Concept of a Perfect Game"

Luc Collard: "A Taste for Risk in Sports: How Do They Play a 'Chickie Run' Game?"

Richard Davies: "Duel in the Reno Sun: The Heavyweight Clash Between Maxie Baer and Paulino Uzcudun, July 3, 1931"

Bertrand During: "Action, Technique and Communication"

Joseba Etxebeste: "Basque Games and Emotions: A Matter of Time"

Richard Giulianotti: "Globalization and Sport: A Sociological Analysis of the Critical Themes and Issues"

Olatz Gonzalez: "Hand-ball Pelota: Identities, Affections and Contradictions in the Basque Arena"

Jennifer Hargreaves: "A Life in Sport: Memory, Narrative and Politics"

Pere Lavega: "Cooperative Games, Emotions and Gender From a Social Perspective"

Jeremy MacClancy: "Goitiberas: Going Where?"

Michael Messner: "Gender Trouble in an Age of Soft Essentialism"

Pierre Parlebas: "A New Scientific Paradigm: Motor Praxiology"

Clara Urdangarin: "Playing Basque in the Far West: Udaleku"

Mariann Vaczi: "Bilbao Catch-22: Passions and Double Binds in Soccer Madness"

Patricia Vertinsky: "Examining Fairness and Gender Justice in Elite Sport"



Dr. Ott earns sabbatical research year

By Kimberly Daggett

Center for Basque Studies professor Sandra Ott earned a sabbatical research year and discusses her research plans, her upcoming book, and how she will spend her sabbatical year from UNR.

You've recently been awarded a year-long sabbatical from UNR. Could you tell us a little about your sabbatical and what you will be doing with your time away from the Center?

I am spending my sabbatical year largely engaged in writing my book, tentatively entitled, *Living with the Enemy: Franco-German Relations in Occupied and Liberated France, 1940–1946*. The book project is based upon several years of archival research in classified documents held in the French National Archives and the Departmental Archives in Pau, located in southwestern France (and where USAC has a study abroad program). The book follows the lives of several people who developed close relations with certain Germans in their midst — for a variety of reasons. I let the characters speak in their own words as much as possible. Their testimonies appear in court and police records, as well as in personal letters. Some were Basques, some were French, others (including White Russians) were from elsewhere in the world during a turbulent time in contemporary European history. In addition to writing, I am doing further archival research, mainly in France, in order to reread key trial dossiers of suspected collaborationists and documents relating to Nazis who were based in southwestern France during the war. I will also spend a month in Paris as a visiting professor at the School for Advanced Research in Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris, where I will lecture about my current research. In October 2012, I am giving a paper at the annual meeting of the Western Society for French History in Banff, Canada. The paper is based upon one of the book's chapters, "Sex, Vengeance and Duplicity on the Basque Coast: The Strange Case of Dr. Truth."

A great deal of your sabbatical is spent doing research. Could you tell us a little bit about your research project?

This book project grew out of research done for my last book, *War, Justice and Memory in*



the Basque Borderlands, 1914–1945, published in 2008 by the University of Nevada Press in its Basque Book Series. The archives are replete with human stories of desire, despair, hope, vengeance, and determination to survive. People suffered greatly. Some others profited from war and occupation. The topic has immediate relevance for our own times.

Much of your research has been focused on the French Basque Country. Could you tell us a little bit about your relationship to that region and how it has changed over the years?

During sabbatical leave I will also return to Santazi in Xiberoa (French Basque Country) for weekend visits with my adopted family there, whom I have known since 1978. I learned so much from the Santazi people about the German Occupation of Iparralde and will always respect the confidence they (and others in that part of the world) expressed in me as they recounted their experiences in 1940–1945. Their stories are at the heart of my UNR course on "War, Occupation and Memory," which has a focus on the Basques but also relates to the broader experiences of other groups caught up in that war.



Bill Douglass inducted into Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

On November 8, 2012, William A. Douglass was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. Douglass was born and raised in Reno, Nevada and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in Spanish and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. In 1967 he was instrumental in establishing the Basque Studies Program, which later became the Center for Basque Studies. Douglass served as the Coordinator for the Center for over 33 years and helped build the largest Basque library in the Western Hemisphere. Today, Douglass is credited as being one of the world's leading experts in Basque Studies. Douglass's publication list includes his 1975 book with Jon Bilbao, *Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World*, as well as a book about oral histories *Beltran, Basque Sheepman of the American West*, and *Tap Dancing on Ice: The Life and Times of a Nevada Gaming Pioneer*, about his father and one of the founding partners of Reno's Club Cal Neva and the Comstock Hotel-Casino. His book, *Casting about in the Reel World: Fishing on the Fly*, is a collection of fishing stories from the bonefishing flats of the Pacific nuclear-testing ground of Bikini Atoll, to the tiamen rivers of Outer Mongolia. Miel Elustondo's biography, *William A. Douglass: Mr. Basque*, was published this year in English by the Center for Basque Studies.

The Nevada Writers Hall of Fame was conceived by former Friends' of the University Library President Marilyn Melton in 1988. She envisioned two purposes: an annual event honoring Nevada's finest writers, and a stimulus to encourage excellence among emerging writers in the Silver State. The names of all the authors who have been inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame are now prominently displayed on a wall of honor in the UNR Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. William Douglass's name will soon join another American Basque writer, Robert Laxalt, on the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame plaque.



William A. Douglass Visiting Scholars, 2012–2013

By Zoe Bray

CBS is proud to welcome Jesus Arpal and Adelina Moya as our Douglass Distinguished Scholars for the 2012–2013 academic year. Jesus and Adelina come to us from the University of the Basque Country. Jesus has published on a very wide range of humanities topics including history, anthropology, archaeology, human geography, urbanization, and more. Adelina is a professor in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Zoe Bray caught up with them to discuss their work.



ZB: Please tell us about your professional and academic itinerary?

Jesus: As a studious young man with no family fortune, grants helped me to go to the University of Zaragoza to study Philosophy and the Humanities. All of the humanities interested me; I began my degree in History but I was drawn to the Social Sciences as a whole and studied a lot of Anthropology, Archaeology, and Human Geography. Sociology was not recognized as an academic discipline in Spain until the early 60s. Also at that time I was very involved in cultural activities in Zaragoza and Madrid, such as theatre, radio, and cinema. Then, in search of new horizons and a more stable professional situation, Adelina and I moved to Euskadi where I became a university professor. I obtained my doctorate there with a thesis on stratified society in the Basque Country (*Sociedad Estamental en el Pais Vasco*, 1973). I continued doing research and teaching at the University of the Basque Country where I obtained a tenured position in Sociology in 1993. I am now retired.

Adelina: My parents were devoted to teaching and suffered significantly under the Franco regime. My siblings and I inherited

our parents' thirst for knowledge. Like Jesus, I also graduated in Philosophy from the University of Zaragoza. In Euskadi, Jesus and I were drawn to further our research in an attempt to better understand the Basque world, so close and yet so unknown to us. However, we each focused on different issues; mine was art from a historical perspective. I went on to write a doctoral thesis on the vanguard origins of art in the Basque Country, with a focus on the artist Nicolás de Lekuona. I then worked over twenty years as a professor in the Fine Arts Faculty of Bilbao where I created new course subjects, such as "The Relationship between Photography and

Fine Art," and "Women and Art."

ZB: You have also spent time in other research centers...

Jesus: In the 1960s I was an assistant professor at the University of Zaragoza teaching the History of Art. Then, my research took me to the Open University in Madrid, and in Gipuzkoa, for one year where I directed the associated center in Bergara. This is where our daughter was born and where we made friends who introduced us to the Basque language. Sadly, we never managed to learn the language properly. I also spent some time in different faculties of the University of the Basque Country, such as Philosophy and Educational Science, Economics, Social Sciences and Communication. This enabled me to widen my field of research to include Traditional Society, Social History and Urbanism. In later years, I focused on the Sociology of knowledge, culture and art, always in reference to the Basque Country.

Adelina: I helped in the foundation of several key teaching centers, such as the Instituto Piloto del Instituto de Ciencias de la Educación in Bilbao, and the UNED of Bergara.

(continued on page 5)

The Center's Graduate Students!

The Center for Basque Studies graduate students have been busy! Here's what they've been working on for the past year.

In June 2012, Iker Arranz attended a conference in Oxford, England organized by the Forum for Iberian Studies and the Extepare Institute. Iker presented a paper on Joseba Sarrionaindia's last book and the concept of universalism in Alain Badiou's writing. Iker is also conducting research in Paris and London.

Tania Arriaga is conducting ethnographical field work in Pamplona, Navarre, for her dissertation. Tania studies an entrepreneurial group called NASF (Navarre-San Francisco) whose goal is to promote entrepreneurship and accelerate business projects. Dr. David Croasdell, Associated Professor and Chair of Information Systems at UNR, assisted Tania in writing an article for HICSS (Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences).

On February 14, 2012, Imanol Murua presented a paper entitled "Basque Conflict in the Media" at the conference on "Basque Culture and Political Conflict" at the University of Konstanz in Germany. Imanol also publishes a weekly column about politics in the Basque daily newspaper *Berria*. Imanol contributed a weekly column in the Basque public radio station "Radio Euskadi" until July 2012. Imanol also wrote the essay, "Basque Peace: A Year Later" included in this newsletter.

Ph.D student Iker Saitua presented a paper at the 11th Congress of Contemporary History on September 12–15, 2012 in Granada, Spain. Iker's case study explores the McCarthy period in the forties and fifties by examining the role of an American housewife – Mary Markward – who worked in favor of the post-World War II anticommunism. His analysis allows a better comprehension of McCarthyism as a complex sociopolitical phenomenon during the first decades of the Cold War in America.

Mariann Vaczi is in the final stage of writing her dissertation on the sociological and anthropological dimensions of Athletic Club of Bilbao. She will defend her dissertation in the spring of 2013. She co-organized and participated in CBS's 2012 April international conference on the theme of sports, play, games and society. She is co-editor of the ensuing conference volume. Her upcoming publications include "A Matter of Balls: Women and Soccer in the Spanish Basque Context" in the journal *Soccer & Society*.



I learned more while there than I actually taught. Above all, the experience gave me the freedom to innovate and try new teaching methods. During this time, Jesus was the one I shared my passion for education with. "Don't teach me what they taught you; rather, teach me what you have learned" is one sentence he likes to repeat, and with which I totally agree. In the Faculty of Fine Arts I was able to connect and collaborate with artists whose work I found interesting, and take part in research teams. I also continued to organize exhibitions on themes related to art hitherto unknown in the Basque Country. I stayed in the Fine Arts Faculty until my recent voluntary retirement.

ZB: How have your various and complementary interests and disciplines brought you to work together?

Jesus and Adelina: We have always coincided in our interest for the arts and artists, from a historical and theoretical perspective and in today's context. We continuously share and exchange ideas on these topics. However, at the same time we have always preferred to be independent in our individual areas of research and our professional careers, therefore producing few publications together. We collaborated in Pierre Bidart's book *Architectures et Architectes des Pays Basques* and have spoken at each other's seminars as well as launched the UNED of Bergara and its cultural activities together.

ZB: What are your academic objectives for this year at the CBS? What research or writing do you plan to take on board?

Jesus and Adelina: We hope to organize a seminar or give a presentation at the Center. We plan to make the most of the Center's resources, and hope to discover more about Basque America's cultural relevance to our art research. We are working specifically towards a book on the subject of art in the Basque Country, with a focus on women artists and their relationship to political institutions and ideologies in the 20th century.

ZB: This coming April, the Center will be organizing a conference on the theme of Art and Politics, bringing together interdisciplinary specialists from the US and Europe. How do you see yourself participating?

Jesus and Adelina: We hope to offer our expertise on the topic and provide information for the organization of the conference as well as present some of our recent and relevant research.

ZB: How do you approach the topic of Art and Politics in your research, in particular to the case of the Basque Country? How has this theme been relevant to your research so far?

Jesus: In my case, the interrelated worlds of art and politics have been relevant to my social and political engagements, particularly in the last years of the Franco regime and during the democratic transition (we came to live in the Basque Country in 1967). I was very active in cultural activities and, as a professor, was aware of the world in which I worked. Later, as I prepared my university courses and carried out new research, the relationship between art and politics was a constant theme in my study of various historical, social, and cultural facets of our surroundings.

Adelina: From a young age I was aware of how culture and art were affected by politics. Every time I conducted research on art in the Basque Country, and artists in other places, I noticed how political issues influence the art produced. Artists Nicolás Lekuona and Jorge Oteiza are examples of this: Lekuona was a good friend of Oteiza and died in a bombing during the Spanish Civil War while serving on the front. Oteiza left for South America in 1935 when the Spanish Republic was at its weakest and artistic activities at their lowest. Another case is that of the Sala Studio in Bilbao. Founded by Guillermo Wakonigg,

the Sala Studio was an exhibition room where artistic and cultural innovation challenged the dominating national catholicism and conservatism of Bilbao. Oteiza exhibited there upon his return from America. When researching

women artists, the political dimension is again influential. Art history is dominated by male artists and often excludes female artists and perspectives. Today, feminist groups such as the Guerrilla Girls fight institutions and museums for equal opportunity to exhibit artwork.

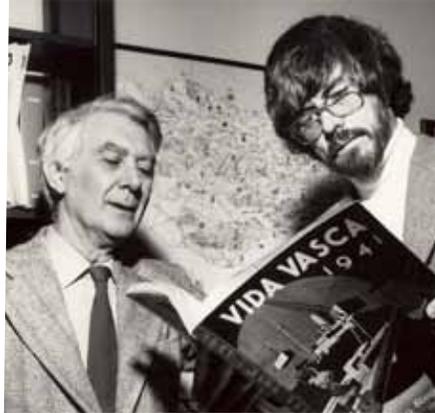
Jesus and Adelina: Our work seeks to go beyond sociopolitical determinism in art and idealized subjectivism. We apply critical theories on culture, contemporary art and modernity developed by key scholars (such as Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin, Octavio Paz, Bruno Latour, Jean-Francois Lyotard, and Hal Foster) to the particular case of the Basque Country in order to learn how tradition and modernity have evolved there. The artist's body (especially female artist's) and its presence and representation in art is currently one of our main areas of research. So far, our research has furthered understand-

CBS's mission and history

The Center for Basque Studies mission is to further Basque-related study by conducting, facilitating, and disseminating original Basque-related research in the humanities and social sciences, in cooperation with appropriate academic departments at UNR, as well as at other American and foreign universities, by the creation of undergraduate and graduate curricula at the University of Nevada, Reno (including the creation of distance education courses) and by collaboration with the University Studies Abroad Consortium to provide a quality educational experience for students desirous of studying and living in the Basque Country of Europe.

In 1967 a small Basque studies program was established within the social sciences division of the Great Basin Institute. Originally established to study the Basques as an integral part of the sheep industry that had so influenced the development of the Intermountain West, over time (and since incorporated officially into the University of Nevada, Reno), the Center for Basque Studies has become the leading research and educational institute of its kind outside the European Basque homeland.

“During the darkest day of the Franco era when we were denied our language, our culture, and our identity, we were consoled by the knowledge that an American university in Nevada had lit one small candle in the night.”
—Basque President Jose Antonio Ardanza



Jon Bilbao and William A. Douglass



ON THE PREVENTION OF CULTURAL GENOCIDE

SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RIGHTS



"Zer gara gu?" means "What are we?" in Basque. Carved into an aspen tree at Independence Lake, CA

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2012

Excerpt from “The Guy” by Aingeru Epaltza included in Our Wars: Short Fiction on Basque Conflicts

I didn't love the previous ones either.

As far as I know Harkaitz—a thorough brute from Burlata—was the first one. He carried two or three pounds of silver on his eyebrows-ears-chin by way of adornment, beside some other spiky pieces of metal. There was something in his tongue too. When our daughter brought him home to introduce us he only ever answered “yes” or “no” to our questions, and his communicative skills didn't improve over the next few encounters. Whether he understood me, understood me fully, was rather doubtful, judging from the idiotic expression on his face every time I tried to engage him in conversation. He always looked tired; he dragged his feet as if lifting his legs was too much trouble. We live on the first floor, and both my wife and I would tense up every time we heard his Vespa splutter by the front door. One night, he took a turn without giving way to oncoming traffic; unsurprisingly, he had an ex-girlfriend on the motorbike with him, latched on to

his back. Apparently the Vespa broke into a million pieces; the riders, however, did quite well, just breaking an arm or two and bruising some ribs. As it turned out, that day the brute had told our daughter he was at home, preparing for his exams. Before he got out of



Photo courtesy of Daniel Montero

hospital I knew, and was delighted to know it, that we were rid of him forever.

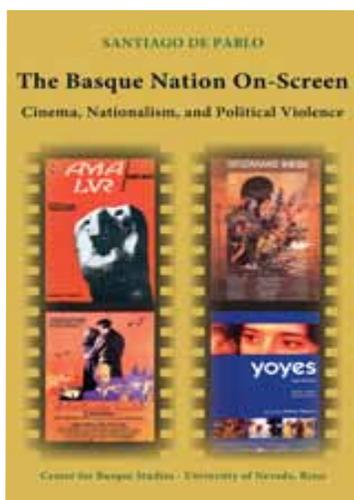
I would have never thought I would miss Harkaitz, until I met Beñat. His friends called him “Para,” short for parabellum, I heard. He lived in Azpilagaña. What I remember most vividly about this guy were his eyes: they were cold, metallic, the eyes of someone who can say son of a bitch with a stare. I never coincided with him inside the house, and I didn't want to either. I should be grateful to our daughter for never bringing him inside, at least not when we were in. Our sidewalk compelled him, however; I crossed paths with him often as he paced circles around our front door. He never bothered issuing a word or even the smallest smile. I suppose he paid all of us who don't carry bombs in our hearts the same compliment.

Once, on our way out for dinner in a gastronomic club in the Old Town, the Alde Zaharra, I saw the lovely Beñat hold-

(continued on back cover)

New book explores Basque cinema

The Center for Basque Studies is proud to announce the publication of Santiago de Pablo's book, *The Basque Nation On-Screen: Cinema, Nationalism, and Political Violence*. Santiago de Pablo was a William A. Douglass Distinguished scholar at the Center in 2009 – 2010. *The Basque Nation On-Screen* looks at the role of film as historical witness, its influence on society, and its ability to help forge a collective memory. The Basque Country is an interesting case study in terms of exploring the complex relationships among film, society, nationalism, and political violence. Santiago's book examines the historical relationship between films and Basque nationalism from a twofold perspective: the use of cinematic productions by Basque nationalism as a means of inculcating national identity and ideology, and the depiction of Basque nationalism – and especially the ETA terrorism – in films. Cinema provides new analytical perspectives of the history of Basque nationalism and has contributed to the strengthening of Basque national identity, to shaping its collective store of ideas, and to fostering a historical memory of an unmistakably nationalist stripe.



Author Santiago de Pablo and his new book *The Basque Nation On-Screen*

Basque Peace: A Year Later

By Imanol Murua

Basques will always remember the date. It was October 20, 2011 when three masked persons, speaking for the Basque separatist organization ETA, announced in a videotaped declaration that their war was over—for good. After more than four decades of violence—in which about 1,200 people have died, more than 800 of them killed by ETA and hundreds of them as a consequence of state-related violence—the Basque Country is about to commemorate the first year of a unilateral peace. Mission accomplished?

Not really. Three days before ETA's announcement, on October 17, international leaders met at the Basque town of San Sebastián. Among them were Kofi Annan, former UN secretary-general; Bertie Ahern, former prime minister of Ireland; Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway; and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin. In the first line of a joint declaration, they demanded that ETA declare “a definitive cessation of all armed action.” Yet, ETA was not the only recipient of their message: if the separatist organization announced the cessation of violence, the governments of Spain and France were urged to agree to talks “exclusively to deal with the consequences of the conflict.” In other words: they should not negotiate about political concessions, but about the unresolved issues related to the past violence. Two days later, former president Jimmy Carter, US senator George Mitchell and former British prime minister Tony Blair publicly supported the Aiete Declaration, named after the palace where the document was signed. Blair explained in an article in *The New York Times* what kind of talks were proposed: “Just as we did in our talks in Northern Ireland, these talks will deal with the decommissioning of weapons, explosives and military infrastructure, with the issue of prisoners and exiles, with the rehabilitation of those caught up in the violence, with security normalization and with recompense for victims.” In short, the talks laid the necessary groundwork to assure ETA's dissolution as a military force.

The Spanish government, trapped in the eurozone crisis and facing a sudden outbreak of secessionist fever in Catalonia, seems to look away. Prime minister Mariano Rajoy has rejected talks with ETA and has not taken any significant steps to solve the issues mentioned by Blair. The French government seems to support Spanish policy. Meanwhile, more than 700 Basque prisoners



remain in prison and an unknown number of ETA activists are still in hiding, waiting for the chance to negotiate the terms of their organization's dismantlement. The political leader of the pro-independence movement, Arnaldo Otegi, is serving a 6-year sentence, not accused for any violent activity, but for political activities allegedly under ETA's directions. Yet, it is widely known that Otegi is the leading figure of the movement that confronted ETA when the armed organization was unwilling to abandon the armed struggle.

Rajoy's challenge is not only to address the prisoners issue and other consequences of the violent confrontation. The root of this political conflict—the controversy about the Basque Country's constitutional status—also has to be addressed. Again, the signatories of the Aiete Declaration gave the Spanish government, and all involved political actors, reasonable advice for the attainment of lasting peace: “We suggest that non-violent actors and political representatives meet and discuss political and other related issues.”

Change is coming. A year and a day after ETA's definitive cessation, on October 21, Basques will vote to elect their regional parliament. According to all polls, the pro-independence coalition, EH Bildu, and the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) are competing to become the Basque leading force, with the two main Spanish parties, the rightwing People's Party (PP) and the leftwing Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE), well behind. It is the first time in history that the pro-independence movement is competing for the leading position in Basque politics. The newly invigorated Catalan secessionist movement is now well ahead, but the Basque Country may soon follow. At this point, to look to London would

(continued on page 8)

(*Basque Peace, continued*)

be of use. The British government and the main British parties are against the secession of Scotland, but they are prepared to respect the will of the majority of Scotland. What is possible in the United Kingdom should be possible in other places in the European Union. The end of ETA's violence should push the Spanish government to adopt a more constructive approach to its territorial issues.

But still and above all, Basques are enjoying this first year of peace. As the Basque writer Bernardo Atxaga wrote in *The New York Times* on the occasion of the 2006 truce, the feeling of happiness, of lightness, doesn't go away. Despite the lingering sense that this first year has passed without the progress needed to consolidate a lasting peace, October 20 will be a day of celebration.

CBS Advisory Board and Professors meet in Basque Country

The Center's Advisory Board summer meeting took place in the Basque Country from July 3 to 7. In addition to the Advisory Board members, UNR President Marc Johnson was also in attendance. They took advantage of the international visit to meet with Basque Country officials, who reaffirmed their support for our mission, and other institutes, including the Instituto Cultural Vasco, with its headquarters in Ustaritz. The important Basque newspaper *Deia* gave the Center and board member Jeri Echeverria a "Thumbs Up" in its "Rostros del Día" (Faces of the Day) section, in which it said that the Center "provides a window on the world for Basque culture and society" and that Jeri "is a fountain of knowledge about the history of the Basques in the United States." It was not all work, however, the board also took in the famous San Fermin festival in Iruñea-Pamplona, the iconic Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and the beautiful coastal town of Mendexa, where they were hosted for lunch by the local mayor!



CBS Faculty News

Zoe Bray

In Fall 2011, Zoe Bray gave several public lectures, including at the Nevada Historical Society and the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center on Basque art and artists. Zoe was featured in the Basque language magazine, *Argia*, in October 2011. In Spring she taught a course on "Basque Art and Politics," the topic of her new research project. Zoe presented a paper at the Council of European Studies and gave a lecture on the "Role of Art in the Formation of a Basque Imagination" at the University of California, Bakersfield. Zoe has published two articles on the current Basque social and political situation following ETA's ceasefire, and has a forthcoming chapter co-authored with Michael Keating. This year, Zoe also took part in the Conference of the Portrait Society of America in Philadelphia and began her fieldwork painting portraits of local artists in the Basque Country. In October 2012, Zoe presented a paper at The Representational Art Conference on "Ethnography and Painting" and was part of a collective show of Reno artists. Zoe is preparing for a solo show at the Sheppard Arts Gallery in Reno due to open on January 24, 2013 for a month. She continues to be an active member of Itzal Aktiboa, an association whose mission is to promote local contemporary art, and on the executive committee of Eusko Ikaskuntza Iparralde. Zoe is also serving her second term as vice president of the Alumni Association of the European University Institute, based in Florence.

Xabier Irujo

At the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year Xabier Irujo became co-director for the Center for Basque Studies. In August 2012, Xabier presented his book, *El Gernika de Richthofen: Un ensayo de bombardeo de terror* to a sold-out audience at Gernika's Peace Museum. The second edition of the book will be presented at the Durango Azoka Fair on Sunday, December 9, 2012. His co-edited book, *Basque Political Systems*, was published in 2011 and his newest book, *Expelled from the Motherland*, came out earlier this year. In addition, Xabier has a co-edited book, *The Massacre of Basque Whalers in Iceland (1613)* in press with the University of California, Santa Barbara. Xabier is organizing the Center for Basque Studies upcoming conference, "The Prevention of Cultural Genocide: Self-Determination and the Protection of Cultural Rights," to be held on November 14-15, 2012. Xabier continues to teach courses on Identity across Borders and Basque Politics.

Sandy Ott

In October 2011, Sandy Ott presented a paper at the annual conference of the Western Society for French History in Portland, Oregon.

Her paper, "Looking for Lucien Lacombe in Pau: The Trials of Teenaged Informers in Liberated France," explored the choices and wartime behaviors of two "rebels with cause": one joined the Waffen-SS while his younger friend denounced a group of resisters to the Gestapo. Sixty-seven people died as a result. In March 2012, Sandy gave another paper, "Scandals, Tensions, and Courtroom Drama: What Made News in the Pyrenean Borderlands (1944-1947)," at the annual conference of the French Historical Society held at UCLA. In October 2012, she presented a paper at the annual conference of the Western Society for French History: "Sex, Vengeance, and Duplicity on the Basque Coast: The Strange Case of Dr. Veritas." All three papers appear in chapters of her current book project, *Living with the Enemy: Franco-German Relations in Occupied and Liberated France, 1940-1947*. During the past year, Sandy has conducted further archival research for her book in Pau, France, where she studied the trial dossiers of suspected collaborators and the regional press of occupied and liberated France. She has one article in press and another under peer review. Sandy served as co-director of the Center for the third year and continued to coordinate the Center's Advisory Board as its administrator. The Board met in Reno during the spring and in Bilbao in July. During the past year Sandy also continued to chair UNR's diversity committee, the Intercultural Council. She also served on the faculty search committee for UNR's Gender, Race and Identity program. In August 2012, Sandy served on the anthropology panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C.

Joseba Zulaika

In September 2011, Joseba Zulaika participated in a round table discussion at the New York University's King Juan Carlos Center entitled "Gernika, Revisited." Joseba published a tri-lingual book entitled, *Traditions* in the Etxepare Institute's Basque Culture Series. In October 2012, Joseba took part in the 1st International Congress on Art, Memory and Democracy in Bilbao. Joseba gave a keynote lecture entitled "Drones and Fantasy in Counterterrorism" at the conference on "Terrorism and the Literary Imagination" held at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. He also gave a keynote lecture at the University of California, Berkeley in March 2012. Joseba continues his ongoing research into the Bilbao Guggenheim Museoa and the ethnography of Bilbao with additional emphasis on global culture, architecture, Basque culture and politics, and the international discourse of terrorism. Professor Zulaika continues to teach courses on Basque Culture, Anthropology, and the Bilbao Guggenheim Museum.

CBS makes a splash at the Durango Azoka

By Kimberly Daggett

The Durango Azoka (Fair) is a unique event in the Basque Country. More than just a book and music showcase, it is a genuine celebration of Basque culture, with busy four-day schedule of events, performances, book launches, dinners, and much more. CBS publications coordinator Daniel Montero is very proud that he will be making his fourth consecutive trip to the event on December



4-9, 2012 to promote the Center's books.

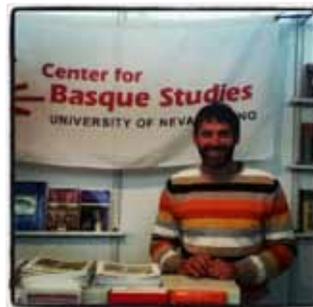
This year marks the forty-seventh annual Durango Azoka, and has an additional connection with Reno and the Basque community in the United States in that the artist Nestor Basterretxea, well-known as the sculptor of the National Monument to the Basque Sheepherder in Rancho San Rafael Park, has designed the commemorative poster for the event.

Montero says that what makes attending the event special for him is the pride and genuine appreciation for Basque culture that the Azoka brings out in the thousands of Basques from around the Basque Country who turn out for the event: "I can't think of anything similar that we have in the United States where regular people turn out to celebrate our

literary and artistic culture," he says.

He adds: "It is also very exciting for me, as the publications coordinator, to see the interest that people show in our books in English about the Basques. Even people who can read no English pass by our stand to see the books in English, and I think they take pride in the fact that a publisher in the United States publishes books exclusively about the Basques. Every year I also have the chance to meet many interesting people who have been to the United States, either living and working here for a time, or only for a vacation, they've all heard of the Center for Basque Studies and it is a sense of tremendous pride and accomplishment to know that the work I'm doing is appreciated by so many Basques in the Basque Country."

In addition to attending the Azoka, Montero takes time in the Basque Country to visit with bookstore and publishing representatives, Basque officials who take an interest in our publishing ventures, and authors, translators, designers, and editors with whom he works throughout the year.



Daniel Montero at Durango Azoka

Basque Sheepherder Monument restored

The Basque Sheepherder Monument in Rancho San Rafael Park has been restored with new Donor and Memorial Plaques. The original bronze plaques, which contained many names of Western Basque sheepherders and their families, were stolen in January 2012 and believed to have been resold for the value of their bronze. Washoe County park authorities, District Manager Andy Mink, and Carmelo Urza worked with the sign company to restore the monuments plaques



and correct name misspellings and blank spaces on the new plaques. Urza is one of the original organizers of the monument and the author of *Solitude*, a book about the monument.

"We are really grateful to District Manager Andy Mink and the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission for their work in having the plaques reconstructed and replaced," said Urza. "The plaques are beautiful, and the site once again provides a permanent tribute to the story of Basque emigration to the United States."

The monument was created by Basque artist Nestor Basterretxea and depicts a Basque sheepherder carrying a lamb beneath a moon. The monument was designed to represent the sheepherder and his descendants in the American West, as well as all Basques throughout the world.

The Basque monument is not yet complete. An additional plaque is going to be added to the monument for other descendants of Basque immigrants who wish to add their names or the names of their loved ones to the monument. For more information about adding a name to the new plaque, please contact leanne@usac.unr.edu.



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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.

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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 Guy, continued)

ing a banner up with a group of friends, all around the same age. I just about managed to keep him out of my wife's line of vision; I've forgotten whose immediate execution their placard demanded. Thankfully, our daughter wasn't with him. Shortly thereafter, the car of a socialist councilor who lives two doors down from us was set on fire. I couldn't sleep for nights. Thankfully, I didn't see Beñat the Terrible again. He vanished—from the city and from our lives.

Comparing him to the previous two, I found Jon quite tolerable at first. There was hardly any metal in sight, apart from the small earring on his left ear. He could speak Basque, and speak it eloquently too: despite being from Sanduzelai, his mother was from one of the villages along the Bidasoa River. He would spend hours in our house, especially on Saturday evenings. I would talk about literature and music with him—at least I did so until my wife started gesturing at me to leave him in peace. Saying that he wanted to make copies, he borrowed my entire Van Morrison CD collection. I lauded his good taste. "So you like the good old lion of Belfast." But there was something else: Jon was also a committed young man; his commitment, though, was to the mountain. But after the others, we counted ourselves lucky.

One time they were headed to the Pyrenees for the weekend, and I approached the boy's car intending to say goodbye. He drove a Renault 5, a vintage relic dating back to the days of Arana Goiri's grandfather. I was chatting to them when my eyes drifted to the open trunk. I was this close to having a heart attack there and then: harnesses, climbing ropes, carabiners, stirrups . . . you could climb Yosemite's El Capitan with the stuff in that trunk.

After that, my wife and I would breathe with increased difficulty as Fridays approached. During one of those excursions, while climbing the peaks of the Ansabere Range, the bastard abandoned our daughter on a tiny promontory, two hand-spans wide and two hundred meters from the ground. Because, "having to pull her up all the time" he was never going to make it to the top, apparently. That was the son of a bitch's excuse. That was their last hike together. I called him to demand the return of my Van Morrisons, but it was in vain. He told me to go and raise ostriches—yep, those exact words: "raise ostriches." I didn't give a damn. Maddi was free from that spineless piece of shit.

Maddi. The princess of the house. Daddy's sugar lump. My apple tart. I was watching her turn into a woman with contradictory feelings. Now that she had finished high school at the ikastola and received a thoroughly Basque

education, I was ready to feel proud and boast about her higher education. She had chosen to study sociology at the state university.

The story with Jon the mountain climber left her sad and sparkless all summer. Only when the course started did her eyes brighten up again. Books, note taking, lectures, parties. I attributed her improved vitality to the effects of responsibility and her new life. My wife wasn't so sure. "You'll see!"

Back from work one day, at lunchtime, I saw our daughter come out of a car. It wasn't just any car, but an Audi TT, very black and shiny. I was on the other side of the road, held in place at the pedestrian crossing by the command of a red light. I could just about see a redhead in the driver's seat. I waved my hand at Maddi to say hello. She didn't seem to notice me; at that precise moment, she bent over and slipped half her body into the car. And just like that, I witnessed the meeting of their lips. My light turned green and the Audi thundered past me down the street. I had to get out of its way to avoid being hit. I barely managed, ten seconds later, to ask my daughter in a normal voice: "Who was that guy?" She gave me the obvious answer, the very same one I would have given my mother thirty years earlier in fact: "a friend." We talked about the curious autumn weather we were having all the way to the front door. . . .

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