



Spring 2009

Newsletter Spring 2009

Hispanic Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

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DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009



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, don't forget to list what year you graduated!

Saludos, Christina Isabelli

This again has been an exciting semester for us. Dr. Carolyn Nadeau's **Spanish for Social Justice** class, with the support of the IWU Action Research Center, presented their work on community involvement. The audience learned about valuable IWU-community connections and how fieldwork strengthens the curriculum. The students volunteered with the following organizations as part of the course requirements: Habitat for Humanity, Bent Elementary, Heartland Head Start, Hispanic Families Work Group, Western Avenue Community Center, Immigration Project, Ecology Action Center, Tari Renner for Mayor Campaign, Bloomington Public Library, Bloomington Junior High School, Radio Latino, and the American Red Cross.

On April 16 the Department of Hispanic Studies, with the help of International Studies, Women's Studies, Latin American Studies and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, invited former Hispanic Studies faculty member, **Dr. Patricia Nisbet Klingenberg**, to partake in the International Studies Series. Her talk was *Against Borges: Narrative Voices of Silvina Bullrich*. Dr. Klingenberg is Professor of Latin American Literature in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The Department of Hispanic Studies is hosting a *Spanish Summer Institute* with the initiative of **Dr. Carmela Ferradáns**, co-sponsored by the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages focusing on technology in the classroom. Spread the word! Participants will create grammar, culture and literature activities for their classrooms using web 2.0, Moodle, and Podcasting technology, and earn continuing professional development units. Visit the official website: www.iwu.edu/hispanic/institute.

Student Activities:

- Our *Hispanic Studies Outstanding Senior* award this year went to **Danny Burke** (2009). He was a recipient of two fellowships. One was the Weir Fellowship that honors students who go beyond simply volunteering in the community. The \$1,250 fellowship came through IWU's Action Research Center, which links IWU students with research projects with not-for-profit organizations. Danny also received the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship, a project of the Congressional Hunger Center. Each year 20 participants are selected for this eleven-month program. Fellows are placed for half their term of service with urban and rural community-based organizations all over the country involved in fighting hunger at the local level, such as grass roots organizing groups, food banks, economic development agencies, local

advocacy groups and faith-based organizations. They then move to Washington, DC to complete the year with national organizations involved in the anti-hunger and poverty movement, including national advocacy organizations, think tanks, and federal agencies. Through this unique program, the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program develops effective leaders with a deep understanding of hunger and poverty at both the local and national level that enables them to find innovative solutions and create the political will to end hunger.

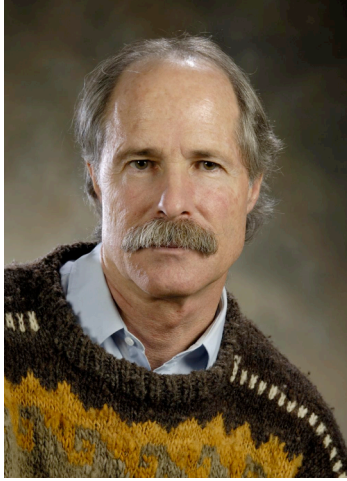
- **Hillary Sellers** (2009) was the recipient of a summer scholarship for study in Cuernavaca, Mexico at the *Universidad Internacional/The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies*. The award includes the cost of registration, tuition, room and meals for four weeks. Congratulations!

Faculty/Staff Activities:

- **Dr. César Valverde** presented a paper at the Universidad de Costa Rica's Modern Language Conference in December 2008, titled *Masculinity, Violence and Redemption in Truman Capote and García Márquez*. This March he presented a paper at the Congreso Internacional de Hispanistas in Costa Rica titled *Género, palimpsesto y conocimiento en Mariano Azuela y Ángeles Mastretta*. And finally, in May Dr. Valverde will be presenting *Masculinidad, homosexualidad y revolución en Manuel Puig y Mario Vargas Llosa* at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.
- **Dr. Mauricio Parra** in the process of developing a project entitled *Poetry and Communities*, which encompasses three different, but inter-related areas of action. (1) Research - the publication of a special edition of the journal *El Búho y el Cuervo* 'The Owl and the Raven' dedicated to the issue of how contemporary Latin American poets living in exile use poetry to build communities. (2) Pedagogy - the development of a new interdisciplinary course on *Poetry and Communities* with emphasis on poetry as a tool for social change and community building. The interdisciplinary dimension would be highlighted with the production of a special limited artist's edition book combining the unique aspects of letterpress printed text and relief print methods. And (3) Community Outreach Dimension - linking the pedagogical and academic projects to the communities that we inhabit in the areas of Bloomington-Normal, Urbana-Champaign, and Chicago, Illinois.
- Visiting Assistant Professor **Dr. Jaime Orrego** has accepted a tenure-track position at St. Anselm College, a private liberal arts college in Manchester, New Hampshire. We'll miss you!
- In fall 2008 **Dr. Carolyn Nadeau** was invited to the University of Ghent and the University of Antwerp (both in Belgium) to deliver papers on food representation in early modern Spain: *Clase social, género y etnicidad en la comida de la época de Cervantes* (U. of Ghent) and *En la salud y la enfermedad: la fisiología de la comida en la mesa del gobernador en Don Quijote* (U. of Antwerp). She also gave a paper at the annual Modern Language Association conference, *Moscatel morisco: The Role of Wine in the Formation of Morisco Identity*, in December 2008.
- **Dr. Christina Isabelli** gave a paper at the annual Midwest Modern Language Association conference, *Language Learning Abroad: Acculturation, Integration or Both?*, in November, 2008. The University of Texas at Austin University Extension Center published a study guide in January that Dr. Isabelli co-wrote with Miriam Echeverría and Guillermo Irizarry titled *Second-Year Spanish II - Oral Expression, Reading and Composition: A Study Guide*.
- 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, performed in the Bloomington-Normal area, entertaining their audiences with beautiful Latin American and Caribbean songs. Both performances were a fund-raiser for two different non-for-profit organizations. The first one, on February benefited a local organization, *Faith in Action*, formed by volunteers who are members of different congregations in town. They provide invaluable help to the elderly in the community, who want to continue living independently, and whose family members cannot provide the help they need. It turned out to be a most enjoyable evening for those who attended, and were moved to dancing. The second performance was held at Illinois State University in April and it benefited a student organization called *Ekkekko* (name that comes from the Incan God of wealth and plenty) formed by ISU students that collects donations to promote microfinance. The organization engages in micro-lending to impoverished communities in developing countries, such as the peasant community of Huaquicha in Lima, Peru, and other working class neighborhoods of Amauta and Villa El Salvador. It was very well attended and enjoyed by many, who also were motivated to dance to the rhythms of salsa, merengue and cumbia.



Alumnus Profile:



Dr. David A. Petreman (1970) was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1948. He was educated at IWU and the University of Iowa (M.A. and Ph.D.). He has published three books on the Chilean short story and numerous articles on Latin American literature. In addition, Dr. Petreman has published poetry in many U.S. and Canadian literary journals, among them *The Carolina Quarterly*, *The Kansas Quarterly*, *Tampa Review*, *Poem*, *New Letters*, *International Poetry Review*, *The Malahat Review*, and *The Antigone Review*. He has also published translations of the work of a number of Chilean poets. In 1991 he won the Writers Exchange Competition sponsored by Poets and Writers for the best poetry manuscript from the state of Ohio and gave a reading at the Poetry Society of America in New York City. Dr. Petreman has recently finished a book-length manuscript of poems about his experiences during eight stays in Chile. LOM Ediciones published his translation of a book of poems by Marino Muñoz Lagos, *The Faces of Rain/Los rostros de la lluvia*, as a bilingual edition in Chile in December 2001. His most recent translations, of poems and essays by Chilean poets, appeared in 2007 in *Poéticas de Chile. Poets on the Art of Poetry* (Santiago, Editorial Étnika). Also in 2007 he had two chapbooks published by Dos Madres Press, *Candlelight in Quintero* and *Luz de vela en Quintero*, and the second one being his own translation into Spanish of the original text. Finishing Line Press published another chapbook, *Francisco in the Days of Exile* in November 2008 (www.finishinglinepress.com). He has given readings at a number of universities and colleges, at many bookstores and at cultural and community centers. He directs an annual Poetry Series at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center in Troy, Ohio. He currently teaches Spanish and Latin American literature at Wright State University. He has traveled extensively, including eight trips to Chile, two each to Mexico, Spain and Canada, as well as single trips to Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Italy.

Creative class activity this semester!

Based on the description of the character “mamacita” from Sandra Cisneros’s book *La casa en Mango Street*, students in Dr. Carmela Ferradán’s Spn 201 class competed in a ‘creative’ competition in which the aim was to visually interpret an excerpt from the chapter “No Speak English.” **Madeleine Tyner’s** drawing below won and she was awarded an iTunes card.



[...] y va saliendo un zapatito
color de rosa, un pie
suavecito como la oreja de un
conejo, luego el tobillo
grueso, una agitación de
caderas, unas rosas fucsia y
un perfume verde. El hombre
tuvo que jalarla, el chofer del
taxi, empujarla.

**If you’re in the area this summer, consider participating in the
Spanish Summer Institute at IWU. Registration forms, a tentative
schedule, and contact information is on our website:
www.iwu.edu/hispanic/institute**

Hispanic Studies Alumni News:

Keep the e-mails coming; we love to hear from you! If you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please contact us at hispanic@iwu.edu.

- **Carlos Buzio** (2003) just took an expatriate assignment in Mexico City as Coordinador de Negocios with *Monsanto* and is interested in reading any recommendations (from faculty and alumni) regarding acclimatization and/or Mexican history (pre and post Columbian). He's been in Mexico for 5 months now. He writes that it has been a challenge getting acclimated to living there and starting a new job with significantly more responsibilities than he's ever had - and doing it all in Spanish. Carlos writes that the language is not really a problem, but it is more tiring than speaking English all day. Send him recommendations!
carlos.a.1.buzio@monsanto.com
- **Suzanne Coons** (1961) is the Executive Director of the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages located in Oglesby, Illinois.
- **Christy Heins** teaches a bilingual first grade class in the suburbs of Chicago.
- **Elizabeth Johnson** (2006) is currently in her second year of law school and has been hired for a position at *Ice Miller LLP* law firm in Indianapolis.
- **Gabrielle (Kuhl) Ruiter** (2001) works for a company located in Northfield, Illinois that imports Christmas products called *Santa's Best*. Even though she does not use Spanish daily she has had the opportunity to translate and edit the packaging of many Christmas products.
- **Erica Laney** (2007) is certified to teach English as a foreign language and has been teaching English Literature to Junior High School students at a private school in Mexico City for the last two years.
- **Denise (Miller) Pallavajjala** is still with *Hewitt Associates* and has relocated to Orlando, Florida as a Pension Benefits Service Manager. Within the office, she is applying her Hispanic Studies degree as the leader of their Hispanic Associates affinity group and also as facilitator for company-wide diversity training. Denise and her husband Shyam are excited to announce the birth of their first Tiny Titan.
- **Karen Peterson** (2006) is in Peace Corps in Peru. She arrived in September of 2007 and spent 3 months in training in the outskirts of Lima. She now lives in the northern district of Pacora (population 5,000). Her program is called Manejo Comunitario Ambiental where she's an environmental volunteer focusing on the theme of organic fertilizer and solid waste management. Follow her experience at www.peacininperu.blogspot.com.
- **Betsy (Pollard) Sostak** (2000) is currently an assistant principal for a Dual Language school in Vernon Hills, Illinois. She also has a 2-year-old son named Cal who is beginning to say his first Spanish words.
- **Kristina Navarro-Harlan** (2000) started a master's program in Granada, Spain! The program consists of two summer sessions and they projects from the courses are completed during the academic year, including an intensive study on a specific topic.
- **Benjamin Nelson** is in his second year as Assistant Prof of Spanish (Early Modern Peninsular Literature) at the University of South Carolina Beaufort.
- **Bessie (Ratskoff) Crum** (2004) has been traveling this entire past year though Central and South America, from Mexico down to Argentina with her husband, and last she wrote there were in beautiful Colombia. She lived and volunteered in El Salvador for 3 months, which she writes was a learning experience on many levels. She adds that, "It was awesome studying so much of what goes on down here at IWU, and I think about it a lot. If I can be of any help to any of the students of professors there while I'm down here, please let me know." Her blog is: www.OnOurOwnPath.com.
- **Travis Reynolds** (2004) is teaching second grade at a private school in Los Angeles. He is considering teaching Spanish at the elementary level and would like to know more about doing so in a Montessori setting teaching 4 to 11 year olds. Maybe some of you could help him out. Travis needs help finding contacts or resources in the Los Angeles area to help me out and is also looking for some good resources/ books for teaching Spanish using the Montessori philosophy. treynolds@turningpointsschool.org.
- **Monica Toporkiewicz** (2000) works for the U.S. Department of Commerce in Chicago promoting international trade and U.S. exports by counseling U.S. companies and universities. www.buyusa.gov/midwest. She is also a member of the Club Chileno de Chicago and her husband is on the board of directors: www.clubchileno.com.

LUIS LEAL FUND



Dr. 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 Dr. Parra. The book, which includes original illustrations by acclaimed Mexican painter Álvaro Ángeles Suman, has been published in a bilingual (English/Spanish) edition with a comprehensive introduction by Dr. Parra. 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 of this extraordinary book, please fill out this form.

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<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	\$
	SHIPPING AND HANDLING FEES		\$ 2.50
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		TOTAL	\$

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