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## Cuban Immigration in the U.S.

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### THE JOHN WESLEY POWELL STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE - APRIL 2004

### Oral Presentation O2.3

#### CUBAN IMMIGRATION IN THE U.S.

Erica D. Mugnaini, Lisa M. Krapf and Christina Isabelli\* Department of Hispanic Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

This study investigates language attitudes of a Cuban community towards the use of Spanish in the United States. Through a detailed analysis of such influential agents as familial structure, level of education and socioeconomic factors, it is found that positive language attitudes have perpetuated the maintenance of the Spanish language within their community. These findings were gathered through a small case study by means of an extensive interview with a Cuban family residing in Chicago, Illinois. This study demonstrates the importance of language attitudes in the growth and maintenance of the Spanish language, and the survival and success of the Cuban community in the United States.