Dear friends,

Time flies! Eight weeks into our fall semester of 2012, all of our students are fully involved in the academic, cultural and social activities through which they’re trying to fulfill their goals. Their midterm exams and assignments have been completed and we’re already starting to look into their last few weeks with us.

This coming weekend —November 9th-11th— we’re all travelling to the small town of Chefchaouen, in the mountainous Rif region of northern Morocco, for a three-day visit, which will include a one-day workshop with local students on audiovisual creativity. The workshop’s been organized by Rubén Díaz, professor of the ‘Spanish Skills in Context: Podcast Reporting’ course and by Abdenour Boukhami, director of the Andee Foundation and a well known social activist in his country. Additionally, our young Moroccan friends will accommodate us in the homes of their respective families, which I’m sure will add to the wonderful experiences that lay ahead of us.

During this first part of the semester, our core and elective courses have, as usual, included activities, site visits and guest lectures of great interest. A couple of weeks ago, students of the core course ‘Magazine Reporting and Writing’ were guests at ‘Onda Cerebral’, the radio station that broadcasts from the psychiatric hospital of Seville’s main penitentiary. You can hear the podcast here. The patients that run this unique radio station debated all sorts of issues with the students, from Spain’s penitentiary system to the American presidential elections though, most importantly, they also shared the story of their lives and their hopes for the future.

The renown journalist Sandra Camps, director of the Radio Nacional de España program ‘En Primera Persona’, held a talk with students of the course ‘Spanish Skills in Context: Podcast Reporting’ about mass media and social compromise. We hope to count on Sandra from now on
as a regular collaborator of the CNMJ program. Likewise, the students of the course ‘Digital and Visual Culture in Contemporary Spain’ visited the studio of graffiti artist Seleka.

Juan Carlos Blanco, Director of the newspaper El Correo de Andalucía and professor of the course ‘The Metamorphosis of News and Media from Gutenberg to Zuckerberg’ invited his students to the newsroom of the newspaper for a session with the team that manages their digital version.

In the editorial front, we’re now fully involved in the creation of the 19th issue of the magazine más+menos, devoted this time to Art in the public space. Our contributors are conducting interviews, checking sources, taking pictures and exploring places in order to complete their different articles and features.

We’re pleased that our professor Rubén Díaz and his colleagues (and our collaborators) of the Zemos98 team have just presented a new and exiting book, Educación Expandida, which is an open debate about the space where digital culture, non-formal education and social activism meet.

And just yesterday, a few of students and professors of the CNMJ program were amongst the audience at the event Código Fuente Audiovisual presented as part of Seville’s European Film Festival by the professor of the course ‘New Media and Audiovisual Production Workshop’, Felipe Gil.

These are some of our stories so far. To hear more please don’t forget to visit the blog of our study center, or you can always contact me for more information about your students or about our projects and activities.

Best,

Óscar Ceballos