



2016

## Newsletter 2015-2016

Hispanic Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

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# Hispanic Studies 2015-2016

June 12, 2016



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## Another great year

The Hispanic Studies students and faculty have been as busy as ever this past academic year. This issue highlights events hosted by the department, some of the many accomplishments of students, faculty, and alumni, with special features on the IWU Language School for Kids and the involvement of the Hispanic Studies Department in the community.



Newsletter author: Christine Peterson  
'16



## IWU Language School for Kids

The *Language School for Kids* is a new initiative of the Language Resource Center that represents the Department of French and Italian, Department of German, Russian and Asian Languages, Department of Hispanic Studies, and the Greek and Roman Studies Program. It was started with seed money from an IWU Donnocker Innovation Fund grant in October of 2014 and is supported by the local Language Advocacy Network – a group of parents, educators and community members that advocate for language education in town.

The IWU Language School fulfills one of IWU's mission statements to provide unique opportunities for our students. It also creates on-campus teaching opportunities for IWU teacher pre-candidates and academic internships in the languages; promotes community engagement; and, provides teaching experience to enhance competitiveness for post-graduate fellowships.

A delightful development has been that Conexiones Latinas de McLean County (conexionesmc.org),

“a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers who share a passion for improving and creating opportunities for Latino families in McLean County” created the *Cuca Avila Scholarship* to “help local students and families in need who want to attend Spanish Saturday School at the Language School and cannot cover the financial cost.” Since the inception of the program in 2015, Conexiones has funded 17 scholarships. Cuca Avila's sister, Patricia, graduated from IWU in 2015.

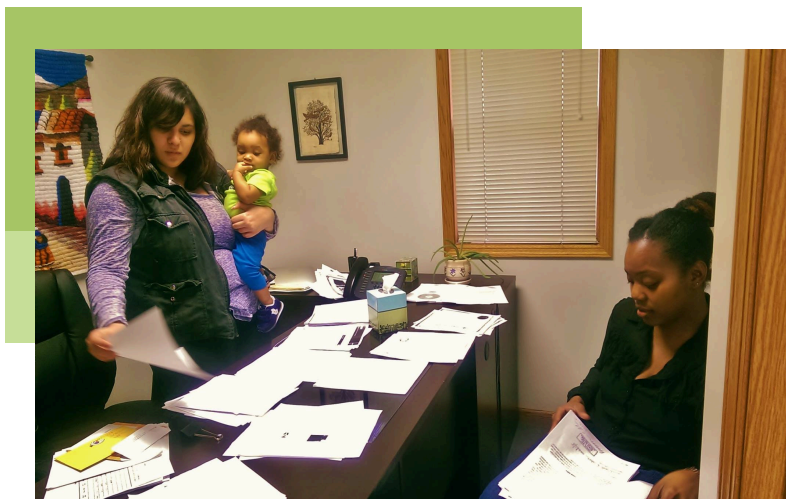


### IWU Student Perspective: Kaitlyn O'Brien '19

“The IWU Language School for Kids is a great program that helps expose children to a new language through creative lessons and activities in the classroom. I think the LSK is not only beneficial to children in the community, but it is also beneficial for the IWU students who have been hired as an assistant to the teacher, like myself. As a Hispanic Studies and

Secondary Education major, I know that being exposed to the classroom environment at the beginning of my college career is going to help me immensely. Even though I work with younger kids at LSK, I will be able to apply the skills I learn there to my future career in education.”





Thalia Novoa '16 (left) and Inez White '16 interning at the Immigration Project.

# Hispanic Studies in the Community

The Hispanic Studies Department constantly encourages students “to engage in cultural and social activities in communities beyond our campus.”

The Illinois Wesleyan Hispanic Studies department has always included social justice and community engagement in its curriculum, and it's safe to say they have practiced what they preach. This year alone, Hispanic Studies students and faculty have given over 830 hours of community service. In this section of the newsletter we want to highlight some of the service opportunities our faculty and staff have been a part of.

**Thalia Novoa '16, Inez White '16, Dr. Carolyn Nadeau – The Immigration Project.** Thalia and Inez interned with The Immigration Project, a local non-profit organization whose goal is to provide low-income immigrants with legal services. Additionally, Dr. Nadeau is a member of the board for the organization.

**Christina Khouri '16 – Global Medical Brigades.** Christina spends a part of her summer each year volunteering at medical clinics

set up in rural parts of Honduras, where she helps with medical tasks and interprets Spanish.

**Dr. Isabelli – Children's Home + Aid.** Dr. Isabelli is an advisory board member for the organization, whose goal is to aid local disadvantaged low-income families in a variety of family services.

**Christine Peterson '16 – Community Health Care Clinic.** Christine volunteered at CHCC, a clinic that serves much of Bloomington's low-income or uninsured population, where she interprets Spanish for medical appointments.



Christina Khouri '16 (right) volunteers in Honduras with Global Medical Brigades.



Kaitlyn O'Brien '19, Dr. Isabelli, and Sharla Brown-Ajayi representing the IWU Language School for Kids at the Children's Home and Aid 5k.





Emily Shankar '16 (front row, left) at Relay for Life with the rest of the Colleges Against Cancer executive board.



Rocío Morales and Dr. Isabelli at Día de los Libros/Día de los Niños at the Bloomington Public Library

## Hispanic Studies in the Community

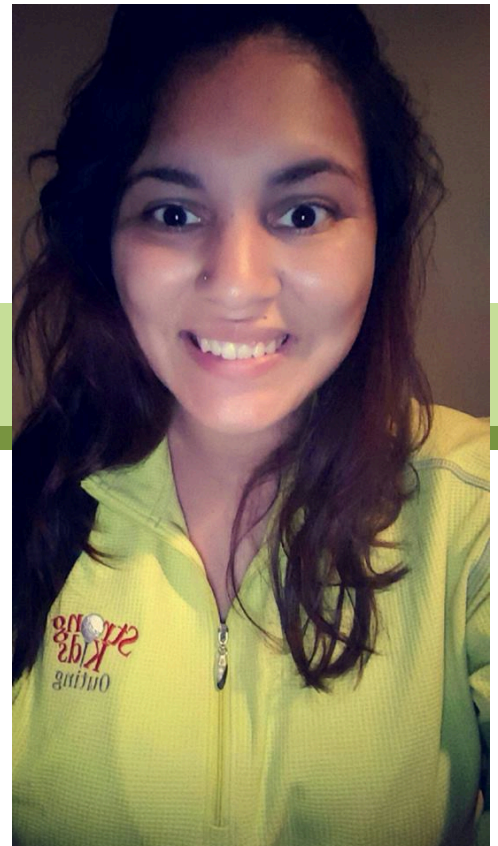
**Emily Shankar '16 – Colleges Against Cancer.** Emily served on the club's executive board and helped run the wildly successful IWU Relay for Life that raised over \$10,000 for cancer research.

**Julie Lewis '16 – West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP).** In a partnership with the WBRP and Connect Transit, Julie won a \$1500 Zoellick Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurs to help bring benches to bus stops in Bloomington-Normal. Just recently, they held a successful "Bench Blitz" where she and a team of volunteers built 23 benches.

**Sigma Delta Pi – Bake sale – Conexiones Latinas.** Members of Sigma Delta Pi hosted a bake sale to raise money to provide scholarships to low-income

students who wish to participate in the IWU Language School for Kids.

**Medical Spanish Class – Public Health Department.** The Spanish 230 (Medical Spanish) class volunteered their time at the McLean County Public Health Department where they shadowed and assisted interpreters, helped with office filing and paperwork, and read to children in the waiting room.



### IWU Student Perspective: Thalia Novoa

"Working in the community is important because you get to impact others and apply what you've learned in classes. The Immigration Project helped me understand more about the immigrant population in central Illinois and how to help them based on their status as either undocumented or somewhere along their journey towards citizenship.

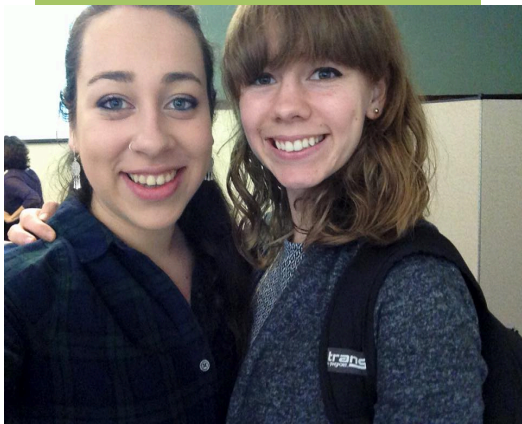
The tools that I learned through my Hispanic Studies classes impacted how I interacted with the immigrants. By taking classes on cultural differences and the social justice class, the transition from the classroom to a real-world experience was seamless. I recommend that everyone get to know their community."



## Student Accomplishments



Emily Shankar '16 and Meaghan Mormann '16 smile with Dr. Ferradans



Martha Aguirre '17 and Christine Peterson '16



Nathan Douglas '15, Lydia Hartlaub '16, and Dr. Ferradans

**Marta Aguirre** ('17 - major) was awarded a 2016 Eckley Scholars Award for her project "Education Not for Sale." In March 2015, she was also awarded a Hispanic Studies Department Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship.

**Lizbeth García** ('16 - minor) was chosen to participate in the Summer Enrichment Program. The IWU program focuses on professional and personal growth and is open to current Multiracial, African-American, Latino-Hispanic, Asian-American, Native American (MALANA) and international students.

**Ruby García** ('17 - major) was awarded a Gilman Scholarship to study abroad in Chile in Fall 2015.

**Melissa Guzman** ('16 - minor) who interned at the Spanish-language network, *Univisión*, was invited to the US Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference by Sylvia Torres, a Chicago-based alderman.

**Lydia Hartlaub** ('16 – minor) received research honors for her work titled "Actores transnacionales: un estudio en cinema internacional" with Dr. Ferradans.

**Julie Lewis** ('16 - major) will spearhead the Bus Stop Project as part of the Zoellick Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship.

**Meaghan Mormann** ('16 – major) was the winner of the 2016 Technos International Prize in addition to being this year's Outstanding Senior for Hispanic Studies. Mormann's Sigma Delta Pi "Best Practices" paper was also accepted to be presented at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese conference, Summer 2016.

**Emily Shankar** ('16 – major) is joining the Peace Corps and will be in Panama for 27 months starting this July as part of the Environmental Health Program. She will definitely be using her Spanish everyday!



President Jensen (left) observes student work at the "Té con Lorca" event



## Alumni News

**Erin Howes '12** visited the Medical Spanish class to talk with them about diabetes among Latino populations in Chicago. The class learned a great deal about this chronic illness that affects many Latinos.

**Danny Kenny '13** has received the Tiri Tiri Prize as outstanding master's degree student from Australian National University (ANU) College of Asia & the Pacific.

2015 graduates **Jessica Beringer** and **Nathan Douglas** returned to IWU to celebrate Homecoming and converse with the Spanish 308 Introduction to Literature class. They discussed study abroad options, the novel *Nada* by Carmen Laforet, and the joy of reading.

**Scott Simons '07**, **Katherine Wenzel '05** and **Erin Williams '05** returned homecoming weekend and attended the Humanities reception.

**Nathan Douglas ('15 - major)** won a study abroad grant from the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (Sigma Delta Pi) to Alcalá de Henares, Spain at the Instituto Franklin-University of Alcalá de Henares for 4 weeks in July 2015.

**Hannah Eby ('15 - major)** won a grant from the Spanish Ministry of Education titled "Cultural Ambassadors: North American Language and Culture Assistant in Spain". She worked as a K-12 language assistant in a Spanish public school during the 2015-2016 academic year.



Dr. Isabelli and Erin Howes '12 (both top left) with the Medical Spanish class



Nathan Douglas '15 (left), Dr. Ferradans (center), and Jess Beringer '15 with students from Spanish 308



Scott Simons '07, Katherine Wenzel '05, Erin Williams '05 and Dr. Ferradans.



Nicole Lee '18, Allie Spontak '18 and Alexa Huskisson '18 with Dr. Mauricio Parra in Barcelona, Spain.

## Faculty Accomplishments

**Dr. Isabelli** presented the conference talk "Fostering Advanced Oral Proficiency: Initiatives in the Undergraduate Foreign Language Curriculum" at the *Modern Language Association* annual conference in Austin, TX in January, 2016.

**Dr. Parra** spent his Spring 2016 semester as the director for the IWU Spain Program in Barcelona.

**Dr. Isabelli** presented the conference talk "Institutional Assessment of Second Language Learning Outcomes" at the *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages* annual conference in San Diego, CA in November 2015.

**Dr. Carolyn Nadeau** was elected to a 3-year term to serve as Vice President of the Cervantes Society of America (2016-18) and will then become President of the society (2019-21).

**Dr. Christina Isabelli** was an invited speaker in April, 2016 to talk about second language acquisition and the study abroad context for a graduate Applied Linguistics course at Arizona State University and in February, 2016 about heritage language learners in the L2 classroom for a graduate course at Concordia College, Moorehead, MN.

In June, 2016, **Dr. César Valverde** presented a paper titled "Faulkner, Capote and Fuentes: Gothic Space and Masculine Anxiety" at the International Conference for Academic Disciplines in Venice, Italy.

**Dr. Isabelli** gave an invited lecture in February, 2016 titled "Researching Social Language in Study Abroad Contexts: Using Mixed Methods" for a co-sponsored event by the *Department of French and Italian & Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE)* program at University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL.

**Dr. Daynalí Flores-Rodríguez** presented a lecture, "Trans-Caribbean Narratives of Dictatorship and the Latin American Imaginary," on Feb. 19, 2016 at ISU as part of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program "Conversando entre nosotros" Brown Bag Series.

**Dr. Nadeau** published the book *Food Matters. Alonso Quijano's Diet and the Discourse of Food in Early Modern Spain*.



Dr. Isabelli and Christine Peterson '16 at commencement.



## Faculty Accomplishments

**Dr. Valverde** received a 2016 Artistic and Scholarly Development grant from Illinois Wesleyan University to work on a paper this summer titled "Carlos Fuentes and Luis Buñuel: Gothic Masculinity in a Barren Mexican Landscape."

In Fall 2015, **Dr. Isabelli** started her two-year term as an *ACTFL/CAEP Program Reviewer* (Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation) examining the reports and data submitted by institutions seeking CAEP recognition of their foreign language teacher education programs through ACTFL.

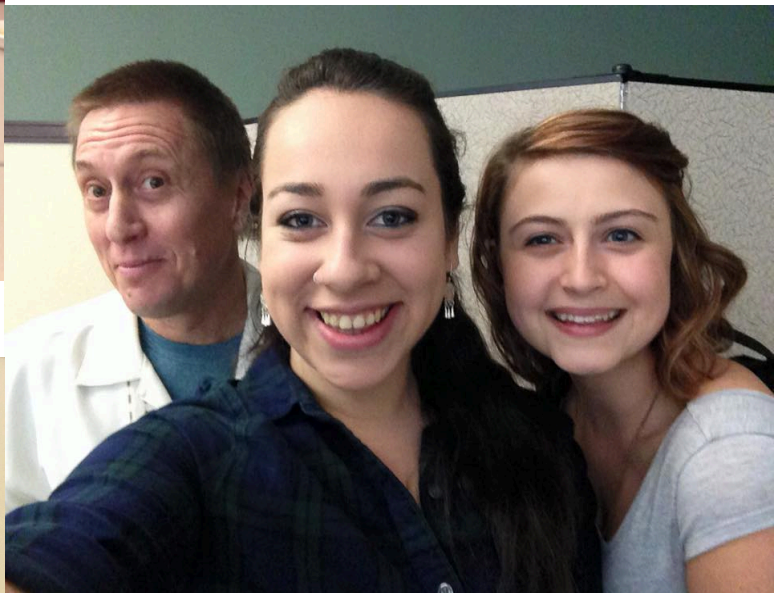
**Dr. Nadeau** was published in *eHumanista/Cervantes* for her article "A Gastronomic Map of *Don Quixote* Part 2."

**Dr. Isabelli** presented the conference talk "Linguistic and Psychological Development of L2 Learners in the Cultural Immersion Context: The Role of Social Networks" at the *International Conference on Spanish in Study Abroad Programs: Learning in a Cultural Immersion Context* at the Universidad de Alcalá, Alcalá de Henares, Spain in June 2015.

During the summer of 2016, **Dr. Valverde** will be teaching a course this summer at the Universidad de Costa Rica's Masters in Literature program titled "Modernism and Masculinity in Faulkner, Fitzgerald and Hemingway."

**Dr. Isabelli** received an Artistic and Scholarly Development grant to research the acculturation process in the intensive, domestic immersion language-learning context.

**Dr. Nadeau** was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Altman Symposium at Miami University, where she gave her talk "Treating Sensory Ailments in the Age of Andreas Vesalius"



*Top left:* Dr. Flores-Rodríguez holding her daughter, Rocío Morales, Dr. Parra, and Cecilia Sanchez.

*Bottom left:* Dr. Ferradáns, Dr. Nadeau, and Scott Simons

*Right:* Dr. Valverde with Martha Aguirre '17 and Lia Analitis '16



Claudia Quevedo-Garcia  
teaches flamenco

## Hispanic Studies Sponsored Events

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>:** The Spanish Club presented the film **Sin Nombre** (2009 - Focus Features) written and directed by Cary Fukunaga.

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Antonio Sotomayor**, assistant professor and librarian for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, gave a public lecture in English titled "The Sovereign Colony: Puerto Rico in the Olympic Movement."

**Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Dr. Montserrat Mir** from Illinois State University spoke about earning an M.A. degree in Spanish and **Dr. Isabelli** talked about opportunities with Fulbright and the Spanish Ministry of Education.

**Oct 9<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Ferradns** hosted a discussion, in Spanish, on the Spn 308 Reading Circle book, "Nada" written by Carmen Laforet.

**Oct 29<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Joseph Jordan**, associate professor of African/Afro-American Studies at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, presented *Race, the Black Nation(s), and the Gendering of the Black Aesthetic in the Diaspora*.

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup> - Sigma Delta Pi**, initiated its new members. The honorary guest was Sophie Rebert of the McLean County Public Health Department (pictured below).

**Jan 21<sup>st</sup> - The Spanish Club** presented the film **Frontera** (2014, USA) directed by Michael Berry: "A former Arizona sheriff's wife is killed while riding on their ranch property."

**Jan 28<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Ferradns** presented the film **El laberinto del fauno** [Pan's Labyrinth] (2006) written and directed by Guillermo del Toro.

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> - Dr. Ferradns** led "Te con Lorca: A Festival of Poetry and Music" in conjunction with her Spn 418 students.



Dr. Flores-Rodriguez, Dr. Antonio  
Sotomayor, and Dr. Ferradns



Sigma Delta Pi initiation





# Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship

The Department of Hispanic Studies at Illinois Wesleyan University is able to offer competitive scholarships to qualified students who carry out Hispanic Studies research off-campus in the U.S. or abroad while enrolled in an IWU-affiliated program. Two awards are available for \$1000 and for \$250, respectively. Students awarded scholarships commit to documenting and sharing their research during and/or after the off-campus experience.

Luis Leal was one of the foremost critics of Mexican, Chicano, and Latin American Literature. He was born in Mexico to a modest family, but decided to further his education in the United States. He was always grateful for the institutional support he received.

The 2016 winners are Kaitlyn O'Brien '19 (top left), and Rachel Aron, '16 (bottom right).

