



Newsletter of the Department of Foreign Languages at The University of the Incarnate Word



www.uiw.edu/flanguage

Volume 6, Issue 1 – Spring 2008

UPCOMING LANGUAGE COURSES

Summer Session I (May 19 – June 27)

SPAN 1311-02	Elementary Spanish I	MTWR 10:30–12:00 PM
SPAN 1312-01	Elementary Spanish II	MTWR 10:30–12:00 PM

(May 19 – June 19)

SPAN 4320-01	Elementary Spanish I for Pharmacists	MTWR 8:30–10:30 AM
SPAN 4320-02	Elementary Spanish I for Pharmacists	MTWR 8:30–10:30 AM

Summer Session II (June 30 – August 7)

SPAN 1311-01	Elementary Spanish I	MTWR 8:30–10:00 AM
SPAN 1312-01	Elementary Spanish II	MTWR 10:30–12:00 PM

(June 21 – July 24)

SPAN 4321-01	Elementary Spanish II for Pharmacists	MTWR 8:30–10:30 AM
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Fall 2008

ARAB 1311	Elementary Arabic I	MW 1:30–2:45 PM
ARAB 2311	Intermediate Arabic I	TR 1:30–2:45 PM
CHIN 1311	Elementary Chinese I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM
FREN 1311	Elementary French I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM
GERM 1311	Elementary German I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM
HEBR 1311	Elementary Hebrew I	MW 6:00–7:15 PM
IT 1311	Elementary Italian I	TR 10:30–11:45 AM
JAPN 1311	Elementary Japanese I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM
PORT 1311	Elementary Portuguese I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM

SPAN 1311	Elementary Spanish I (13 sections)	
SPAN 1312	Elementary Spanish II (10 sections)	
SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I: Oral Communication – Dr. Sally Said	TR 9:00–10:15 AM
SPAN 3312	Culture & Civilization of Latin America – Dr. Julie Winkler	TR 10:30–11:45 AM
SPAN 3337	Applied Linguistics for Teaching – Dr. Michael Tallon	TR 12:00–1:15 PM
SPAN 3341	Span-Amer Literature to Modernism – Dr. Juan Carlos Moreno	TR 3:00–4:15 PM

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Faculty Workshop

On Saturday, August 18, 2007, the Department of Foreign Languages held a workshop that focused on enhancing student engagement in our foreign language classes. Fifteen faculty members – all three of our full-time faculty and 12 of our 15 adjunct instructors – attended the workshop, which lasted from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The event was coordinated by Dr. Michael Tallon and planned in collaboration with Dr. Amalia Mondríguez.

Speakers

The Foreign Languages Program cooperated to sponsor the visit to campus of Noa Baum, an Israeli storyteller on September 10, and for Native American Heritage Month, helped to bring Beverly Allen, a Navajo weaver November 10-18, and sponsored the appearance on campus of Danza Azteca de Yanaguana on the 28th. “Yanaguana” the Coahuiltecan name for the San Antonio River and its headwaters, means “the sacred feminine up-welling water of the springs.” On April 23, *sobadora* (traditional massage therapist) Cristala Mussato-Allen from the Casa de Cura in Austin spoke to Dr. Sally Said’s Spanish for Health Professionals and the public on “Mediterranean and Mexican Healing Traditions: Somos Primos,” which focused on the use of herbs and massage in healing treatments.

Children’s Day/Book Day

The theme for this year’s Children’s Day/Book Day, held on Saturday, April 19th at the Convocation Center, was Social Justice: God’s Green Earth. The event, organized by Dr. Amalia Mondríguez and Dean Dan Ochoa, included the following activities:

- Students of the four Brainpower schools reading their own original poems, short-stories and essays (Spanish and English) to the audience.
- An exhibit of students’ art (photography, painting, drawings). All their art and writing was created for the Brainpower Literary and Art contests within the Social Justice topic. Topics included child abuse, homeless people, immigrants and war.
- String music by Estudio Cuatro (the cuatro is a musical instrument that looks like a guitar).
- Acclaimed children’s author Dr. Carmen Tafolla talking about her new book *It’s Not Fair! Emma Tenayuca’s Struggle for Justice* (Wings Press, 2008).
- Roxana Basaldúa reading her bilingual book *La Leyenda del Cascarón* and teaching the children how to make cascarones.
- Students in the UIW Spanish program presenting a puppet play in Spanish: *El León Comelón*.
- Members of the Puerto Rican Heritage Society reading children books from Puerto Rico.
- The publisher of *Raining Rainbow* displaying and selling books.
- The Twig Bookshop selling books.
- Other authors: Peni Griffin, Kristi Koll, and Lupe Flores.

STUDENT NEWS

Students in Spanish 2311, Oral Communication, participated in the construction of an altar for Day of the Dead on October 24 outside Our Lady’s Chapel and collaborated with Campus Ministry in an observance, by serving *pan de muerto* after mass the following Sunday. This was the twentieth anniversary of the introduction of the *ofrenda* custom to UIW by the Foreign Languages Program.

In Spanish 2312, Written Communication, students authored, edited, and compiled a series of essays to produce an anthology titled “Hilos del Laberinto.” They also helped to construct a labyrinth of natural limestone under St. Brigid’s Oak behind Avoca to illustrate the experience of moving through a labyrinth, as incorporated in their anthology.

Dr. Said’s Spanish 2312 class will produce another student anthology of essays and photography, entitled “Espejo Soñador,” this spring.

We have three McNair scholars in our Spanish program: **María Robledo** and **Mayra Vásquez** (returning scholars) and **Nilsa del Valle Padilla** (new scholar). **Dr. Amalia Mondríguez** is their mentor. Last summer Mayra Vásquez wrote about Honor and Honra in the Poem of Mio Cid. María Robledo attended the 14th Annual Compact for Faculty Diversity Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Arlington, Virginia. At three other conferences – the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR 22) in Salisbury, Maryland; the 13th Annual University of Buffalo McNair Research Conference in Buffalo, New York; and the 10th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas – María gave an oral presentation of her research: The Representation of Women in the Poetry of Jaime Sabines.

Liz García (B.A in Spanish at UIW, Master in Education at UIW) is teaching third graders in the Spanish Immersion Program at Cambridge Elementary School in Alamo Heights.

Verónica Salazar got married! She is now Verónica Cervantes. Congratulations, Verónica!! She is a Spanish teacher and the chair of Foreign Languages at Incarnate Word High School.

Leticia Torres is teaching Spanish and chairing Foreign Languages at St. Anthony’s High School.

Leticia and Verónica worked very hard with their students in the literature contests for Children's Day/Book Day. Thank you!!

Roxanna Montes-Bazaldúa is teaching in the bilingual program at Woodridge Elementary in Alamo Heights. Her story *La leyenda del cascarón* (first published in *Soñar no cuesta nada*, UIW, 2004) was published by Palomitas Press in a bilingual picture book. After selling all 3,000 books, a second edition will come out soon. Congratulations, Roxanna!

If you are a former student, please let us know about your latest news. We would love to announce it in our next newsletter.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

This academic year **Dr. Amalia Mondríguez** did consultant/editing work for IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association) in 10 illustrated books (short-stories) in Spanish, and 15 bilingual picture books (for math and science). She translated into Spanish the Introduction to *Ismaelillo* by José Martí (Wings Press). She was a Spanish editor of *It’s Not Fair!* by Dr. Carmen Tafolla (Wings Press). She also wrote the text Spanish for Pharmacists I for the UIW Feik School of Pharmacy, and she is currently writing the second part of the book. Her students wrote thirty radio scripts in Spanish, of which 15 were recorded by audio students in Communication Arts. The programs, mainly on education and social and health issues, were written for Huanané, a poor region in Perú. Dr. Mondríguez attended the Annual SCBWI (Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators) Conference in Los Angeles. She coordinated the Children’s Day/Book Day on campus. She is editing *Justicia Social/Social Justice*, a book of writings and art by UIW Spanish majors/minors and the students of the four Brainpower schools. In the Fall Dr. Mondríguez will be writing during her sabbatical.

Dr. Sally Said spent two months at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, in summer 2007, studying the Navajo language, attending an international conference on Athabascan linguistics, and serving as consultant to the Navajo language program in designing a four-year program in Navajo language studies. She also presented a paper at the Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference on Sustainability at Arizona State University October 26, “Words to make the Springs flow Again: Protecting the Headwaters of the San Antonio River.” Dr. Said was invited to submit an extended version of the paper to be published as a chapter in *Writing the Earth: Rhetorics and Literacies of Sustainability*, edited by Peter Goggin, Arizona State University Press.

Dr. Michael Tallon attended several conferences during the past year: the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, where he presented two papers: “Putting Theory into Practice: An Innovative Approach to Teaching Culture in an Intermediate Spanish Class” (with Lisa Volle), and “Foreign Language Anxiety in Heritage Students of Spanish”; the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference in New York, New York, where he presented “A Qualitative Look at Foreign Language Anxiety in Heritage Students of Spanish”; and the UIW/NVC Collaborating for Student Success: Building Engagement in Learning Symposium, where he presented “A Culture of Caring: Reducing Anxiety and Increasing Engagement in First-Year Foreign Language Courses,” which will be published in the conference proceedings. He continues to serve as the Editor in Chief, as well as on the Editorial and Review Committee, of *Texas Papers in Foreign Language Education*. His biography was published in *Who’s Who in America, 2008*.

Since January of this year, **Dr. Juan Carlos Moreno** organizes, on a bi-monthly basis, the viewing of a selection of Spanish films followed by a debate. The films take place on the last Friday of the month and are shown in the original version with English subtitles. On January 26th, Dr Moreno organized a Spanish-Argentine cultural exchange where tales, poetry, music, songs, and dance took center stage. Dr. Moreno writes for the web pages of the Friends of the Canary Islands Association and the Casa de España as well. He collaborated in the organization of the VII Symposium Canary Islands-Texas, last Feb 28th - March 2nd, writing articles on the event. Dr. Moreno is currently preparing for next autumn a series of lectures for the Spanish-speaking public of San Antonio.

UIW FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT WEB SITE

Be sure to check out our web site (www.uiw.edu/flanguage) for information about our Spanish program and our faculty, previous newsletters, and other information!

If you have any comments about this newsletter or would like to include information in the next newsletter, please contact Michael Tallon at tallon@uiwtx.edu or 210-805-5891.

*“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run
and out of which they grow.”*

Oliver Wendell Holmes
