
Joyas de la pedagogía local *Gems of local pedagogy*

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Resumen: Este trabajo, surgido como resultado de la evaluación final de la asignatura Figuras del magisterio de la lengua y la literatura en Guantánamo, recoge en sus páginas parte de una investigación encaminada a revelar la importante labor desplegada por un colectivo de especialistas de lengua y literatura en la provincia. Devenido libro electrónico, es un digno reconocimiento a quienes consagraron su vida en el ejercicio del magisterio. Es interés de sus autores que sirva para elevar el nivel de motivación de aquellos que hoy se inclinan por la especialidad Español-Literatura.

Palabras clave: Lengua y literatura; Guantánamo; Figuras del magisterio; Español- Literatura

Abstract: This paper is the result of the final evaluation of the subject *Figures of the teaching of the language and the literature in Guantánamo*; it summarizes in its pages part of an investigation guided to reveal the important work deployed by a community of specialists of the language and the literature in the county. The research, become electronic book, is a worthy recognition to those who consecrated their life in the teaching exercise. It is the authors' interest that the paper serves to enhance the motivation level of the learners of the specialty Spanish-literature.

Keywords: Language and literature; Guantánamo; Teachers; Literature in Spanish

Introduction

It has always been a concern of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Cuba to teach the mother language as a transversal axis of any curriculum, and the graduates of Education, especially those of the Spanish-Literature specialty have excelled in the fulfillment of this objective.

There are many people in the province of Guantánamo who with their wisdom and dedication contributed and contribute nowadays their knowledge in the fulfillment of this purpose.

Addressing the history and trajectory of many education professionals, especially those who have devoted a lifetime to the teaching of language and literature, constitutes a major challenge for young people and for other professionals in the province, since it allows knowing the transcendental value and the work developed by these specialists. It is also a fair recognition to all those who in a way have contributed to the development of pedagogy in general, and to didactics in particular, for the contributions provided and their valuable experiences.

Development

In the province of Guantánamo, professionals in the teaching of language and literature have stood out who have been able to defend the characteristics of the language with which we communicate: its grammar, its phonetics, its usefulness and how to preserve it. All with the intention of inculcating the sensitivity for literature and training professionals capable of developing a deep work in the different teachings.

The teaching of language and literature has among the objectives of its programs, to convert students into active readers; hence, each teacher is concerned about the efficient achievement of this, taking into account that if we make reading a daily exercise, we will be contributing to the accumulation of knowledge that we can extract from the books and make of students better human beings, with greater ability to understand the world around them and to make judgments and assessments on any subject addressed in any circumstance in which they find themselves.

That is the commitment we have as professionals, faithful followers of the language of Cervantes, and that the group of teachers below has met efficiently, in a way that they have left indelible marks in their work to the generations with whom they have worked.

It is then necessary to ask: who are these teachers? What did these intellectuals who enjoy such prestige do?

The invitation is open to know who they are from reading these pages.

Maura Esther Heredia Alcolea (1935-1996), elementary school teacher and graduate of the upper secondary level in Spanish and Literature.

Since before the Revolution Triumph in Cuba, she began a work in which she preached with her example in defending the freedom and sovereignty of Cuba, and particularly of her native town. He was a fighter of the Rebel Army and served in the Clandestine Movement in Guantánamo. She was in charge of transferring weapons to the combatants, and she supported the care of the wounded and sick. She also taught the rebels for their language improvement. Her entire family, especially her brothers and her mother were incorporated into the same insurrectionary struggle.

With the Revolutionary Triumph she started to work in the post office of Cuba and to continue defending the noble cause of the Revolution she joined in 1961 to the Literacy Campaign. As a volunteer teacher she carried out her educational work in different centers of the former province of Oriente. Regional Head of Education, Spanish methodology at Niceto Pérez, professor and head of the department of this specialty at the Higher Pedagogical Institute. Her contributions to primary education, to adult education and to the methodology of teaching her mother language are worthy of recognition.

She was founder of the "Raúl Gómez García" Higher Pedagogical Institute (I.S.P in spanish) where she taught to generations of teachers in training, including her activities in the old teaching center of Baracoa. She supervised multiple student scientific works and was a member of the panel for concluding exams and defense of diplomas.

For her educational, integral and revolutionary work, she was credited with significant recognitions such as Rebel Army Combatant Medal, Cuban Education Distinction, "Rafael María de Mendive" Medal, 30th and 40th anniversary medals of the FAR Ministry, and her integrality was evident in her capacity as founder of the Communist Party of Cuba in Guantánamo and Medal of the Federation of Cuban Women. We eternally thank her and the Niceto Perez municipality for producing such a worthy educator, the House of the Educator in tha municipality is named after her.

Eloína Romero Ramírez, a native of the Yateras municipality farm Mosquito, was born on December 4, 1947, completed her first studies at the Jesús Rabí School until the 6th grade. In 1962, at the call of Fidel Castro Ruz, she went with only 12 years to work in a school that was named Los Mayitos, in Havana, where she taught to read and write children and young

people who had been orphaned during the revolutionary struggle. She stayed there until the year 69 when she returned to Guantánamo due to illness. From 1970 to 1977 she worked at Yateras as a teacher and as a methodologist of the 1st and 3rd grades. From 1977 to 1978 in the municipal education directorate of Guantánamo as an inspector. From 1978 to 1979 in the municipal management of children's circles as an early age methodologist. From 1979 to 1982 she worked in the basic high school Rafael Orejón as a teacher of Spanish language. From the year 1982 to the 1990s she served in the basic secondary Sergio Eloy Correa as professor of Spanish and Head of Department.

From 1990 to 2006 she worked at the Hermanos Tudela basic secondary school as a Spanish-Literature teacher, chair of the department, head of the department, and student coach for admission to the vocational Institute of Exact Sciences. She once expressed that for her the teaching art was everything, unfortunately she retired due to illness of her parents.

Another of the faithful followers of Cervantes is the illustrious **Vicente Guerra Olivares**, who was born on April 23, 1950. His love for reading allowed him to obtain certain knowledge to participate in 1961, with only 11 years of age, in the literacy campaign. In 1965 he began to study the major of primary teacher that ended in 1970 as a graduate of the Makarenko guild.

He started working in primary school in Havana with all grades. In 1972 he moved to Guantánamo, and worked in the secondary schools Pedro Agustín Pérez and Regino Eladio Boti as a Geography teacher.

Upon the inauguration of the Teacher Training School, he began working there as a Geography teacher until 1980, graduating as a Spanish-Literature teacher in the School, and went on to work at the Instituto Superior Pedagógico (ISP in Spanish) for 25 years as a Spanish -Literature teacher until 2005.

During his performance in the ISP he directed the Literature discipline collective, he was a member of the department's scientific commission, he led the universalization process when this program had its beginnings, task that he developed with an extreme quality. His

passion for reading and writing was so strong that he became a member of the Hermanos Sainz writers Association.

After his retirement he dedicated himself to caring for fish from tropical waters and this is what he continues to do today. He exhorts the students who study the Spanish-Literature major to study and do not waste time, to take advantage of their youth so that they can graduate, to take masters and doctorates.

The sudden disappearance of **Luis Armando Chuey Hernández**, el Chino, on August 21, 2008, was a severe blow for the ISP, where he had worked for more than two decades and for the entire community of professors at Guantánamo, since this professor was dedicated in body and soul to the teaching of Literary Theory and Spanish Literature.

He obtained the category of Auxiliary Teacher with excellent qualification, he was a member of the diverse panels of culmination of studies, for change of category, as well as of defense of master's thesis; he taught and achieved the improvement of very good quality in the territory and offered postgraduate courses for the personnel of department and professors of the province.

During the universalization stage, he prepared programs and guides for the different years of his major. He visited the Imías, Baracoa, El Salvador and Caimanera municipalities to control this activity and provide methodological aid activities with the purpose of promoting the development of teachers from the province. He belonged to the quality team board and attended the process of universalization within the department. He served as president of the scientific commission and as a member of the faculty scientist board.

Lourdes Gan Fat, educator for more than 32 years, dedicated to the profession since she began her studies in 1968 at the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Santiago de Cuba, in the specialty of Spanish-Literature.

For her integrality, both personally and professionally, she taught different subjects such as: Spanish, Didactics, General Linguistics, Spanish Phonetics and Phonology, Spanish Grammar, Contemporary Spanish Language, Integral Spanish Language Practice, etc.

For her responsibility, she was the head of the collective of the year, accumulating unforgettable experiences, among which stand out: participation in student scientific

conferences, tutoring and panel of studies culmination acts and extracurricular work assessor.

For her, all her incessant work is reflected in the emotion she experienced when she was appointed as a guide teacher for several years. Already retired her brightness, example and knowledge are still contagious as she advises future teachers in training to study, to self-prepare and to live to enjoy the profession.

Nancy María Aladro Alonso, who thanks life for having been able to devote so many years to the work of teaching, remembers with great joy her students, who have graduated to help the Revolution as teachers, and she is glad to help the University of Guantánamo to be accredited.

Professor Nancy is a symbol of tenderness, respect, charisma, disinterest, among other pleasant things that she always carries with her. One of the most exciting moments lived was when the Federation of University Students gave her the Golden Chalk Award.

Adriana Heredia Goire, from the Pedagogical University Center Manuel Ascunce Domenech, was a member of the First Educative Platoon in 1972 when she joined the teaching staff at the request of the Second Congress of Youth. She was an assistant student at the subsidiary center of Veguitas 3 in Manzanillo, Granma province. She made her first year at the basic secondary school in campo1, in Niceto Pérez. She participated in scientific works about the life and work of José Martí because she was very studious of his great work. She was very respected by her colleagues due to her humbleness, simplicity, and sincerity.

A bearer of the leading light in the formation of graduates in Spanish-Literature until her death in 1995, her example is present in the teaching of literature, because of that peculiar way that characterized her, by her vast knowledge that turned into a bibliographical source of obligatory consultation by all.

María Catalina Leyva Caballero worked initially in primary school, in rural schools, and then worked as a Spanish methodologist at the Institute for Educational Improvement (IPE) of Guantánamo.

Her contributions to primary education, to adults and to the methodology of teaching the mother language are worthy of recognition. She was tutor of multiple student scientific works and participated in the state exams. For her educational, integral and revolutionary work, she was credited with significant recognitions such as the Distinction for Cuban Education and the medal Rafael María de Mendive.

Although she is currently enjoying retirement at home, she continues to work as an educator for the new generations.

Julia Esther Tavera Cambrón was born on August 17, 1941 in Guantánamo. She completed her first studies at the Narciso López primary school, today called Josué País. Of very low social origin, black, poor, and with very few resources since her father was a tobacco worker and her mother a housewife, she had to sacrifice a lot to finish studies.

In 1961, when Fidel Castro called for the literacy campaign, she entered the guild of the glorious Conrado Benítez brigade and arrived in Varadero the same day that the invaders attacked Playa Girón. For her outstanding work, she was awarded the following distinctions: diploma for maintaining an outstanding attitude in the schooling test; diploma for having satisfactorily passed the reading circle course for primary school teachers; diploma for having worked for five to ten years as pioneer guide; certificate of honor for voluntarily integrating the development platoon of the Guantánamo region; literacy diploma.

She collaborated in the Institute of Educational Improvement (IPE) for five years voluntarily as an activist in the primary teacher training courses, and was awarded diplomas for her outstanding work in this center.

She worked at the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Guantánamo as a Spanish teacher in the Language Practice Department, and she supervised multiple courses and thesis works.

In 1978 she went on to secondary school at the Haydeé Tamara Bunke secondary school where she worked for ten years, receiving recognition as a prominent worker, pedagogical activist, advanced worker of the five-year period, diploma for five consecutive years of assistance to the school plan in the field of languages.

For 36 years, this professional woman has worked hard as a teacher in the training of young people and adolescents. She is currently retired.

María Caridad Soto Jay was born on October 3, 1948 in the city of Guantánamo. She studied at a small school in her neighborhood, and then joined the school called Flor Crombet intermediate school. After finishing primary school, she continued her studies at the Pedro Agustín Pérez High School.

She represented the region in a contest of monitors as a contestant, occasion in which our Commander in Chief exhorted them to pursue a higher level career due to the lack of existing teachers at that time.

She decided to study the pedagogical major when she finished 12th grade. In the Universidad de Oriente she obtained, in the first year, a very good result, in the second she was selected assistant student. She was an active member of the students' brigade José Antonio Echevarría, and worked in the radio base of the same university.

She belonged to a group of propaganda agitation of the specialty and was given the opportunity to interview to various Cuban personalities. At the end of her studies she had already been selected as a member of the Union of Young Communists and at the graduation she was selected as a special graduate student for the results achieved.

In the 1980-1981 academic years she returned to her hometown and was assigned to work in the Higher Pedagogical Institute, where she worked as a teacher and served as pedagogical teacher adviser in the rectory office, serving in 15 departments and union sections.

After five years of work at the institution, she was asked to become head of the department of Art Education and she managed to get her faculty at that time to hold the best festival of amateur artists ever, for which she was recognized at the different times. On two occasions she was a member of the National Jury for the Regino Eladio Boti contest.

She delivered lectures about the specialty, participated as a panel member of scientific events, received awards for her scientific works, taught different postgraduate majors at various universities in the country and represented the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Guantánamo and the province in a political and cultural event in Havana.

The outstanding pedagogue **Ramiro Rojo Rivera** was born on January 12, 1944 in Caimanera and died on December 4, 2008. His family were mostly fishermen and salineros,

his father was a worker at the Guantánamo naval base, his mother a humble housewife. He was very poor and humble.

His first studies he studied in public and private schools. He graduated in Santiago de Cuba in the specialty of Phylology. When the Revolution triumphed, he joined with the whole family in the process and he became a literacy teacher in the Sierra Maestra.

He was a collaborator of the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Guantánamo, provincial methodologist of technical and professional education. He worked in the pre-university institutes in the field "Manuel Gómez Reyes" and "Eleno Borges", in the school of arts "Regino Eladio Boti", in the Institute of Exact Sciences José Maceo and the economy school "Capitán Asdrúbal López Vázquez.

He fulfilled internationalist mission in Benin, Africa, in the year 1986 until 1989. He was instructor of those who alphabetized in the literacy crusade in Nicaragua in the years 1979-1980. Once retired, he returned to the art school, to the library, because, in addition to his work as a teacher, he was also a methodologist and instructor; he stands out as a writer of poetry and short stories, some of his short stories have been published.

He cultivated emotional ties with the seventh arts, he was the founder of the Guantánamo film club, participating as a lecturer with his research works with which he won several awards, he also collaborated as a jury in such events.

He was also the founder of the Revolutionary National Militias in Guantánamo and the literary workshops of the José Martí Cultural Association. He was a militant of the Communist Party of Cuba, a member of the Association of Young Rebels, and of the Union of Young Communists; He won the medal "Raúl Gómez García" for his unconditional dedication to work for Cuban culture.

Justa Ramírez Wilson, a Cuban friend, sister, partner and above all, a teacher.

Being almost a girl, she began her studies as a primary teacher in Minas del Frío, the place where the major began. As soon as she graduated, she was located in the municipality of El Salvador, first as a teacher and then as a methodologist, a position she held until her death.

With a vast and complete preparation, she knew how to instill in her students and subordinates that knowledge that characterized her, cheerful in the moments that she should

be and strong when the occasion deserved it, she was fair, which represented the true meaning of her name, because at all times she was very human.

She is remembered in the exam of graduation and the exams for admission to the Institute of Exact Sciences José Maceo, to access higher education, in municipal and provincial meetings, in methodological aid staffs, in short, as a champion and defender of language and literature.

Lidilia Milanés Pérez was an example of a mother and teacher. Bayamesa and Guantanamera: her two qualifiers. She arrived in Guantánamo to fulfill her social service, and that degree of responsibility that characterized caused her not to return to her homeland anymore.

BA in Spanish and Literature since 1984, member of the Municipal Bureau of the Party in Niceto Perez, secretary of the block of the Federation of Cuban Women of its radius of action, member of the Communist Party, outstanding CDR member and many other responsibilities made her a creditor of multiple decorations and incentives.

She finished her work at the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Guantánamo, in the Literary Studies group. She is currently retired and continues to be an example for everyone.

Martha Ferrer Naples, was an example of modesty, simplicity and, above all, love of the profession. Martica, as she is affectionately called, always had as her motto that the teacher of language and literature should have a strong preparation, and she is an example of this. She was graduated as a primary teacher, then a high school teacher and a graduate in Spanish and Literature.

She fulfilled a national mission on the Isle of Youth, teaching the mother language to foreigners. She is one of those who endure for her work, for her dedication, for life.

María Esther Figueras Fullea, like the previous, is other woman considered one of the Marianas of these times. Most of her brothers also chose this noble and simple profession and knew how to defend our country from the oppressive yoke.

Her classmates and students remember her with great pleasure for the years she served as director of Rafael Orejón Forment secondary school, an arduous stage in the formation of new generations.

Nuria Menéndez Fernández belonged to the Popular Teachers movement. She started working in primary school as a fill in for a maternity leave. In 1964 she went to Regino Eladio Boti secondary school, also for a maternity leave, and then she was transferred to Rafael Orejón secondary school.

After working for several years at the Pedro A. Pérez secondary school, the director asked her to pass to the Rubén Batista Pre-University Institute (IPU), where she became a professor of Spanish and Literature and chair of that specialty for many years. There she earned the respect of students and teachers for their demand and quality of the twelve graders learning. She shared with her students the agricultural work during the farming schools in the mountains.

Once the IPU disappeared, she went to work in the Institute of Educational Improvement (IPE), from where she contributed to the training of teachers, being also the head of the Spanish - Literature discipline.

Her last years of working life were at the Higher Pedagogical Institute Raúl Gómez García of Guantánamo, first as Grammar teacher in the Language department of the Faculty of Humanities, and then, at the request of the rectory, head of the collective of Grammar in the Faculty of Early Childhood Education, where she retired.

She strongly encouraged the movement of monitors, fought academic fraud, and helped her students to acquire not only knowledge but also training in human and ethical values. She considers that the relationship of the teacher with the student should be of camaraderie and that the basis of respect teacher professor depends a lot on the attitude of the teacher, their academic preparation and not to admit any kind of bribery. Being an example means discipline, punctuality, concern for her bearing and appearance without exaggeration, active participation in tasks, commitment.

Luis Elías Álvarez Cardet, of humble family, revolutionary, devoted to ethical and patriotic principles, which is evidenced by the death of his brother who was murdered for being a revolutionary. From an early age he was inclined towards teaching. During his professional work he went through different teaching levels and obtained good results.

His first years of experience were at the Andrés González Lines primary school as a teacher of the second cycle, and then he moved to the polytechnic of El Salvador where he worked as a methodologist, chairman, deputy director, collaborator of the municipal and provincial methodologist, and advisor to the students of the major.

At the Higher Pedagogical Institute Raúl Gómez García de Guantánamo he taught the subject Practice of the Spanish language, was tutor of the students of the major at the different municipalities. He held positions in the union and actively participated in the different activities.

He retired at the age of 60, satisfied with his work performance and the gratitude of his students who, in one way or another, and helped him fulfill his dream vocation.

A recommendation he usually gives to students is to prepare each day and feel love for their profession.

Arelis Ross is one of the professors of the Pedagogical Institute Raúl Gómez García of Guantánamo, already retired. She was born on June 15, 1942 and served as a teacher for 30 years. She participated in the literacy campaign where she took her first steps in teaching, and that showed her the path to her professional career as a Spanish-Literature teacher.

Conclusions

The paper intends to honor the memory of those teachers who, in the performance of their exercise, enhanced the teaching of the language and literature profession in Guantánamo to higher levels, and contributed to the training of many of the generations of doctors, engineers and other education professionals in Cuba. The very specialty that today represents and leads the destinies of Cuban society as faithful followers of our traditions is Spanish Language and Literature.

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