



Center for Basque Studies

NEWSLETTER

FALL
2007

NUMBER 75

The Center welcomes Mari Jose Olaziregi

The Center for Basque Studies is pleased to introduce Dr. Mari Jose Olaziregi, a specialist in Basque literature who joined our faculty in July 2007. She has a degree in Basque Philology and a Ph.D. in Basque Literature (1997), with a dissertation on "Literature and Reading: From Textual Strategies to Sociology in Bernardo Atxaga's Literary Universe." Her M.A. degree is from the University of East Anglia (U.K.). She previously worked at the University of the Basque Country in the Department of Linguistics and Basque Studies (Faculty of Philology, Geography, and History). Editor Jill Berner interviewed Dr. Olaziregi for our newsletter.

In this issue:

Mari Jose Olaziregi	1
Bernardo Atxaga, new Douglass scholar	3
Political Conference	5
CBS 40th Anniversary	6
Highlights	7
Publications 2007	8
Lectures	10
Studies Abroad in the Basque Country	11
Basque Series books	12

JB: Marijo, tell me a little about your background and your interest in Basque literature. How did you become interested in this?

MO: Well, it's nice to talk about that, in fact. I've loved reading since I was a child. I used to read especially in Basque because I attended a Basque school or *ikastola*, and because Basque is my mother tongue. So when I finished secondary school I decided to study Basque philology in Vitoria at the University of the Basque Country. When I first attended some courses on literary criticism, I realized very clearly that that was going to be my field. I just realized then that I enjoy reading as much as analyzing literary works. I'm really passionate about both of them.

JB: Your major was Basque philology, which is more about just the language, right?

MO: Yes. I studied in the Basque philology program of the University of the Basque Country. The topics covered included, among others, history of Basque language, linguistics, literature, literary criticism, sociolinguistics . . . I met an amazing academic, Professor Jesús María Lasagabaster, and he has been a great influence on me. I decided to do my Ph.D. on Basque literature, and I analyzed the reading habits of Basque young people and, especially, the reception that Bernardo Atxaga's work has had among them.



Mari Jose Olaziregi
(photo: Cursos de Verano-UPV)

JB: So, your doctoral thesis was on literature and readers?

MO: Yes, the title of my dissertation is "Literature and Reading: . . . Bernardo Atxaga's Literary Universe," and I really enjoyed researching it; it gave me the opportunity to meet some very interesting people, such as Atxaga himself. Since then, I have continued publishing books on contemporary Basque literature and teaching at the University of the

(continued on page 2)



We congratulate Basque Studies Ph.D. student Nancy Faires, who completed her degree in November 2007. See story on page 5. (Photo provided by N. Faires)

The Center for Basque Studies Newsletter is a semi-annual publication sent free of charge to any interested person. If you would like to receive the newsletter in paper format, please send your name and postal address to:

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

**Or e-mail us at: basque@unr.edu
Or phone: 775.784.4854
Or fax: 775.784.1355**

The newsletter is also available electronically, in a printable format. If you would like to receive the newsletter in electronic format, thus saving printing and postage costs, please specify this option and let us know your e-mail address.

Please visit our web site:

basque.unr.edu

Produced by the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno. Jill Berner, editor.

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action, ADA institution. 12/07 8,500.

(continued from page 1)

Basque Country. I think I'm a very blessed person because I can make a living by doing the things I like the most: teaching and researching.

JB: Now you're continuing your research here, in the United States. Is this a hindrance to you, or a help, being here at the Center for Basque Studies?

MO: It will give me the opportunity of studying and promoting Basque literature from a new perspective. It's like looking at our literary system from the outside. I want to contact American academics that are teaching Basque literature here and try to make

a kind of network to share our experiences. Anyway, I have always felt very comfortable at the Center for Basque Studies. Since 2002 I have collaborated on some of the Center's projects, such as the Basque Literature Series.

JB: But there aren't as many students in your field here. Is that a challenge or a frustration?

MO: That's a challenge, of course. I want to attract more students and try to show them how fascinating Basque literature is. I'm teaching Basque literature in English and I must say that I am extremely happy with the experience. As I don't have as many students as I did in the Basque Country, it gives me more time to interact with each of them.

JB: What about projects that you are working on now? Are you working on any publications currently?

MO: With regard to publications, we will publish *History of Basque Literature* next spring. It will include the contributions of twelve renowned scholars from several universities in the Basque Country. I'm the editor, and the author of one of the chapters—the chapter on contemporary narrative. That's my main project at the moment. Apart from that I have four articles that are about to be published in different international newspapers. The organization of the First International Conference on Basque Literature is going to be the other main project. Bernardo Atxaga is the William Douglass Distinguished Visiting Scholar this year and is helping with the organization of that conference. The conference will take place May 15–17, and it will give us a chance to meet academics from the USA and Europe who teach or do research on Basque literature.

JB: Any other conferences or courses . . . ?

MO: I have been invited to give courses in different universities of Europe, such as a graduate course at the University of Valencia (Spain) in December, and the University of Konstanz (Germany) in June. I will also chair, together with Itziar Zubizarreta, the Fourth Iberian Conference on Literature for Children that will take place in Donostia next July. In August, I will participate as a lecturer at the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo's summer courses in Santander (Spain), and I will continue mentoring literature Ph.D. program students of the University of the Basque Country in Vitoria.

“I believe that usually the more you read, the more tolerant you become—tolerant about different cultures and identities. It has to do with having an open mind.”

JB: Those activities are also a good way to promote our Basque Literature Series.

MO: I hope so. You know that the first book of the series, *An Anthology of Basque Short Stories*, has been a great success. It has been

reviewed in many international publications and translated into Spanish, Russian, and Italian. The other books of the series, Ramon Saizarbitoria's *Rossetti's Obsession* and Lourdes Oñederra's *And the Serpent Said to the Woman* had an excellent reception, too. Both novels were translated into Spanish and I think that Saizarbitoria's novel will also be published in French and Oñederra's novel in Russian. We have just published the latest title in the series, Anjel Lertxundi's *Perfect Happiness*. We plan to launch it at this year's Durango Book Fair.

JB: Well, it's interesting, because Basque comprises a tiny territory linguistically, yet you are able to promote the literature more widely.

MO: Yes, I think that the clue is to translate from Basque into English. If you do so, you promote the book much better than if you translate it into Spanish. As you know, the objective of the Center for Basque Studies when translating Basque literature is to promote our best works. That's why we try to send them to the vast majority of libraries and university departments in the United States and Europe.

JB: I know that you've received some awards and recognitions in your career. Maybe you can tell me a little bit about that.

MO: Probably the most remarkable one I received was the one that the provincial government of Alava gives for the best essay. It was an essay on Atxaga that I wrote in 2004.

Bernardo Atxaga, new Douglass Distinguished Scholar

by Mari Jose Olaziregi

The book that we published at the Center for Basque Studies, *Waking the Hedgehog: The Literary Universe of Bernardo Atxaga* (2005), includes some of the chapters of the awarded essay. Apart from that, I am a member of the Literature Research Committee of the Royal Academy of the Basque Language, Euskaltzaindia, a member of different journals and their editorial boards, and I was a member of the Executive Committee of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) from 2004 until 2006.

JB: So you have an interest in children's books also?

MO: Yes, of course. I love it. I think that a book that is good for a child is good for an adult. I think literature is either good or bad. I have always been very concerned with reading habits. I did a Master's [in this subject] in Barcelona, and I advised some Basque institutions with campaigns to promote reading habits among young people. Reading habits are related with tolerance. I believe that usually the more you read, the more tolerant you become—tolerant about different cultures and identities. It has to do with having an open mind.

JB: What about in today's world, where everything is digital?

MO: Well, although many people think the contrary, television can be a good tool to promote reading habits. But you need to offer good programs on culture, you need to make an effort to avoid all the "lite" shows that at present they are offering for children.

Reading habits begin at home, you don't need to plan very sophisticated activities to put a book and a child together. My father was not a teacher, he was not an academic. But I remember he loved books. Every Saturday, we used to go to the bookshop in my village in the Basque Country, Lasarte-Oria. I realized from childhood that books and reading were very important for my parents. The simple act of talking in a relaxed way about a book you are reading can be a very moving activity when you are a child. You're not only sharing stories, but you are sharing smiles, gestures, laughs with your parents.

JB: How do you feel about working here in Nevada compared to your experience at home?

MO: It's very different. It's, how can I say it? I'm much calmer here, much more relaxed. The Basque country is a very tiny country, but it's very alive. Basque culture is very dynamic. So there are lots of lectures

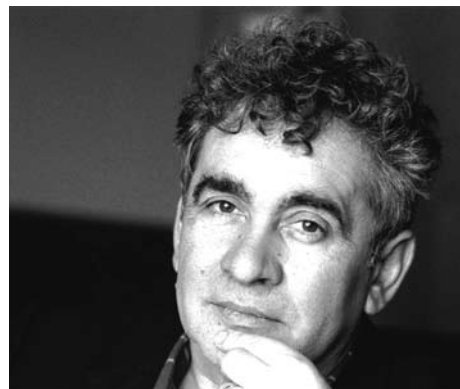
(continued on page 4)

The Center for Basque Studies is honored to welcome this year the most international Basque writer, Bernardo Atxaga. He is the William Douglass Distinguished Scholar for 2007–2008 and arrived in Reno with his family last August. He came with many projects, such as his next novel and his new website (www.atxaga.org), and is collaborating actively in the organization of the international conference on literature that will be held next spring at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Bernardo Atxaga (born Jose Irazu, in Asteasu, Gipuzkoa, 1951) belongs to the group of young Basque writers who began publishing in their mother tongue, Euskera, in the seventies. He graduated in economics from the University of the Basque Country and later studied philosophy at Barcelona University. His first short story, "Ziutateaz," was published in 1976 and his first poetry collection, *Etiopia*, in 1978. Both works received the National Critics' Prize for the best works in their categories in the Basque language.

He writes in most genres: poetry, short stories, novels, essays, and more. His national (and, later, international) recognition

followed the publication of *Obabakoak* which was awarded the Spanish Premio Nacional de Narrativa in 1989, among other prizes. *Obabakoak* was a milestone in contemporary Basque literature and it has been translated into more than twenty-six languages. *The Lone Man*, *The Lone Woman*, and *Two*



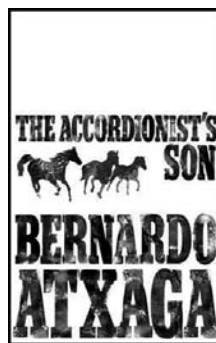
Bernardo Atxaga
(photo by Basso Cannarsa)

Brothers are the titles of his other novels translated into English so far. His latest novel, *Soinujolearen Semea* (*The Accordionist's Son*), was published in Basque in 2003, and since then has been translated into ten languages. Harvill Press in the U.K. has just brought it out in English. *Zorionak*, Bernardo!

The Accordionist's Son

Bernardo Atxaga's newest novel, *The Accordionist's Son*, is now available in English from Harvill Press (U.K.), translated by Margaret Jull Costa. The publisher's press release tells us, "With affection and lucidity, Atxaga describes the evolution of a young man [David Imaz] caught between country and town, between his uncle the horse-breeder and his political father. The course of David's life changes one summer night when he agrees to shelter a group of students on the run from the military police.

"Few contemporary writers are as adept at exploring memory and evoking friendship,



love and happiness as Bernardo Atxaga, and in this, his most personal and accomplished novel to date, he places these themes against the tragic backdrop of civil war and its aftermath and shows how these have affected the Basque people."

Initial reviews have been very favorable: "A literary voice of startling originality and a passionate guardian of Basque national memory." (*Sunday Telegraph*) "Atxaga's dextrous

interweaving of themes and vibrant evocation of people and places make the book not an embellishment of life but a celebration of its richness." (*Sunday Times*). The book can be ordered online from Amazon.com.

to give, lots of workshops to attend, courses, launchings, so you are always busy. I think that Nevada has wonderful things, it is a good place to work. I love these sunny days, the amazing daylight. Sometimes I miss the rain and the foggy afternoons of Donostia, the walks with my friends, but the warmth of the people from here makes me feel at home. I am enormously pleased with the help that my Basque friends from Reno have given us since we arrived in July. What generous people!

Q: Tell us about the classes you are teaching this semester, and having Bernardo Atxaga here—does that make a difference? I know he is not as well-known here as in Europe.

A: It is a luxury to have him around. Not only because you can have amazing conversations with him, but because he is a big support for any activity connected with literature. He will come to my Basque literature class and take part in the discussions we have, and there is no need to say that my students are delighted.

Selected Publications of M. J. Olaziregi

Euskal gazteen irakurzaletasuna. Azterketa soziologikoa (The Reading Habits of Basque Youth). Bergara: Ayto. Bergara (Beca Justo Gárate Arriola), 1998.

Intimismoaz haraindi. Emakumezkoek idatzitako euskal literatura (Basque Literature Written by Women). Donostia: Sociedad de Estudios Vascos (Beca Ángel Apraiz), 1999.

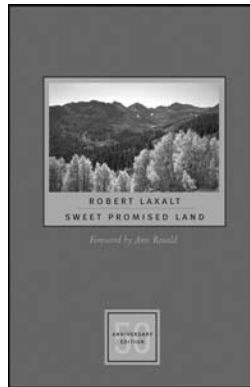
Ramon Saizarbitoriaren unibertso literarioa (The Literary Universe of Ramon Saizarbitoria). Bilbao: Labayru, 1999.

Euskal eleberraren historia (History of the Basque Novel). Bilbao: Labayru-Ayto. de Amorebieta Etxano (Beca Santiago Onaindia), 2001.

Waking the Hedgehog. The Literary Universe of Bernardo Atxaga. Reno: Center for Basque Studies, 2005.

An Anthology of Basque Short Stories, (ed.). Reno: Center for Basque Studies, 2004. [also published in Basque, Spanish, Russian, Italian.]

Six Basque Poets, (ed.). Todmorden (UK): Arc Publications, 2007.



50th Anniversary of Sweet Promised Land celebrated

2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Nevada author Robert Laxalt's most popular work, *Sweet Promised Land*. The book recounts the return of his father, a Basque sheepherder of the American West, to visit the land of his birth. The book has been acclaimed as a key telling of the immigrant's story.

The work was first published by Harper in 1957, and later reprinted by the University of Nevada Press. In addition, a special paperback edition was published in 1974 when the author's brother, Paul Laxalt, was running for the U.S. Senate. In 2007, the University Press published a special fiftieth anniversary edition with a foreword by Ann Ronald, Foundation English professor at UNR. For the Summer Scholars Project, a copy of this edition was sent to all incoming freshman students of the University so that they could read it prior to meeting in discussion groups during the Fall 2007 orientation on campus.

Robert Laxalt grew up in Nevada and was an alumnus of the University of Nevada, Reno. He founded the University of Nevada Press and later taught at the Reynolds School of Journalism. Most of his seventeen books feature Basque themes.

The anniversary was noted by the Special Collections Department of Getchell Library with an exhibit throughout 2007 of the Robert Laxalt Papers, tracing the writing process of *Sweet Promised Land* from Laxalt's initial concept to the final galley proofs. On June 5, the Friends of the Library held a reception and readings to honor the anniversary. Special guests included the author's daughter, Monique Laxalt, who shared memories of her father, and Ann Ronald, who discussed the book's literary value.

CBS Director accepts new position

Dr. Gloria Totoricagüena left the university in September to work as an external consultant for projects related to Basque Country public policy and globalization. She will work with a team of specialists on the project "The Basque Country, the Basques, and Globalization." This initiative was developed to investigate the effects of globalization on Basque economic, social, political, and cultural issues.

In accepting the new position, Dr. Totoricagüena returns to the core of her professional background—political science and international relations. She said that she greatly values the professional and personal relationships developed during her five years of service to the Center for Basque Studies and the University of Nevada, Reno.

The College of Liberal Arts Dean appointed Center faculty member Joseba Zulaika and Political Science professor Eric Herzik as co-directors of the Center for the remainder of the term.

Basque Library availability limited for summer 2008

Move to new Knowledge Center will limit service

Starting May 19, 2008, Getchell Library on the UNR campus, home of the Basque Library and Center for Basque Studies, will be closed to users, except through a "store front" at the main entrance for users to request books. The Basque Library will be closed and no access into the building will be permitted to anyone other than staff. The closure is necessary because many thousands of books, periodicals, microfilm, and other materials will be moved to the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. We do not yet know the exact date of the move, but the summer will be rather chaotic. Thus, we discourage library visitors from coming to UNR in summer 2008, to avoid disappointment. The Knowledge Center will open with full services in late August 2008, so visitors are most welcome from that time forward.

To find out more about the Knowledge Center, please see www.knowledgcenter.unr.edu.

Conference on Political Conflict Management

Xabier Irujo and former Douglass Distinguished Scholar Pedro Ibarra coordinated a conference held at the Center November 1–3, on “Political Conflict Management and Civil Society: The Basque Case.” Participants and their papers were:

Pedro Ibarra: “Break of the Cease-Fire in the Basque Country: New Scenario, New Opportunities”

Maria González: “Press, Public Opinion, and Peace during the Latest Cease-fires”

Irantzu Mendia: “Some Reflections on Women’s Agency and Peace Activism in the Basque Country”

Xabier Ezeizabarrena: “Basque Historical Titles and Self-Determination: A Path Toward Co-sovereignty at Domestic and EU Levels”

Joseba Zulaika: “The Crisis of ETA’s Political Subject”

Joxe Ramon Bengoetxea: “The Role Played by the EU Institutions as Regards the Basque Peace Process”

Xabier Irujo: “Spanish Anti-Terror Policies: Intrinsic Violation of Human Rights”

Key subjects discussed during the conference included an analysis of ETA’s 2007 ending of the cease-fire they had initiated in 2006, and the transformation of ETA based on the awareness that old forms of political mythology have become obsolete in the face of enormous changes brought on by the Europeanization of Basque/Spanish issues and the globalization of world affairs. The Spanish government’s role in the failure of the peace

process was also discussed, as well as the insufficiently recognized role of women and women’s organizations in seeking peace. In addition, the Basque peace process was analyzed from a European Union perspective.

The conference attendees also enjoyed a tour to nearby Virginia City and Lake Tahoe, as well as a visit to the Basque Shepherders Monument in Reno and an exhibit on Basque herders in the West.



Conference attendees (l. to r.) Xabier Irujo, Xabier Ezeizabarrena, Bernardo Atxaga, Maria González, Irantzu Mendia, and Joxe Ramon Bengoetxea.

Advisory Board Meeting of March 2007

The Center for Basque Studies Advisory Board held their annual meeting March 2–3, 2007 at Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks. Participants included Board members John Echeverria, William Douglass, Anita Anacabe, Michonne Ascuaga, Tontxu Campos, Tony Campos, Emilia Doyaga, Jeronima Echeverria, Pete Ernaut, Sixto Jimenez, Gloria Totorigüena, as well as Pedro Ibarra, representing the Amigos de Reno, and Sandra Ott, CBS Advisory Board Administrator. The Advisory Board advises the Center regarding fundraising, the publications agenda, and international outreach of its activities.

Members and spouses enjoyed a Friday night cocktail party with invited guests William Douglass Distinguished Visiting Scholar Pedro Ibarra and his wife Carmen Oriol, Mike and Jeanette Montero, Diane and Lloyd Root, and from the Basque Family Heritage in the USA project, George Ryskamp and Shalyse and Ben Clayton. Entertainment for the Saturday night dinner was provided with txistu music and Basque folkdancing by Teresa Anacabe Francoia and Bernadette Leonis.

Basque Ph.D. student completes degree

Nancy Faires has completed her Basque Studies Ph.D. degree, with an emphasis in Foreign Languages and Literatures, after successfully defending her dissertation on November 16, 2007. Her dissertation is entitled “This Is Not a Museum: The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.” She researched the effect on Bilbao’s urban and economic development created by the spectacular Guggenheim museum that opened in 1997, and also its relation to artistic, literary, and intellectual perspectives. *Zorionak*, Dr. Faires!

Basque Scholarship awards for 2007–08

The Center was able to confer four scholarship awards this year to students attending the University of Nevada, Reno, thanks to the two new scholarships funded by the Echeverria family of Reno, as noted in our Fall 2006 newsletter.

Domingo Leonis received the Dolores Saval Trigerero Scholarship. Domingo, an Elko Basque Club dancer for many years, is studying mining engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno. He hopes to eventually work for the mines located near Elko.

Danielle Stallworth of Reno, Nevada was awarded the Peter Echeverria Scholarship. She and her family have been active in the Reno Zazpiak Bat Basque Club for many years. A student athlete at UNR, Danielle is studying to become a teacher.

Natalia Moiola of Elko, Nevada, and member of the Elko Basque Club, received the new Gilbert and Marie Ordoqui Scholarship. She is interested in taking Basque Studies courses at UNR while majoring in education.

Ph.D. candidate Argitxu Camus Etchecopar is the recipient of the newly-established Frances A. Echeverria Graduate Student Award, designed to assist the student in completing a dissertation. Ms. Camus earned a Master’s degree from the University of Pau (France), and is pursuing her doctorate with an emphasis in history, focusing on Basque immigration and the Euskal Etxeak (Basque clubs) of the diaspora. She has been a Research Assistant at the Center since 2004.

Congratulations to our awardees, and many thanks to the generous donors who have made these awards possible.

40th Anniversary of the Center for Basque Studies

2007 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Center, originally formed as the Basque Studies Program in 1967 when a group of specialists were convened to decide the research focus of the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nevada. It was felt that the Basques were an important minority in the area, and that a program dedicated to research on this unique population was needed. William A. Douglass was hired to set up and coordinate the program and served as its director for thirty-three years. Upon his retirement at the end of 1999, we began the new millennium with a new name: the Center for Basque Studies, a recommendation of a Program Review committee. Various activities were carried out this year to mark the special anniversary.



(l. to r.) Kate Camino, Sandra Ott, CBS Advisory Board member Michonne Ascuaga, Gloria Totoricagüena, William Douglass (with plaque), legislator Pete Ernaut, John Ascuaga, and Carmelo Urza..

Basque Country visitors welcomed

Events were held on Thursday, May 3 as a part of the ongoing CBS 40th Anniversary activities. Special visitors from the Basque Country included Karlos Zarraga, who voluntarily worked for decades sending books, materials, and assorted information to the Basque Library, as well as Anttonmari Aldekoa-Otalora, manager of Urretxindorra bookstore in Bilbao. The bookstore has been the main supplier of materials to the Basque Library for many years. A lunch was served in Gatchell Library, followed by presentations by Center for Basque Studies and Basque Library staff. The Basque Library staff, led by interim Basque Librarian Nere Erkiaga, also prepared an extensive exhibit on the history and activities of the Center for Basque Studies.

Center receives recognition from Nevada Legislature

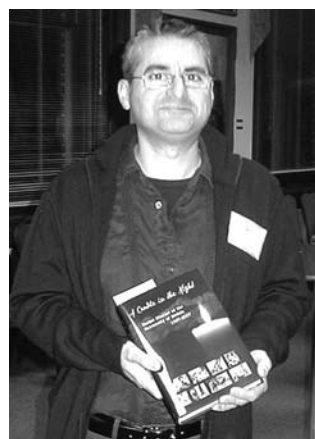
The Nevada Legislature recognized the Center for Basque Studies' research, publications, and library collections by passing a resolution to commemorate the Center's 40th Anniversary. The resolution was introduced by Nevada State

Assemblyman David Bobzien on May 7 in the Assembly Chambers, and later accepted by the Senate as well. Several staff and advisory board members attended the Assembly session and received a commemorative plaque with a copy of the signed resolution.

Book on history of Center presented

The University of Nevada Oral History Program and Center for Basque Studies held a reception and book presentation on November 14 for *A Candle in the Night: Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, 1967–2007*. The book includes interviews done by Pedro J. Oiarzabal of ten of the people most involved with the Center over its forty years of existence. The chroniclers are Gorka Aulestia, Jill Berner, Kate Camino, William A. Douglass, Joxe Mallea Olaetxe, Sandra Ott, Marcelino Ugalde, Carmelo Urza, Linda White, and Joseba Zulaika.

The director of the Oral History Program, Tom King, gave some opening remarks followed by co-directors of the CBS, Joseba Zulaika and Eric Herzik. William Douglass, founder and coordinator of the Basque Studies Program/Center for Basque Studies for its first thirty-three years, gave his insights into the origins of the program and acknowledged the contributions of the many who have been involved in its development. Pedro Oiarzabal then addressed the group and told about the creation of the book. Several interviewees were present to sign books for the guests.



Interviewer Pedro Oiarzabal with a copy of the Oral History Program publication, *A Candle in the Night*. (photo by A. Camus)

A Candle in the Night

In 1967 a small Basque studies program was established within the social sciences division of the University of Nevada's Desert Research Institute. As originally conceived, the program's purpose was to study the Basques (historically the foremost sheep tenders in the American West) as a key human element in the Great Basin ecosystem. At the time, no one imagined that such a modest, narrowly focused little undertaking could grow to become today's Center for Basque Studies, the leading research and educational institute of its kind outside the European Basque homeland.

A Candle in the Night chronicles the history of the Center, as remembered by many of those who were most important in its foundation and development. Within the context of this story, it also offers much valuable information about the Center's offspring. These include the vast Basque Library, which is the main repository of information about all things Basque for the English-speaking world; the Basque Book Series of the University of Nevada Press, one of the most successful ethnic series published by an academic press in the United States; and the University Studies Abroad Consortium, which, with a presence in twenty-five countries, is one of the largest programs of its kind in the world.

A Candle in the Night: Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, 1967–2007. Reno: UNOHP, 2007 (hardcover, 452 pages, illustrations, \$29.95) To order a copy, please contact the University of Nevada Oral History Program at 775.784.6932, or see their web site at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu>.

Highlights

Joseba Zulaika participated in a lecture series at the Community College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas April 5, with a lecture and discussion on "Waiting for Terror: The Self-Fulfilling Prophecies of Terrorism."

Dr. **Sandra Ott** attended the 53rd annual conference of the Society for French Historical Studies at the University of Houston, March 15–17, where she presented a paper entitled "The Philosophical Reflections and Mundane Concerns of a Nazi Officer," on the panel Wartime Writing: France during the Two World Wars.

An introductory course on Basque history and culture was given by **Gloria Totoricagüena** during the winter 2006–07 term at Stanford University. Topics included politics, economics, geography, cinema, and the Basque diaspora. Guest speakers included chef Gerard Hirigoyen of Piperade restaurant in San Francisco, and the Basque Government Councilor of Education, Tontxu Campos. Stanford Provost John Etchemendy served as the Stanford sponsoring professor.

Basque Ph.D. candidate **Argitxu Camus** was recognized for her outstanding scholarship in *Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for 2007. She was recognized at a ceremony and reception held at the University of Nevada, Reno on March 14, 2007.

A weekend class on Basques in the American West was offered by **Sandra Ott** in April on the Redfield Campus in Reno. Basque culture was explored from a variety of perspectives, from global to local, in the context of contemporary Western society.

Dr. **Zulaika** published an article, "Perdón," in Andrés Ortiz-Oses and Patxi Lanceros (eds.), *Diccionario de la Existencia* (Barcelona: Anthropos, 2007). He also published an article on "The Ruins of Theory and a Theory of Ruins: On Conversion," in the *Revista de Antropología Social* 2007 (15).

Alberto Irigoyen and **Adriana Patrón** of Uruguay visited the Basque Library for a week in January 2007, and while here assisted with the ongoing digitizing project. They converted several magazines and newspapers from the library's archives into digital format. *Eskerrik asko!*

Basque Ph.D. candidate **Juan Arana** published a review of *Oteiza: La vida como experimento* by Pilar Muñoz (Irún: Alberdania, 2006) in *Revista Internacional de Estudios Vascos*, 50.2. In the same journal, issue 51.1, Arana published an article on "The Convex and the Concave: The Feminine in Jorge Oteiza's Mythological Cosmogony."

The **Special Collections Department** of the University of Nevada Libraries launched a new website in March 2007, "Shepherders of Northern Nevada." It features more than 500 beautiful photographs of sheep ranching, Basque tree carvings, oral histories and interviews with herders in video and audio. It may be found at: <http://www.library.unr.edu/shepherders>.

On April 17, **Joseba Zulaika** participated in a roundtable at the Instituto Cervantes of New York on the book *Learning from the Bilbao Guggenheim*, edited by **Anna María Guasch** and Dr. Zulaika following a conference on that subject at the University of Nevada, Reno in April 2004. Discussants also included Dr. Guasch (Art History, Barcelona University); Keith Moxey (Barnard College); Beatriz Colomina (School of Architecture, Princeton University); and Hans Haake (artist, NY).

Idoya Salaburu Urruty, USA Representative for EuskoSare, visited the University on April 18 to interview the staff and visitors at the Center for Basque Studies in conjunction with the celebration of the CBS' 40th Anniversary. She produced several online articles throughout the year about the Center and its projects. EuskoSare is an initiative of Eusko Ikaskuntza, the Basque Studies Society, and promotes information exchange from and about Basques around the world.

In summer 2007, Dr. **Mari Jose Olaziregi** finished an M.A. in Studies in Fiction at the University of East Anglia (U.K.) with a dissertation on Ramon Saizarbitoria's *Rossetti's Obsession*.

In September, **Xabier Irujo** participated in a conference, "Beyond The Nation? Critical Reflections on Nations and Nationalism in Uncertain Times," at Queen's University in Belfast. He spoke on "Realpolitik: A Lesson from Gernika," in a panel on The Challenge of Basque Nationalism: 1.

Basque Literature Series editor **Mari Jose Olaziregi** reported that her compilation, *An Anthology of Basque Short Stories*, published in 2004 by the Center in English, was translated into Russian by Elena Zernova and published by St. Petersburg University Press. The Anthology has also been published in Italian, translated by Roberta Gozzi (Gran Via Edizioni, 2007). It was compiled and edited by Dr. Olaziregi and **Linda White**, and includes selections by noted Basque authors such as Bernardo Atxaga, J. Sarrionandia, H. Cano, A. Iturbe, and A. Lertxundi.

Prof. **Sandra Ott** was awarded the Millstone Prize of the Western Society for French History for her paper, "Gift-Giving and the Management of Justice: Borderland Basques under German Occupation (1942–1944) and during the Liberation." The \$500 prize is awarded to the best interdisciplinary paper presented at the annual conference.

Joseba Zulaika's book *ETAren Hautsa* (ETA's Ashes), published in Basque in 2006 by Alberdania, has now come out in a Spanish translation by Gerardo Markuleta entitled *Polvo de ETA*. The work is a lengthy essay on the historical significance of ETA for the author's generation.

In August, Dr. **Olaziregi** published the anthology *Six Basque Poets* (Todmorden (UK): Arc Publications), translated by Amaia Gabantxo. It includes poems by Bernardo Atxaga, Joseba Sarrionandia, Felipe Juaristi, Rikardo Arregi, Miren Agur Meabe, and Kirmen Uribe, and was launched at the Edinburgh Book Festival.

On September 17, Dr. **Sandra Ott** organized and convened a panel, "The FBI and Our Constitutional Rights—A Practical Approach," as part of the University of Nevada Constitution Day events. The panel featured Bob Gast, former FBI agent and Asst. Director of the FBI Laboratory in Washington, DC, and Krista Stanton, with Prof. Jim Richardson as moderator.

Joseba Zulaika participated in the Documenta 12 exhibit in Kassel, Germany, by giving a talk on "Bilbao and the Arts" sponsored by the art magazine *Brumaria* from Madrid. Each summer Documenta

(continued on page 9)

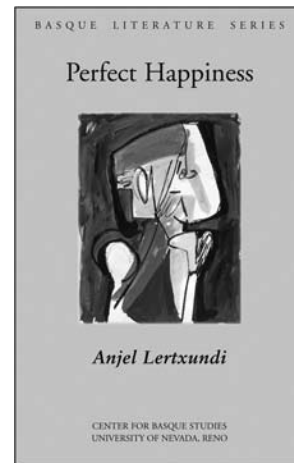
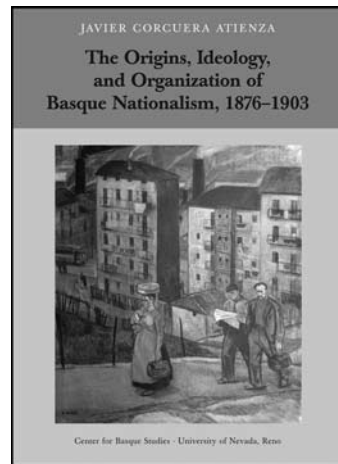
Publications from the Center — 2007

During the Durango Book Fair, an annual event in the Basque region, Joseba Zulaika presented the books published by the Center in 2007. The event took place December 3 at Euskaltzaindia in Bilbao. Authors Cameron Watson, Javier Corcuera, Anjel Lertxundi, David Río, and Pedro Oiarzabal also took part in the presentation, which was attended by the public and members of the media. For ordering information, please see page 12.

Javier Corcuera Atienza – *The Origins, Ideology, and Organization of Basque Nationalism, 1876–1903*

Translated by Albert Bork and Cameron J. Watson. (Occasional Papers Series, No. 12) 524 pp., paper, \$29.95

In this seminal work, Javier Corcuera charts the emergence and rise of nationalism within the context of a society experiencing tremendous economic, social, and political transformation. He focuses on the figure of Sabino Arana, the founder of Basque nationalism, arguing that he evolved from a traditionalist-inspired and quasi-religious messianic vision of outright independence to a position of accommodation of Basque difference within Spain. (Spanish version published by Siglo Veintiuno, 1979.)

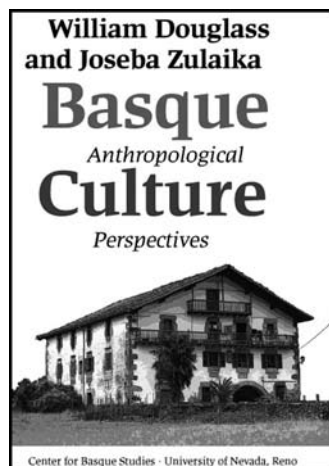


Anjel Lertxundi – *Perfect Happiness*

Translated by Amaia Gabantxo (Basque Literature Series, No. 4) 148 pp., paper, \$19.95

Perfect Happiness is a realist novella with lyrical overtones. It explores how witnessing a terrorist assassination affects a teenage girl's life

over a span of fourteen years. Against this backdrop Lertxundi explores one of his recurring themes: the relationship between art and death. It is an eloquent plea for the right to beauty and happiness and the importance of following one's conscience. (Basque version published by Alberdania, 2000.)



Cameron J. Watson – *Basque Nationalism and Political Violence: The Ideological and Intellectual Origins of ETA*

(Occasional Papers Series, No. 14) 332 pp., paper, \$29.95; hardcover, \$39.95

A historical account of how images of violence and warfare pervaded the discourse of Basque nationalism. This work views Basque political violence as the contemporary manifestation of a past cultural experience, based on a problematic dialogue with the emergence of modern Spain. Yet it does not limit its explanation of ETA's emergence to the Spanish context alone. Rather, it emphasizes the transnational context in which nationalist movements emerge and develop.

David Río – *Robert Laxalt: The Voice of the Basques in American Literature*

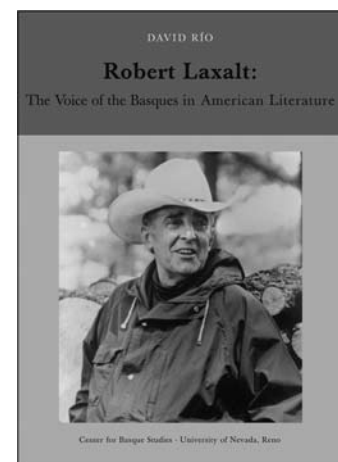
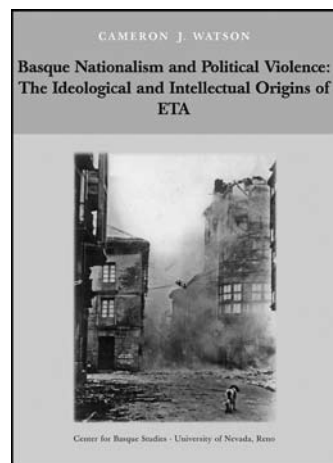
Translated by Kristin Addis. (Occasional Papers Series, No. 13) 192 pp., paper, \$24.95

This work focuses on the representation of the Basques in Robert Laxalt's literary work, with emphasis on the different themes, characters, and settings present in his books. Particular attention is paid to *Sweet Promised Land* and its legacy fifty years after its publication. (Spanish version published by Universidad del País Vasco, 2002)

William A. Douglass and Joseba Zulaika – *Basque Culture: Anthropological Perspectives*

(Basque Textbook Series) 535 pp., paper, \$19.95, hardcover, \$39.95

This textbook regarding Basque anthropology is intended for use in both the classroom and with online instruction. Co-authors Douglass and Zulaika are social anthropologists and each has served as director of the Center for Basque Studies. *Basque Culture: Anthropological Perspectives* incorporates the class notes of the two authors, compiled over several decades. It presents an overview of Basque prehistory, linguistics, and physical and social/cultural anthropology, illustrated in part by their personal experiences as anthropological fieldworkers and Basque scholars.



Highlights *(continued)*

exhibits the works of many international artists, including work in all media.

Mari Jose Olaziregi is a member of the Literature Research Committee of Euskaltzaindia (Royal Academy of the Basque Language) and director of the website on Basque literature, www.basqueliterature.com. The website provides information about contemporary Basque literature and collects translated samples of current Basque writers. Information regarding research, promotion, publications, or translations of Basque literature can be found in Basque, Spanish, French, and English.

Joseba Zulaika participated in an international conference on “Paths to Democracy: Constitutional Stories,” held September 25–27 at the Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington. His paper was entitled “Declining States and the Paradoxes of Constitutional Stories: The Spanish Case.”

Sandra Ott was interviewed live on the University’s KUNR Radio—“Wolf Pack Radio”—on October 10. She discussed the Center for Basque Studies, the Basque library, and her research on the Basques.

On October 18, **Joseba Zulaika** participated at the Universidad Iberoamericana of Puebla, Mexico in a panel on The Contemporary City, Humanity’s Heritage, and gave a lecture on “City Transformations through Cultural Events.” He also gave a lecture on October 19 on “The Bilbao Guggenheim: Ten Years Later” at the Casa LAMM in Mexico City, for students of a Master’s program in museums.

Dr. **Sandra Ott** gave the paper “Deserters, Defaulters, *Poilus* and their Families: Basques in the Great War,” at the 35th annual conference of the Western Society for French History held November 7–10 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Mari Jose Olaziregi presented a paper in November on “Lectura comparatista de las imágenes del ‘Otro’ en la obra de Atxaga” at the Fifth International Conference of Anilij, “On Identities,” in Leon, Spain. She also presented a research project proposal at the meeting that the Network of Researchers on Literature

for Children (LIJMI) held in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) September 10–13. The title of the proposal was “The Spanish Civil War and Literature for Children.”

Joseba Zulaika published an article entitled “From Dictatorship to Empire: The State of Exception as Rule” in Rob van Ginkel and Alex Strating, eds., *Wildness and Sensation: Anthropology of Sinister and Sensuous Realms* (Apeldoorn-Antwerpen: Het Spinhuis, 2007).

Xabier Irujo taught a seminar on Contemporary Basque Politics to 25 students at Boise State University, November 10–11.

On November 17, **Sandra Ott** presented a workshop for Washoe County school teachers on “Basques in the Sweet Promised Land.” Guest speakers included Linda and Carolyn Dufurrena, Florence Etcheberry Frye, and Louis and Lorraine Erreguible. **Kate Camino** also brought the Reno Basque Club dancers to perform at the workshop.

The Basque Hotel by **Robert Laxalt** has been translated into Spanish by **David Río**, philosophy professor at the University of the Basque Country (Vitoria-Gasteiz). A formal presentation of the book, *The Basque Hotel: Nacido en America* (Tarttalo), took place on October 30 in Donostia-San Sebastián.

In 2007, **Sandra Ott** received a second, generous Creative and Scholarly Activities Grant from the College of Liberal Arts for the continuation of her research on Franco-Basque-German relations during the Occupation. The grant funded a trip to Pau, France for archival work in the classified files of suspected collaborators.

David Río et al. have edited the book, *Exploring the American Literary West: International Perspectives* (Bilbao: Universidad del País Vasco, 2006). The essays emphasize the importance of considering the West and western writing in an international context. To order contact luxedito@lg.ehu.es.

In Fall 2007, the Center offered classes in Basque language by **Mari Jose Olaziregi**, Basque Cultural Studies by **Joseba Zulaika**, Modern Basque History by **Xabier Irujo**, and Basque Literature by **Mari Jose Olaziregi**.

David Río discusses Robert Laxalt’s work

Prof. David Río of the University of the Basque Country visited the center for two weeks in October and gave a talk on “Robert Laxalt: Fifty Years as ‘Mr. Basque’ in American Literature.” He discussed his book, *Robert Laxalt: The Voice of the Basques in American Literature* (Center for Basque Studies, 2007), which focuses on the representation of the Basques in Laxalt’s literary work, with emphasis on the different themes, characters, and settings present in his books. He later also presented an informal discussion centering on transatlantic readings of Robert Laxalt’s novels, especially *Sweet Promised Land*, sponsored by the English Department.

Río is a professor of North American literature at the Universidad del País Vasco in Vitoria-Gasteiz. His current area of research is the literature of the American West, and he has published several articles on this subject in European and North American journals.



J. Zulaika presents lectures in Spain

Prof. Joseba Zulaika gave several presentations in Spain during Spring 2007. In Gernika on April 27—the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Gernika by the Nazis’ Condor Legion—at the 17th International Convention on Culture and Peace, he spoke on “Gernika 2007, or the Crisis of Witnessing among Basques.”

On May 2, in Barcelona, he gave two lectures: “City Renewal by Architecture: The Bilbao Model” for the Transit Projects, and “Seductions, Asymmetries, Deferred Actions: The Bilbao Guggenheim Ten Years Later” at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. At the Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville, as part of a conference on “City and Image,” he presented “Architecture and Symbolism” on May 4.

He also addressed the Basque Academy in Bilbao on May 10 as part of their lecture series on Basque literature with a talk on “Lauaxeta, Etxebarrieta, Yoyes: The Transformations of the Basque Political Subject.”

Publications of Interest

Standard Basque: A Progressive Grammar
by Rudolf P. G. deRijk (Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 2007)

This modern pedagogically-oriented reference to the grammar of unified Basque (Euskara Batua) is organized in two sections: Part 1 presents detailed grammar lessons; Part 2 contains glosses and supplementary materials. In addition to information on the various dialects, the book includes thousands of example sentences and extensive vocabulary listings. Most chapters conclude with exercises. The book may be ordered from the MIT Press web site: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>.

This book was prepared for publication after the author's death by his wife, Virginia de Rijk-Chan (a former Asst. Coordinator of the Center), with Armand De Coene and Fleur Veraart and the assistance of linguists at Cornell University and Leiden University and the University of the Basque Country.

Un nuevo treinta y uno. Ideología y estrategia del Gobierno de Euzkadi durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial a través de la correspondencia de José Antonio Aguirre y Manuel Irujo

by Xabier Irujo Ametzaga (Bilbao: Fundación Sabino Arana, 2007).

This anthology of the correspondence between Manuel Irujo and José Antonio Aguirre, key political personalities during a deciding moment in the history of the Basque Country, allows the reader to examine and interpret the original historical sources as written by the protagonists themselves. The material outlines the political strategy of the Government of Euzkadi during the period from 1939 up until 1955, when the Franco regime gained acceptance by the United Nations.

Events presented for anniversary of Gernika bombing

The bombing and destruction of the Basque town of Gernika was an aerial attack on April 26, 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, by the German Luftwaffe squadron known as the Condor Legion. It was, at the time, the largest aerial bombardment of a town. On the 70th anniversary of this important event in Basque history and heritage, the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center organized several events, including the screening of *The Mark of Man* by historian Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal; presentations on the history of the bombing, given by Gloria Totoricagüena; and a commemorative oak tree planting ceremony at Sister Cities Park in South San Francisco.

The University of Nevada, Reno also marked the anniversary. The Basque Library, directed by interim librarian Nere Erkiaga, exhibited

a display in Getchell Library with photos and information on the Gernika bombing. A seminar/discussion on "The Resolution of Political Conflict" was presented on May 3, with Dr. Pedro Ibarra (Dept. of Political Science, University of the Basque Country) and 2006–2007 William A. Douglass Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Basque historian Dr. Xabier Irujo of the Center for Basque Studies. Dr. Irujo explained the history of the bombing of Gernika by the Nazis during the Spanish Civil War, and Dr. Ibarra discussed later development of the Basque conflict as Basque nationalism gained momentum in the post-war era. They then opened a discussion of the theories and experiences of political conflict resolution, especially with relation to the Basque conflict.

Basque Studies lectures presented by visiting scholars

On March 2, José Antonio Campos, Minister of Education, Universities, and Research of the Basque Government, spoke on "Trilingual Education in the Basque Country and the Policies for Maintaining an Endangered Language." He discussed the options available to students in the Basque Country for electing the language(s) of instruction for their schooling: Basque, Spanish, and/or English. Dr. Campos is a member of the Center's Advisory Board.

Pedro Ibarra, the 2006–07 William Douglass Visiting Distinguished Scholar, gave a presentation on April 3 on "Democracy in the Basque Country." Dr. Ibarra is a professor of political science at the University of the Basque Country. His discussion centered on attempts to devise a new proposal from the theoretical debate about democracy.

Dr. Zesar Martínez, Professor of Sociology at the University of the Basque Country, presented a lecture on "Civil Society and Democratic Participation in the Basque Country" on April 25. He discussed how Basque civil society has shifted from a strong capacity for mobilization in such areas as recovery of the language, to progressive demobilization as public institutions and political parties have taken on these issues.

On April 30, Dr. Carmelo Moreno del Rio, Professor of Political Science, University of the Basque Country, gave a presentation on "Political Humor in the Basque Country." He described how the polarization and disruption in Basque politics over the last few decades have made it difficult to introduce political humor in the media.

Dr. Miguel Calvo, professor of Geography and Cartography of the University of the Basque Country, spoke on "Spain and the Basque Country: An Overview of the European Area of Higher Education" on July 18. He discussed establishment of the EAHE agreements signed by European Ministers of Education to make European higher education more comparable, and more competitive for Europeans and other scholars. Dr. Calvo's visit was sponsored by the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

On August 2, visiting scholar Asier Barandiaran of the Dept. of Philology, University of Navarre, spoke on "Bertsolaritza in the United States." He received a Begoña Aretxaga Travel Stipend from the Center to research maintenance of oral traditions and *bertsolaritza* (Basque improvised oral poetry) by Basque immigrants to the U.S.

Study Abroad in the Basque Country



Where are YOU going?

With more than 25 years of experience and roots in the Basque Country, you can be sure you have someone to turn to for quality study abroad programs. The University Studies Abroad Consortium sends over 2,500 students abroad each year on USAC programs. Students from over 700 universities worldwide have participated in these accredited academic programs. Enrollment is on the rise as more students recognize the importance and benefits of a study abroad experience. **Don't miss this opportunity—get your application in early!**

*USAC San Sebastián students
enjoy the Basque coast.*

Pau, France

French and European Studies

Fall 2008: September–December

Spring 2009: January–April

Summer 2008: Session I (5 weeks), Session II (4 weeks)

Courses offered: Intensive French language, literature, culture, cuisine, history, internship, government and politics, photography, Camino de Santiago, and more.

Field Trips: Paris, Pyrénées, Bordeaux, Mauvezin, Toulouse, French and Spanish Basque Country.

Lodging: Homestays or university residence halls.

Bilbao/Getxo, Spain

International Business, Spanish, and Cultural Studies

Fall 2008: August–December

Spring 2009: January–May

Summer 2008: Session I (3 weeks), Session II (3 weeks)

Courses offered: Intensive Spanish language, Spanish and Basque culture, international business, economics, art history, internship, dance, cuisine, political science, and more.

Field Trips: Madrid, Burgos, French and Spanish Basque Country.

Lodging: Homestays or apartments.

San Sebastián, Spain

Spanish and Basque Studies

Fall 2008: August–December

Spring 2009: January–May

Summer 2008: Session I (5 weeks), Session II (4 weeks)

Courses offered: Intensive Spanish and Basque language, culture, art history, dance, cuisine, cinema, history, Camino de Santiago, and more.

Field Trips: Madrid, Burgos, French and Spanish Basque Country.

Lodging: Homestays or apartments.

Camino de Santiago Field Study in Session II 2008

(1 credit): Pau, France; Alicante, Madrid, San Sebastián, Spain. Students will examine the history and culture associated with the famous pilgrimage that dates from the Middle Ages. Classroom sessions during Session II and the 60-mile hike itself will be the two components of this unique field study. Breakfast, picnic lunch, and lodging are included in the additional fee of \$720.

University Studies Abroad Consortium

University of Nevada, Reno / MS 0323

Reno, NV 89557-0323

Toll-free: 866.404.USAC

Phone: 775.784.6569

Fax: 775.784.6010

Email: usac@unr.edu

Website: <http://usac.unr.edu>



USAC offers 37 programs in 25 countries: Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and Thailand.



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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, Nevada
Permit No. 26

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit our web site at: <http://basque.unr.edu>

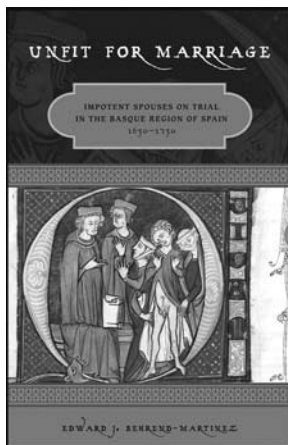
From the Basque Book Series

Published by the University of Nevada Press

Edward Behrend-Martínez – *Unfit for Marriage: Impotent Spouses on Trial in the Basque Region of Spain, 1650–1750*
224 pages, hardcover, \$34.95

Transcripts of seventeenth-century impotency trials conducted by the ecclesiastical court of Calahorra in La Rioja—an area incorporating both Basque and Castilian populations and including urban and rural parishes—provide insights into the dynamics of daily marital life and the role that property, gender, and personal preference played in marriage.

* * *



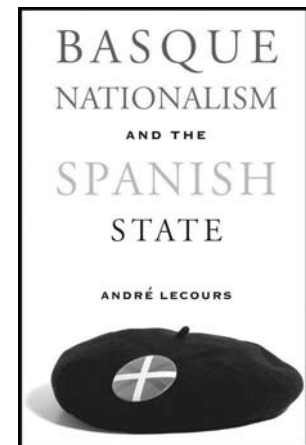
Robert Laxalt – *Sweet Promised Land*. 50th Anniversary Edition
Foreword by Ann Ronald
207 pages, paper, \$18.00; hardcover, \$29.95

Dominique Laxalt left the French Pyrenees at sixteen for America, where he became a shepherd in the Nevada desert. Like his fellow Basque immigrants, he dreamed of someday returning to the land of his beginnings. *Sweet Promised Land* is the story of his eventual return, told by his son Robert, who accompanied him to the pastoral mountain village of Tardets in France.

* * *

André Lecours – *Basque Nationalism and the Spanish State*
256 pages, hardcover, \$34.95

Basque nationalism has been extensively examined from the perspectives of Basque culture and internal conditions in the Basque Country, but André Lecours is among the first to demonstrate how Basque nationalism was shaped by the many forms and historical phases of the



Spanish state. His discussion employs historical institutionalism, and it includes an up-to-date examination of recent events such as ETA's announcement in 2006 of a permanent cease-fire.

Ordering information:

To order Center for Basque Studies and University of Nevada Press materials, you may contact the University of Nevada Press:
Phone (Reno, NV, USA): 877.682.6657
Online: www.unpress.nevada.edu