

Descargas otorgadas por el Decanato de Artes y Ciencias
Segundo Semestre del año académico 2015-2016

Dr. Sean Locke, Departamento de Biología

Molecular ecology of fish parasites in Puerto Rico

The proponent requires release time in order to undertake field collections, experiments and analyses that advance understanding (diversity, basic ecology) of wildlife parasites in Puerto Rico. The focus of study is molecular field survey of parasites of freshwater fish, particularly larval forms previously reported from 5/6 native species and in over a dozen fishes introduced to PR freshwaters. DNA sequences will be used to discriminate species and link life cycle stages. In addition, molecular survey of easily acquired marine fish parasites will also be initiated. In select freshwater parasite species, the life cycle will be established in the laboratory from naturally infected snails collected in PR streams or reservoirs. Fish in various species will be individually exposed to parasites in order to test if infection patterns follow the evolutionary history of fish species. The term will also be used to gather baseline data for comparisons of parasite communities in native and non-native freshwater fishes, and comparisons of parasite communities in human-impacted and reference localities.

Dr. Alex Van Dam, Departamento de Biología

Database Improvement of the UPRM Invertebrate Collection

As Director of the UPRM Invertebrate Collection my research focus this semester is updating the database and making it more publicly accessible. This semester one of my research objectives is to make our Invertebrate Collections database available to the public. I am investigating the utility of housing the database on a free cloud computing platform. This will have several advantages. One, we will not be limited on hard drive space so that we can more rapidly digitize the collection's holdings. Second it will raise the profile of our collection making it more accessible to other researchers. Besides making the database publicly accessible I am also working to add new specimen locality data to the database. As part of making the Invertebrate Collection database accessible to the public I am also working on is to digitize the collections holdings. I am working with undergraduate researchers to photo document all of the species of invertebrates in our collections holdings. This is important because it will allow other researchers to collaborate with our institution if they are able to identify invertebrates that they are interested in working on. This in turn will lead to more future collaborations with UPRM and other institutions. I am also working on putting together a coordinated consortium of collections from other US collections stationed in tropical islands or that have significant collections from tropical islands. This will also help raise the profile of our collection by linking it to a larger network of collaborating institutions. This in turn will also help raise awareness of our collection amongst the academic community. In closing my research endeavors this semester involve updating the Invertebrates Collections database, digitizing the collections, and building a network of tropical island collections.

Dra. Catherine M. Hulshof, Departamento de Biología

Plant diversity and function in tropical dry forests of Puerto Rico

Plant functional traits are an integrative measure of plant fitness in different environments and strongly impact ecosystem processes like carbon and nutrient cycles. The diversity of plant

functional traits across environments also provides insight into how organisms and ecosystems respond to ongoing land-use and climatic change. Despite the utility of trait-based studies, most research has emphasized trait patterns in temperate, Mediterranean, or tropical rain forest ecosystems. Surprisingly, few studies have quantified patterns of functional trait diversity in tropical dry forests. This study will continue to quantify the diversity and function of plant species in tropical dry forests of Puerto Rico. In so doing, this study will establish a baseline of methodologies and sampling strategies and will become the template for collaborating with scientists from other Caribbean islands. On the one hand, tropical dry forests are characterized by pronounced seasonality in precipitation and high inter-annual rainfall variability which should lead to unique adaptations to drought and limited water supply. On the other hand, insularity may impose additional constraints on the diversity of plant function. Other lines of evidence suggest that insular tropical dry forests are strikingly different from mainland tropical dry forests. Understanding these differences will be important in generalizing how these unique and endangered ecosystems respond to ongoing global changes.

Dr. Ernesto Weil, Departamento de Ciencias Marinas

Propuestas de investigación para NSF y NOAA

Long term temporal dynamics and spatial variability in prevalence and impact of major diseases affecting coral reef organisms in the wider Caribbean; link to climate change drivers: This proposal will be a continuation of ten years of surveys and assessment of the impact of major diseases affecting the foundation species and associated community of coral reefs and their covariation with sea water temperature in six geographically distant localities in the wider Caribbean (Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Grenada, Curacao, Grand Cayman and Panama). Preliminary results over first ten years showed gradual increases in numbers of diseases and disease prevalence in most sites, with outbreaks and significant tissue and colony mortalities associated with high thermal anomalies and intensive bleaching events in 2005, 2009 and 2010. Important reef-building genera (*Orbicella*, *Diploria*, *Colpophyllia*, *Acropora*, *Agaricia*, *Stephanocoenia* and *Siderastrea*) suffered significant mortalities that brought about community shifts from coral dominated to algal dominated reefs. This new phase of this Project will continue with the monitoring but will also assess recruitment and survivorship and potential recovery of affected localities.

Current status, recovery and persistence of acroporid populations in La Parguera, Puerto Rico. Environmental and biological drivers: The goals of this project are: (1) to continue and expand our surveys to assess the current status of acroporid populations in La Parguera; (2) to assess the current causes and seasonal variability of mortality (disease, predation, algae smothering, etc), disease prevalence, virulence and susceptibility levels; and rates of tissue/colony mortality; (3) to assess potential differential survivorship rates, growth rates, and fecundity of the two most common *A. cervicornis* ecomorphs within and across localities, and any potential covariation with Climate Change drivers (temperature, salinity, acidification and sedimentation). Finally, the genetic differences between the ecomorphs within and across localities will be assessed. The White-band disease (WBD) epizootic in the early 1980's was the most severe and wide-spread coral disease outbreak in recorded history. It was responsible for the Caribbean-wide demise of the now endangered genus *Acropora* (*A. palmata*, *A. cervicornis* and the hybrid *A. prolifera*). Acroporids dominated shallow and intermediate depth reef habitats around the Caribbean, providing reef relief and protection, food and habitat for thousands of species, and ecological services to humans. Most acroporid populations around Puerto Rico literally disappeared from many coral reefs. Surviving populations were further impacted by local habitat deterioration, snail, damselfish and fireworm predation, storms and hurricanes, anchors, bleaching events, and further outbreaks of WBD and White Patch disease, hampering any potential population recovery. Contrary to *A. palmata*, which

have shown recent recovery in a few localities around Puerto Rico, yearly (15 years) surveys and observations of many reefs off La Parguera, indicate that *A. cervicornis* has failed to recover, that is, until last year, when populations in Mario and San Cristobal reefs showed the best recovery we have observed so far. It is therefore an excellent opportunity to follow these and other populations to assess their recovery (or demise) dynamics and how these covary with climate change drivers such as increasing water temperatures.

Dr. Wilford Schmidt, Departamento de Ciencias Marinas

Development of a free-vehicle sediment sampler for the Muertos Trough and Puerto Rico Trench

Although twelve people have walked on the Moon and spacecraft are now exploring our solar system and beyond, very little in situ sampling of the Earth's oceanic trenches has occurred. Their general geographic remoteness and extreme bottom-pressures have made all sampling difficult. Cable lengths needed make tethered sampling cost prohibitive, and problematic in terms of successful data acquisition. Recent autonomous, remotely-operated, and free-vehicle sampling attempts have proved equally technically difficult and expensive. However, developments in the manufacture of glass housings offer scientific investigators and engineers the opportunity to sample the Earth's deepest trenches at a fraction of the cost of previous methods (Schmidt and Siegel, 2011, Elloe, et al., 2011). A partnership formed in 2006 between the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez' Department of Marine Sciences (UPRM/DMS) and the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD/SIO), began to develop and deploy new instruments to explore the deep Muertos Trough and the ultra-deep Puerto Rico Trench, the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean and the seventh deepest trench on Earth. This "proof of concept" project laid the groundwork for modern, low-cost, untethered free-descent/ascent exploration. Here we propose to extend this work by testing and refining the prototype free-vehicle sediment sampler developed here at UPRM during the Fall 2015 semester.

Dra. Enid A. Rodríguez Noguerras, Departamento de Kinesiología

Centro para el estudio y la aplicación de la psicología deportiva en la sociedad

La psicología del deporte y el ejercicio es una disciplina académica relativamente joven en el Caribe y Latinoamérica. Este proyecto pretende desarrollar un Centro de investigación y servicio sobre la psicología del deporte y actividad física para la comunidad local y área del Caribe. Por tanto, el centro de investigación para el deporte se espera que pueda fomentar: 1) el crecimiento de la disciplina académica en PR (actualmente no existe programa académico), 2) generar, promocionar y divulgar las investigaciones relacionadas a la psicología deportiva, y 3) fomentar la colaboración investigativa interdisciplinaria e inter-recintos. La estructuración organizacional para iniciar el Centro investigativo busca impulsar la búsqueda de fondos externos y colaboraciones investigativas con otros especialistas del deporte en el Caribe y Latinoamérica.

Dr. Melvin González Rivera, Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos

Política lingüística en Puerto Rico

El debate sobre la oficialidad del español y el inglés en Puerto Rico rebasa ya sus cien años de historia, sin que aún se tenga un panorama muy claro sobre qué representan y qué papel desempeñan ambos idiomas en la sociedad puertorriqueña, tanto para los puertorriqueños de la Isla como para los de la diáspora. El debate sobre la oficialidad lingüística ha estado matizado desde sus inicios de un severo sesgo político: la ocupación estadounidense en 1898, y la oficialización del español y del inglés como lenguas oficiales por el nuevo gobierno colonial en 1902. Retomar el debate sobre la oficialidad de lenguas en Puerto Rico es insertarse inevitablemente en los conflictos ideológicos y culturales que éste acarrea, conflictos que han sido llevados al escenario lingüístico (Ríos 1995) y nos llevan a replantearnos nociones de lengua e identidad, vínculo tan estrechamente ligado según lo demuestran investigaciones recientes (Brown 2005) en el contexto bielorruso. Esta investigación examina el debate en torno a la política lingüística en Puerto Rico desde una perspectiva histórica, político-jurídica y lingüística, y sugiere algunas propuestas que podrían servir para un repensar las lenguas, español e inglés, desde la enseñanza y según los modelos actuales de adquisición de primeras y segundas lenguas.

Dr. Alexandra Morales Reyes, Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos

Desarrollo lingüístico en niños de edad escolar que aprenden una segunda lengua como lengua extranjera

La adquisición de segundas lenguas en niños de edad escolar es un área donde aún las investigaciones son pocas, más limitados aún son los estudios de niños que aprenden dicha lengua en un contexto de lengua extranjera y no de inmersión como sería el caso de los niños que aprenden inglés en los Estados Unidos. Los datos proporcionados por estos hablantes no sólo conducen a un mejor entendimiento de la adquisición de un segundo idioma en niños, pero también nos ayuda en entender mejor la adquisición de la primera lengua en niños con o sin trastornos del lenguaje y la adquisición de segundas lenguas por adultos. El objetivo principal del proyecto es estudiar las etapas iniciales así como el desarrollo y procesamiento lingüístico de niños que aprenden inglés como lengua extranjera. Como parte del estudio miraremos la adquisición del orden sintáctico, los determinantes, la concordancia morfológica, así como también el desarrollo de la conciencia lingüística en la primera (i.e., español) y segunda lengua (i.e., inglés). El proyecto propuesto es la continuación del propuesto para el primer semestre (2015-2016). El mismo originalmente se habrá contemplado como uno que tomaría como mínimo un año para completar. Además debido a la adquisición de un nuevo programa (E-Prime) por parte del Centro de Investigaciones Lingüísticas del Caribe el formato de las pruebas se modificara con lo cual se modificó el plan inicial de trabajo. Al momento ya se obtuvo el permiso de CPSHI y se comenzó a trabajar con el diseño de las pruebas.

Dr. Francisco García Moreno Barco, Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos

Documentación de restos del Ferrocarril de Circulación de Puerto Rico en el ramal de Cabo Rojo

El proyecto propone reconocer el tramo de ferrocarril de Lajas a Hormigueros en su ramal de Cabo Rojo y documentar los arqueológicos mediante el recogido de coordenadas, toma de fotografías y descripción de la ruta y los restos arqueológicos (puentes, cambijas, túneles, alcantarillas, tajeas, etc.)

Mark R. Jury, Departamento de Física

Caribbean and african climate variability

This Project studies local climate variability of Caribbean and African regions using existing observations to test and improve numerical models and statistical forecasts. There are a few specific themes in the project: a) Antilles Island impact on trade wind convection, b) Analysis of hydrology, vegetation and surface fluxes over Africa, c) Characterizing climate change and upper ocean variability, and d) Understanding and predicting Caribbean and African floods, drought and socio-economic impacts. These activities will provide a platform for research by the project leader and meteorology students at UPRM.

Thomas E. Miller, Departamento de Geología

Dating the evolution of the Rio Camuy Caves, by producing a modern three-dimensional atlas of its aquifer

Recent. ^{10}Be - ^{26}Al dating of sediments in cave passages of the Rio Camuy Caves has shown them -- at about 5million years-- to be the oldest caverns known in the Caribbean or bordering coasts, and intimately linked to the geologic development of Puerto Rico as it emerged from the sea. An improved map of the cave system can greatly improve the resolution of active ages of the different horizontal levels, and thereby chart finer details of the evolution of the surface.

Following the past decade of cave exploration and mapping, the Camuy is now the largest known system of caverns in Puerto Rico, exceeding those of the Rio Encantado caves. Given the role they play in dramatically reducing the flood discharges affecting the downriver town of Camuy, the caves could also be considered the largest flood control structure in Puerto Rico. Although surveys show that they, the Arecibo Observatory, and the Luquillo National Forest, are the three most popular tourist sites of Puerto Rico, no accurate map exists of the pre-1980s explorations combined with recent significant discoveries since 2005.

This project proposes to link the thousands of survey stations comprising the two existing data sets into one large computer data archive, and produce a contemporary, rotatable computer-generated model to:

- 1) Aid in choosing additional location for continued age-sampling of cave sediments in Puerto Rico.
- 2) Clarify the location of surface activities that affect the environment of one of Puerto Rico's premier tourist attractions and heritage.

Lisette Rolón Collazo, Departamento de Humanidades

Otras memorias: cuerpos en fuga resisten

Otras memorias: cuerpos en fuga resisten se propone recuperar las memorias de subjetividades marginadas por ser diferentes a la heterosexualidad a partir de un estudio de caso: el de Florencio/Teresa Pla Messeguer alias La Pastora, Tereso o Durriti. Tereso, como este proyecto escoge llamarle para reconocer su intersexualidad, se dedica al pastoreo antes de unirse al movimiento maqui de resistencia a la dictadura franquista. Después de militar y participar activamente en esa forma de guerrilla fue atrapadx y encarceladx (primero en una cárcel de mujeres y luego en una de hombres). Su genitalia ambigua supuso un reto a la imposición del binario de los dos sexos, toda vez que su oposición a la dictadura lx convirtió en unx enemigx público por partida doble. *Otras memorias: cuerpos en fuga resisten* analizará las representaciones literarias e históricas de Tereso en contrapunto con un análisis de cómo ciertos saberes- la medicina, la sociología y la ley, entre otros- se han enfrentado a la diversidad de los cuerpos y de las ideas desde el 1930 a esta parte. De este modo, esta investigación rescatará su memoria y su voz silenciada en sintonía con la Ley para la Recuperación de la Memoria Histórica en España.

Jeffrey Herlihy, Departamento de Humanidades

Mapping Cultural Distance: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Cultures of Migrant

I am interested in the ways writers and artists think about cultural distance, migration, and travel, and my research projects investigate how those concepts are manifest in literature and art. In the spring of 2015-2016, I will work on two journal installments as guests-editor (Voces del Caribe and Interdisciplinary Literary Studies), the revisions of a monograph, a journal article on Hemingway in Cuba, several other related publications, and a conference presentation. A critical locus of my research explores a binding circumstance for all diaspora and migrant writing-cultural displacement- in order to elucidate the manner in which ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and social otherness might shape a person's sentiments, emotions, and self-perception. A theory on the structure of culturally displaced life argues that the distribution of certain aesthetic patterns (archetypes, motifs, and symbols) in both the literature and visual art of displaced individuals relate to the non-native status of the artist. It is my argument that much of the drama realized in migrant art and writing depends to a very important degree upon the implications of cultural distance. A foreign-to-the-protagonist scenario, far from being a mere exotic backdrop or cosmopolitan milieu, is often a motivating factor in character action, and the subtext of dislocation is often a catalyst of dramatic irony.

Dra. Ana Kothe, Departamento de Humanidades

Las brujas de Latrop: A Transaltion, Part II

This Project is a continuation of a Project currently underway the first semestre of 2015-2016. Recently published in January 2015 (Amazon Kindle and CreateSpace), *Las brujas de Latrop* is about students, witchcraft, fantasy, and fable. At the same time, it registers very real and contemporary concerns about the well-being of a country and the personal development of young women. Like the best-selling young adult fiction it is part of (*The Hunger Games*, *Harry Potter*), this novel shows promise in delivering sequels. I would not be surprised if it became a movie. My project is to work with the author, RUM graduate Yarimar Padua, and translate the book for a wider audience, both within academic institutions and beyond. By the end of the first semestre, we plant to have ½ to ¾ of the 274-page novel translate, and by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, we hope to have the entire solidly translated with one polished chapter to present to possible publishers. I am will also present my work on the translation at the International Comparative Literature Conference in

July 2016. The panel I have co-authored on “Translation as Utopia/Dystopia” has already been accepted. This is a very exciting project that would help promote our campus, Mayagüez, and Puerto Rico.

Dr. Stéphane Pillet, Departamento de Humanidades

Delicately Powerful: Nature in Jules Verne's Novels

Although Jules Verne is considered a scientific writer and a proponent of innovative technological progress, I would like to approach him as an environmentalist. In this project, I will analyze Nature as a recurrent character in his novels, often acting as a *deus ex machina*, yet threatened by industries needing to increasingly exploit natural resources in order to function and develop. In Verne's novels, Nature is a source of wonder, and very often a destructive force. Storms, earthquakes, meteors, volcanic eruptions, and other acts of nature often start, control, and end the stories. The destruction of natural resources, however, increasingly haunts the pages of his later works. The negative impact on the environment takes different forms. He fears the extinction of many large animals such as whales and elephants. Verne is also concerned by the air pollution produced by oil derricks. For Jules Verne, if the balance of the planet is broken, Nature will come back with vengeance, incurring drought and floods on a global scale. Indeed, this is exactly the theme of *Topsy Turvy*; a little-known novel that is particularly relevant nowadays and deserves a closer attention. In its visionary plot, a company buys the North Pole and wants to alter the axis of the Earth in order to melt the Arctic ice in order to access to the large coal deposits they expect to find there. The social and ecological consequences of climate and sea level changes that the plan, if successful, may provoke are as dire and troublingly similar as the ones that might happen in a not too distant future due to our current contribution to global warming.

Dr. Jerry Torres Santiago, Departamento de Humanidades

Plazas de Mercado: Arquitectura y Poder en Puerto Rico

Plazas de Mercado, el proyecto, recupera para beneficio del colectivo, tres edificios icónicos de nuestra herencia y los utiliza como narrativa en la cual se conectan ideologías, estilos, tecnología, construcción, imaginarios y proyectos sociales. El estudio de los edificios de Mercado de Mayagüez, Ponce y San Juan, en su individualidad, en su contextualidad y en su intertextualidad, nos permitirá ofrecer al país una lectura crítica y al mismo tiempo, inspiradora, de la riqueza que aun no hemos descubierto y que yace latente. En el acervo edificado de nuestras principales ciudades.

El proyecto propone valorizar lo propio, tomando en cuenta objetivamente, el mapa cultural específico en donde se insertan los artefactos estudiados. Los edificios señalados, que fueron contruidos en la segunda mitad del siglo 19, se despejarán metodológicamente de su ropaje estético y serán interpelados desde otras circunstancias para que nos puedan hablar no solo de ellos mismos sino de aquellos que los habitaron en el más profundo sentido de la palabra habitar. Este proyecto será una aportación significativa a la definición canónica de la arquitectura puertorriqueña y al entendimiento de ésta como una narrativa nacional.

Christopher Powers, Departamento de Humanidades

Don Quijote and the Evolution of the Novel

The proposed release time will be dedicated to the production of materials useful for teaching the history of the novel. The teaching of the full, extensive texts of the first great modern novel, *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, including both its first part, *El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha* (1605) and its second part *El ingenioso caballero Don Quijote de la Mancha* (1615) is of central importance in the first part of the two-semester, four-thousand level, core curriculum course in the Comparative Literature Program "Evolution of the Novel" Parts I and II. The class presents a unique opportunity to study a canonical text in Spanish from the ample perspective of comparative literature, making possible its contextualization within the global history of the novel as a genre, the modern literary genre par excellence. However, materials useful to its study in this context and tailored to the needs and potential of this particular population of students -largely bilingual and studying the history of the novel from a global perspective with the methodologies of comparative literature-are needed. The release time will be dedicated to the production of these materials-a thematic study aid, a structural map, a hyperlinked bibliography and an assessment rubric. Their implementation will, additionally, be evaluated and the results presented either in a conference or as a publication after the next time the course is taught.

Michael Huffmaster, Departamento de Humanidades

Foreign language learners beat native speakers on key cognitive measure

This study employs the Stroop test, a widely-used neuropsychological measure, to demonstrate the unique capacity of foreign language study to foster critical and creative thinking. Based on informal classroom experience, I hypothesize that beginning foreign language learners will outperform more advanced learners, who in turn will outperform native speakers. If the results of the study bear out my hypothesis, it would represent the first empirical evidence of its kind to bolster recent arguments by leaders in the field that the value of foreign language study in higher education has to do primarily with developing translingual and transcultural competence, as opposed to imitating and conforming to an idealized native-speaker model of proficiency. In the field of psychology, where the Stroop test was developed and has since been widely employed, it is understood primarily as a measure of executive function and selective attention, and I fully acknowledge the validity of that application. However, such a view ignores the essentially linguistic nature of the measurement. What the test importantly measures (among other things) is the effects of literacy on cognition, which, despite its indisputable cognitive benefits, may suppress conscious awareness of other semiotic dimensions of language beyond the merely semantic or referential. Accordingly, one of the main values of foreign language study in higher education may be its singular potential to impart a fuller appreciation of the multifaceted phenomenon that defines our species-to teach knowledge, as Michael Holquist puts it, of Language with a capital L.

Dra. Mariam Colón-Pizarro, Departamento de Humanidades

De la mitología nacional a la mirada subalterna: la representación del sujeto puertorriqueño en las iniciativas culturales del Nuevo Trato

Esta investigación aborda la problemática incorporación de los sujetos coloniales en el imaginario nacional norteamericano. Examina la controversia pública que rodeó el arte mural auspiciado por el gobierno federal durante la Gran Depresión con el propósito de documentar las sutiles maneras en que el gobierno federal ejercía y ejerce su autoridad sobre la representación de la diferencia. La ambigua representación de las poblaciones indígenas de Alaska y de los habitantes de Puerto Rico en una serie de murales que el pintor, escritor y activista político, Rockwell Kent, realizó para la oficina central del correo federal en Washington, D.C. servirá como punto de partida para considerar la fértil, pero difícil relación entre arte e imagen. Acompañados por un aparente conjunto de indecifrables inscripciones, estos murales- elaborados en medio de la crítica del congreso al uso de fondos públicos para iniciativas artísticas y de la lucha nacionalista en la Isla-fueron objeto de censura por parte de las autoridades federales e insulares. El eje de la censura giraba en torno a la autenticidad de la representación o, dicho de otro modo, a la legitimidad del lenguaje visual y escrito empleado por el artista para describir las relaciones políticas, económicas y sociales entre la metrópolis y sus posesiones. La censura institucional generó un debate acerca de la identidad racial de los puertorriqueños, debate que incidía directamente en la posible redefinición de las relaciones entre Puerto Rico y los Estados Unidos y, al mismo tiempo, ponía de manifiesto el prejuicio latente en la sociedad colonial.

Dra. Francés J. Santiago Torres, Departamento de Humanidades

Suzanne Césaire: Un legado intelectual de vanguardia

Esta investigación conlleva dos partes, primero es fundamental identificar y estudiar una serie de textos (correspondencia, ensayos y otros escritos) de, y sobre, Suzanne Césaire. Y en segundo lugar, la traducción del francés al español de sus siete ensayos publicados en la revista cultural y literaria *Tropiques*, entre 1941 y 1945, publicada en Fort-de-France, Martinica. Suzanne Césaire tuvo un rol activo en la publicación de la revista *Tropiques*, co-fundada con su esposo, el gran poeta de Martinica, y principal proponente del movimiento de la Negritude, Aimé Césaire. El escritor de Guadalupe, Daniel Maximin, nos dice en su más reciente texto dedicado a la obra escrita de Suzanne Césaire: "...ella es de esa generación de jóvenes antillanas conquistadoras de libertad y de igualdad..." El pensamiento y las reflexiones vanguardistas que Suzanne Césaire expresa en sus siete artículos, se ubican en el seno de las discusiones sobre la identidad y los fenómenos culturales que transforman a los seres humanos marcados por el colonialismo. Sus aportaciones han pasado prácticamente desapercibidas por muchos años, y nunca se han traducido sus artículos al español. Sus ideas giran en torno a temas que se encuentran en el centro de importantes debates sobre: el poscolonialismo, la historia del Caribe, la cultura, la identidad, la hibridez y otros.

Dra. Ricia Anne Chansky, Departamento de Inglés

Transnational Narratives of the Americas: Reading Identity beyond Borders

This research project explores my argument that the historic or contemporary movement of peoples to, in, and from the Americas-forced or chosen-underlies the ways in which identities are constructed in this contested space. Such an understanding of the importance of movement within narratives of the Americas leads to considerations of belonging steeped in the strata of performativity, relationality, and intersubjectivity. Rather than suggest that a transnational approach to auto/biographical narratives of the Americas is only that which charts a subject's physical movements across national borders, then, the idea of movement, and the resultant quest for belonging, is read as a transnational theme that motivates and provides a cohesive discursive point among these auto/biographical narratives. The shape of this semester's work will be in the completion of two book manuscripts contracted with Routledge---*Auto/Biography across the Americas : Transnational Themes in Life Writing* and *Auto/Biography in the Americas : Relational Lives*---and by the writing of two invited keynote addresses to be delivered at conferences this coming spring and summer : the International Auto/Biography Association conference in Nicosia, Cyprus and the Congresso Internacional de Pesquisa (Auto) Biográfica in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil. This work includes the writing of over ninety pages of text and the editing of approximately five hundred pages of text as well as overseeing the translation of approximately one hundred pages of text.

Dr. Eric D. Lamore, Departamento de Inglés

John Marrant's Narratives as Fluid Text

I am awarded a research release for the Spring 2016 semester, I will continue to produce scholarship on the literature written (or related) by individuals of African descent that was published before 1900. Specifically, I will write a presentation that I will deliver at the University of Texas at San Antonio in April 2016. I was invited by the distinguished scholar, Joycelyn K. Moody, to present this paper at her symposium on African American autobiography. This presentation will focus on the different editions of John Marrant's autobiography. I will also write an essay on some of the different editions of Marrant's autobiography and submit it to a peer-reviewed academic journal. The purpose of my essay is to offer scholars, editors, teachers, and students a more complete understanding of the publication and reception histories of Marrant's autobiography. Furthermore, I will also finish the index for my book, *African American Autobiography: Twenty-First Century Contexts and Criticism*, and read the proof copies and make any necessary revisions to the essays before this book appears in print. I have signed a contract for this book, and the University of Wisconsin Press will likely publish it in the summer of 2016.

Dr. Leonardo Flores, Departamento de Inglés

Publishing the Electronic Literature Collection, Volume 3

My request for 3 credits release time for the Spring 2016 semester is to complete, editing, production, and publication of the *Electronic Literature Collection, Volume 3* (ELC3). Since my election as leader of the ELC3 Editorial Collective, we opened a Call for Submissions, and read and evaluated the over 500 works submitted, and presented a preview at the Electronic Literature Organization (ELO) 2015 conference in Bergen, Norway. During the Fall 2015 semester, I have been working with the Editorial Collective to write the introductions for approximately 120 works in the ELC3, create pictorial and video documentation for each work, compiling source files from the authors, completing the design for the ELC3, submitted an external funding proposal for the USB edition, and will be submitting a grant proposal for the next stage: a book. During the Spring 2016 semester, I will: 1) complete and publish the online version of the ELC3 in early February 2016, 2)

begin promoting the ELC3 with a gallery exhibition and launch event at Rutgers University on February 18, 3) research and produce the USB drive version of the ELC3, 4) present the ELC3 online and USB editions at the ELO 2016 conference (June 10-12) in Victoria, Canada, 5) write and submit an article on the ELC3 to a peer-reviewed Digital Humanities journal.

Dr. Gregory K. Stephens, Departamento de Inglés

GE Courses in Comparative Perspective, Part II: Ethnographic Research and Interviews

The "review of the literature" I conducted during the Fa112015 Descarga-debates within Rhetoric and Composition about the design, content, and purpose of GE Writing courses--resulted in five essays which I have sent out for publication. These are listed in the longer proposal. However, I need additional time to proceed with the ethnographic component of the research. The principal unfinished work is to interview directors of Writing Programs, and to comparatively analyse written descriptions of various models of GE Writing Courses. However, in addition, since I have now been assigned to teach INGL 6030, "Theory and Practice of Composition" for English MAEE students, I hope to integrate research coming out of that seminar (beyond the normal duties of teaching the course). My focus, drawing on Fall2015 Descarga research, will be "Embodied Writing and Rhetoric." In addition to helping train some TAs who teach GE courses at UPRM, the students in my "Theory and Practice of Communication" seminar will benefit with the ethnographic research I do with writing program directors. They will also do ethnographic research within their own classes. This would help obtain a clearer picture of what sort of design/ curriculum might be implemented, given the limited financial resources of the institution, so that students will make better progress in reading and writing skills, along with the broader "citizenship" component. My goal is to contribute to an institutional self-reflection about how teachers and students could be better positioned to achieve the shared outcomes of the English Department, and the College of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. Rémi Megret Laboye, Departamento de Matemáticas

Development of Computational Perception in Multidisciplinary Research

This academic release time concerns the expansion of the activities already initiated for the development of the Computational Perception field of research at UPRM. Computational Perception is concerned with the development of models, algorithms and systems that enable computers to perceive high-level information concerning objects, scenes or physical phenomena from lower-level sensor data. It includes the application and the development of new methods at the intersection of Computer Vision, Data Analysis, Machine Learning and High Performance Computing aimed at bridging the semantic gap between raw sensor data and their interpretation. The current research on wearable sensing has led to communications and publications, as co-author or as supervisor of UPRM student work. Planned work will continue on the development of approaches for data analysis using multi-sensor platforms, including motion, visual and depth sensors, including wearable devices such as tablets as a special case. Development of collaborative multi-disciplinary projects involving the application of the Computational Perception approach to new scientific fields will be pursued. One such collaboration is ongoing in the topic of Chemometrics, for the computational analysis of spectroscopic Near-Infrared images in relation with the Chemistry Department at UPRM. Other contacts established more recently will be strengthened.

Dr. Lev Steinberg, Departamento de Matemáticas

Fractal Modelling in Solid Mechanics

The proposed research is related to the continuum modeling of defects and fractal structures in solid mechanics. This approach is essential for understanding the scaling nature of material structures and predicting mechanical behavior of solids. The modeling will include deformation and transformation and include also the characteristics of fractal dimension of internal material structure.

Dra. Wildeliz Torres-Irizarry, Departamento de Química

Development of an metallocarbene-based methodology for the synthesis of aziridines

Aziridines are structural motifs present in many biologically active compounds. They are also effective synthetic intermediates for the synthesis of drugs and natural products. Herein, we propose to develop a new method for the construction of aziridine moieties from the reaction of metallocarbenes with imines. We will generate the metallocarbenes from safe and readily available substrates rather than the commonly used diazocarbonyl compounds, which are toxic and potentially explosive. This would allow process chemists to use our methodology at industrial scales safely. Inter- and intramolecular variants of the methodology will be developed. The synthetic value of our method will be demonstrated by pursuing the synthesis of biologically relevant organic molecules. In the long term, an asymmetric version of this methodology will also be developed.

