



Spring 2010

## Newsletter Spring 2010

Hispanic Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

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## DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

**Editor's Note:** Hola! This newsletter aims to keep faculty, students and alumni up to date of our activities and achievements. We would like to encourage you to contact us with any news that you would like to share. Please email us at [hispanic@iwu.edu](mailto:hispanic@iwu.edu), don't forget to list what year you graduated!  
Saludos, Christina Isabelli

This has been another very productive year for our Department. During Fall 2009 we had a variety of events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. We sponsored the screening of the Emmy Award-winning documentary about sweatshop workers in Los Angeles, *Made in LA* where our students had the opportunity to meet the producer/director **Almudena Carracedo** and discuss the screening. **Arturo García**, Instructor of Spanish, organized a friendly soccer mini-tournament (*liguilla*) with a great turn out from the local Hispanic community and IWU students. And we concluded with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration Dinner celebrating the Latino Community of Bloomington-Normal.

Mark your calendars! At Homecoming next fall 2010, the Department of Hispanic Studies and Sigma Delta Pi will celebrate their 10th anniversaries with a cocktail reception in the new Joslin Atrium. Please join faculty, students and other alums on Saturday, October 9th, at 4pm. We'll have photos of students and events throughout the years. In fact, if you have photos you would like to include please send them to [HispanicStudiesHomecoming@gmail.com](mailto:HispanicStudiesHomecoming@gmail.com). Hope you can make it. We look forward to seeing you at our 10th anniversary celebration!!

### Current Student Activities:

- Our *Hispanic Studies Outstanding Senior* award this year went to **Erin Bradley** and **Monica Shah**.
- Special recognition goes to the following students for presenting their original research at this year's John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference: **Patricia Troxell** "Barriers to Accessing the US Health Care System for Hispanics"; **Kelsey Farrell** "Hypertension and Hispanics: Lower Incidence or Missing Data?"; **Brooke Stevens** "Prevention and Maintenance of Diabetes in the Hispanic Community"; and **Cassie Devore**, "Diagnosis of Depression among Hispanic Individuals: Appropriate Methods and Measures." These students were in **Prof. Carolyn Nadeau's** "Span 230: Medical Spanish and Cultural Competency for Health Care."
- **Monica Shah** was the recipient of a Sigma Delta Pi, National Hispanic Honorary Society, summer scholarship for study in Cuernavaca, Mexico at the *Universidad Internacional/The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies*. The award includes the cost of registration, tuition, room and meals for four weeks. Congratulations!
- This winter **Phillip Lewis** and **Alex Monzon** participated in the *Bent Elementary School* "Recess Readers" program. During 5 weeks they met with elementary school bilingual students over their lunch hour and read books with the students. Alex will also be the new host of Radio Latino on WESN 88.1 FM.
- **Celina Mendoza** interned with the new radio program *Dilo en español* on WJBC AM.

### Current Student Activities (cont.):

- **Kathy Woods** (2012) spent the Spring semester in the Dominican Republic. The CIEE newsletter talks about how she and other students responded to the Haiti earthquake by participating in collection drives for food, medicine, and blood and by volunteering their time to the local branch of the Red Cross. Kathy also participated in several excursions, including one to the colonial section of Santo Domingo.
- In **Prof. Carolyn Nadeau's** "Span 310: Special Topics in Literature", students presented creative interpretations of a literary work they studied during the semester. In his original poem "Aquí", **Bryn Saunders** (2012) pays homage to some of his favorite authors, especially José Martí.

**Aquí** - Bryn Saunders  
Aquí viven en mis *Versos*  
*Sencillos*: palabras de la  
verdad, en todos versos, aquí  
Borges, Darío y Martí

En este poema, aquí  
Sinéresis, sinécdoque  
En estas palabras de mí  
Borges, Darío y Martí

Y para todos, para ti  
Algo sencillo, la verdad  
Todos en los versos de mí  
Borges, Darío y Martí

### Faculty/Staff Activities:

- In the summer of 2009 **Prof. Carolyn Nadeau** participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seminar titled "*Celestina* and the Threshold of Modernity." The five-week program was held at The University of Virginia in Charlottesville and directed by E. Michael Gerli, Commonwealth Professor of Hispanic Studies. In the fall she presented the paper, "Early Modern Spanish Cookbooks: The Curious Case of Diego Granado," at the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery in England.
- During the summer of 2010 **Prof. Mauricio Parra** will be working to modify and enhance a course he has previously taught entitled "The Art and Culture and the Mexican Revolution." He is offering the course again to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mexican revolution. In the past seven years since he has taught this course, there has been an enormous amount of new material available on the revolution such as books, films and music. Prof. Parra is planning to travel to California and Mexico to attend a number of conferences and workshops organized in commemoration of this anniversary, and will be collecting new materials to be incorporated into the class.
- Language Coordinator **Allison Weiss'** chapter on Argentina was published in a new reference volume entitled "A Guide to the Latin American Art Song Repertoire" (IU Press, 2010) as part of the Indiana Repertoire Guides series. Her catalog is the first bibliographic listing of songs by Argentine composers. Entries include information on the publishing houses and collections in Argentina where the sheet music can be found. The volume was edited by Dr. Maya Hoover at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and includes chapters on twenty-two Latin American countries. It is hoped that the volume will spur greater interest in the Latin American Art Song Alliance (laasa.org), an online community for singers and pianists founded in 2003.
- **Prof. Mauricio Parra** will travel to Los Angeles in July to meet with a group of poets to work on a special edition of *El Buho y el Cuervo* a poetry journal published by the Association of American poets of California. He is the guest editor for this special edition dedicated to the issue of how cotemporary Latin American poets living in exile use poetry to build communities.

### Faculty/Staff Activities (cont.):

- The Department of Hispanic Studies welcomes our new Visiting Assistant **Prof. Alejandro Enriquez**. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a PhD in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Linguistics. His research focuses on the discursive production of the colonial period in Spanish America with a focus on the writings of Franciscan friars charged with converting the Indigenous Maya into Christianity during the 16th and 17th centuries in colonial Yucatan, Mexico. Prof. Enriquez's scholarly articles have appeared in journals such as *Chasqui: Revista de literatura latinoamericana*, *Studies in Latin American Popular Studies*, and *Torre de papel: Journal of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Film, Culture and Linguistics*.
- In May **Prof. César Valverde** will present a paper at the University of Cincinnati titled "El beso de la mujer araña y La ciudad y los perros: Sexualidad, violencia y masculinidad." In addition, this summer, he will be teaching a graduate course at the Universidad de Costa Rica during the summer titled "Machos, Maricas y Madre Patria: Masculinidad y Nación en la Novela Latinoamericana." We also wish him luck in August and September when he is participating in the *Ironman Louisville* and *Ironman Wisconsin*!
- On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Latin Band, *Frontera*, whose members include **Cecilia Sánchez**, Instructor of Spanish at IWU, as well as Carlos Parodi, Margot Ehrlich, Stephanie Lyon and Tom Ronquillo, participated at an event organized by the *Alzheimer's Association of the Greater Illinois Chapter*. It was a fund-raising event with a live band and dancing. Their theme was the Caribbean, and the band performed salsa, merengue and bachata.
- **Prof. Christina Isabelli's** research "Acquisition of Spanish Gender Agreement in two Learning Contexts: Study Abroad and At Home" has been published in the academic journal *Foreign Language Annals*, volume 43. This summer she will be teaching two graduate courses at Middlebury College titled "Second Language Acquisition" and "Spanish in the United States: Teaching Spanish to Spanish Heritage Speakers."

We are very proud of **Prof. Parra's** outreach representing IWU. Prof. Parra was selected to participate in a number of events related to the visit of President of Ecuador Rafael Correa Delgado at the University of Illinois. In addition Prof. Parra was invited to the reception given by the Spanish Consulate for the official inauguration of the *Instituto Cervantes* in Chicago at which the Prince and Princess of Asturias of Spain attended to preside the inauguration. Prof. Parra, a specialist in Latin American cultures, was delighted to be able to speak with President Correa about the challenges and opportunities facing Ecuador, Latin American and the world.



Prof. Parra with the President of Ecuador Rafael Correa Delgado, who was honored by the University of Illinois with the Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement, the first head of state to receive such honor. A charismatic, but approachable leader, President Correa spent some of his time in Illinois talking to students and faculty interested in Latin American affairs.



Prof. Parra with the Prince and Princess of Asturias don Felipe y doña Letizia de Borbón.

**Hispanic Studies Alumni News:** Keep the e-mails coming; we love to hear from you!

- **Randy Green** (2003) received his J.D. and MBA at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI in 2006 and returned to central Illinois to practice law. He's been practicing transactional business law at Meyer Capel in Champaign since graduation and was recently named a top 40 under 40 business professional by the Central Illinois Business Magazine. He is also the president of 7 independently sanctioned Little Leagues throughout Champaign-Urbana, which collectively comprise C-U Little League. In an effort to reach out to Hispanic youth in the community, and with the help of **Jules Giraldo** (2003), they were able to distribute registration information and materials in Spanish as well as in English to all of the area schools and throughout the community for the first time this year. In future years, they hope to reach out to more Hispanic coaches as well.
- **Hillary Sellers** (2009) is working in Austin, TX with *AmeriCorps* as a first-grade Bilingual Literacy Tutor. She also volunteers 8 hours a week at *Dell Children's Hospital*. This fall she will be attending the University of Illinois graduate school in Speech-Language Pathology.
- **Anna Bromaghim** (2007) is currently a graduate student at the University of Connecticut completing a Master's of Arts in Spanish.
- **Jordan Bartle** (2007). Since returning from the *Peace Corps* in Honduras Jordan has been working at a non-profit called *Friends of the Orphans* that supports a network of orphanages in Latin America in the child sponsorship operations department. He will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago for a Master's degree in Urban Planning.
- **Brett Cullen** (2008) has been chosen for the 2010 Department of Energy Scholars Program. Through the Scholars Program, Brett will work with the Office of Engineering and Construction Management in Washington, D.C., from mid-June to mid-September.
- **Kathryn Klowden** and **Janielle Pengiel** (2007) are currently training for their fourth marathon! This fall they will run the 26.2 miles in Chicago!
- **Lauren Ostrowki** (2005) accepted a month-long Rotary Group Study Exchange opportunity in Mexico this May. She will spend a month in Mexico traveling to

different cities, living in homestays, guided by an education/Spanish professor with three other grantees.

- **Rachel Miller** (2009) has been living in Peñaranda de Bracamonte in Castilla y Leon

in Spain working as an Auxiliar de conversación norteamericana, a program offered by the Ministerio de Educación in Spain. She works with students ages 12-18 in a school called IES Tomas y Valiente.

## S N A P S H O T S



**Sandra González** (2010) with her original artwork.

### 2009-2010 Sigma Delta Pi initiates



[back l-r] Kerry Gremo, Lindsey Fehrman, Stephanie Swope, Shannon Moffitt, James Lam, Lindsey Skaggs [front] Jennifer Sobyra, Gina Tangorra, Jaclyn Morrison, Karina Grace, Jason Roeschley, Monica Shah. *Not pictured:* Elizabeth Allen, Kristen Hosack, Jaclyn Morrison, and Kelly Petersen.

## **ALUMNUS PROFILE: A CONVERSATION WITH DAVID DARLING ('79)**

David Darling graduated from IWU in 1979 with a BA in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. Currently he is the Chairman of the IWU Leadership Council (2006 - present). He is also a member of the IWU Regional Council (2001 - present), Alumni Admissions Network, and a local alumni contact through the High School District 230 and South Suburban High School Districts.

Mr. Darling is currently an equity partner at the *Law Firm of Stone & Johnson, Chtd.* in Chicago, Illinois. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Northern District of Illinois Trial Bar, the Illinois Association of Defense Counsel, the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, the High School District 230 Student Services Committee, the Chicago Latino Network and an arbitrator with the Cook County Mandatory Arbitration Program. He is also a member of the Costa Rican Civic Society. His legal practice involves construction litigation, products liability, personal and commercial transportation litigation and insurance defense work. He also provides lectures on legal issues and has been featured in an article for the Illinois Manufacturers' Association regarding construction safety and litigation issues.

**Where did you learn Spanish?** (*He has a quite distinct Costa Rican accent!*)

-I picked up my Spanish language skills on a trip abroad, studying in Costa Rica for three months for my fall term semester in 1978. It was my first experience traveling and my first experience flying in a plane. I had taken three courses of Spanish at IWU prior to learning of the program in Costa Rica. I applied to the program, with the blessing and letter of recommendation from my Spanish teacher. She supported my desire to learn the language and culture through firsthand experience. She understood my desire to potentially use the Spanish language in my future work as a lawyer. Thanks to her recommendation and IWU's strong academic reputation, I was accepted to the Costa Rican program even though I did not meet the minimum criteria. Finally, my Spanish studies in Costa Rica

enabled me to meet my wife, Eugenie, who I have known now for 32 years and to whom I have been married for over twenty-five years. We have two sons, Douglas (22) and Daniel (19) that have both learned Spanish as a second language and have found it very useful in their daily lives.

**Are you able to use your Spanish?**

-I presently use my Spanish language skills in a variety of settings. First of all, I am able to use my Spanish language skills through my legal work when dealing with members of the business community, construction trades and laborers. It has also enabled me to assist and counsel certain minority businesses. I have also done legal consulting work with the Costa Rican Consulate in Chicago covering a multi-state region. As a result of that work, I have had numerous meetings with Costa Rican presidents and other government representatives. Through my contacts with the Costa Rican Consulate and other Hispanic organizations, I have been able to refer Latinos to appropriate legal services for immigration, marriage and other matters.

I also use Spanish in my everyday life. Spanish has enabled me to increase the amount of friends with whom I associate. It has helped facilitate the ease in which I travel in foreign countries whose language is Spanish. I have utilized my Spanish speaking skills on the streets of Chicago assisting visitors or people with directions or information.

**What is your philosophy for studying a foreign language?**

-My philosophy is to never take it for granted. The "gift" of a foreign language skill should be appreciated for all the doors that it can open and all the life experiences it can facilitate. I always encourage people to practice the language by speaking, reading and writing to enhance their skills and increase their vocabulary. Always strive to develop and improve your foreign language skills so that it can be a benefit to the individual, and be utilized for a greater good.

The ability to speak, read and write in a foreign language will not only benefit your professional career, it may enhance your personal life as well. Understanding and communicating in a foreign language is one of the best ways to overcome problems and dispel any prejudices or preconceived notions you may have. Utilize foreign language skills to break down barriers and seize opportunities in life.



9/2009 Eugenie and David with Costa Rican President, Dr. Óscar Arias Sánchez.

### LUIS LEAL FUND



**Prof. Parra** has established the Luis Leal fund that will fund IWU students' research in Hispanic Studies at IWU and abroad. The financial support of this fund comes directly from the sales of *Mitos y leyendas de México*, a collection of 20 popular legends recreated by the author, Luis Leal, and edited by Prof. Parra. The book, which includes original illustrations by acclaimed Mexican painter Álvaro Ángeles Suman, has been published in a bilingual edition. All proceeds will be used to fund the scholarship. Order a book (or two!) and be part of supporting future students' research. To receive a copy, please fill out this form. For more information visit [mitosyleyendas.weebly.com](http://mitosyleyendas.weebly.com)

### ORDER & PAYMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mitos y Leyendas de México</i>	Suggested donations*: <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Quantity	\$
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