



# Newsletter of the Department of Modern Languages at The University of the Incarnate Word



[www.uiw.edu/modernlanguages](http://www.uiw.edu/modernlanguages)

Volume 8, Issue 1 – Summer 2010

## **NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS**

As our department is now called the Department of Modern Languages, our web site address has been changed to [www.uiw.edu/modernlanguages](http://www.uiw.edu/modernlanguages).

## **UPCOMING LANGUAGE COURSES**

### **Summer Session I** (May 17 – June 24)

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

(May 17 – June 17)

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 28 – August 5)

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 28 – July 22)

SPAN 4321-01	Elementary Spanish II for Pharmacists	MTWR 8:30–10:30 AM
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## **Fall 2010**

ARAB 1311	Elementary Arabic I	MW 9:00–10:15 AM
CHIN 1311	Elementary Chinese I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM
FREN 1311	Elementary French I	TR 3:00–4:15 PM
FREN 2311	Intermediate French I	TR 4:30–5:45 PM
GERM 1311	Elementary German I	TR 4:30–5:45 PM
IT 1311	Elementary Italian I	TR 10:30–11:45 AM
IT 2311	Intermediate Italian I	TR 12:00–1:15 PM
JAPN 1311	Elementary Japanese I	TR 12:00–1:15 PM
PORT 1311	Elementary Portuguese I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM

SPAN 1311	Elementary Spanish I (18 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. Amalia Mondríguez	TR 12:00–1:15 PM
SPAN 3341	Spanish-American Lit to Modernism – Dr. Amalia Mondríguez	TR 1:30–2:45 PM

## **PREVIOUS EVENTS**

### In-Service for Spanish Instructors

On Saturday, August 22, 2009, the Spanish teachers of the Department of Modern Languages met for an in-service one-day workshop with Lisa Volle, World Language Consultant with Heinle-Cengage, to go over the Spanish textbook *Nexos*. Ms. Volle provided an overview of the textbook, including scope and sequence and communicative goals of the curriculum. She included specific online enrichment resources provided to the instructors for class use with grammar tutorial videos, podcasts, and Google Earth. The full-time and adjunct professors were lead in a "best practices" discussion for projects and speaking activities.

### Faculty Brunch

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, the Department held a brunch and update session at La Madeleine from 9:00-11:00 AM. This was a nice opportunity to welcome everyone back from the summer break and catch up on faculty activities.

### Altar de Muertos

On October 29, 2009, students in Dr. Said's Spanish 2311 class constructed the Altar de Muertos outside Our Lady's Chapel, an annual event. On Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, Modern Languages and Campus Ministry provided a reception after the Mass for Day of the Dead.

### Navajo Weaver

The Modern Languages Program cooperated to sponsor the visit to campus for Native American Heritage Month of Beverly Allen, a Navajo weaver, from November 9-14, 2009.

### Holiday party

On Friday, December 4, 2009, the Department of Modern Languages held a Christmas Party at the International Conference Center on campus to celebrate the end of the semester.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Spanish Program is coordinating a local Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) conference at UIW for Saturday, September 18, 2010. Dr. Carmen Tafolla will be the guest speaker. For more information, contact Dr. Amalia Mondríguez at [mondriugu@uiwtx.edu](mailto:mondriugu@uiwtx.edu).

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

A comprehensive study published in Fall 2009 by the European Commission, entitled *The Contribution of Multilingualism to Creativity*, reveals evidence that learning a second language brings benefits that go beyond using the language itself. The study notes six major benefits of language learning: enhanced learning capacity, enhanced mental flexibility, enhanced problem-solving capability, enhanced interpersonal ability, expanded metalinguistic ability, and reduced age-related mental diminishment.

For more information, go to:

[eacea.ec.europa.edu/llp/studies/documents/study\\_on\\_the\\_contribution\\_of\\_multilingualism\\_to\\_creativity/case\\_studies\\_en.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.edu/llp/studies/documents/study_on_the_contribution_of_multilingualism_to_creativity/case_studies_en.pdf). (From *The Language Educator*, February 2010, Volume 5, Issue 2, p. 8.)

According to a new study by Raphiq Ibrahim, Mark Leikin, Zohar Eviatar, and Shimon Sapir, published in the *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, adult learners perceive second language speech to be easier when it is spoken in the accent of the listener and not in the original accent of that language. The researchers concluded that their research “lays emphasis on the importance of continuing investigation into the cognitive perspectives of accent in order to gain a better understanding of how we learn languages other than our native tongue.” (From *The Language Educator*, April 2010, Volume 5, Issue 3, p. 9.)

## **STUDENT NEWS**

At the CHASS Honors Convocation, held on April 29, 2010, the following students received awards from the Department of Modern Languages:

- **Cindy Dorantes** - Outstanding Spanish Major in memory of Carolina Ballester
- **Karen Rodriguez** - Outstanding Student in Intermediate Spanish in memory of Joshua Stokes
- **Maria Cristina Castano** - Outstanding Use of Spanish in Service to the Community
- **Melody Mendoza** - Outstanding Student in the Spanish Minor
- **Roxanna Montes-Bazaldua** - Distinguished Alumna 2010, UIW Spanish Program

The Spanish majors and **Dr. Amalia Mondríguez** attended a ceremony in honor of **Dr. Carmen Tafolla**, who received the Tomás Rivera Award for best Mexican American book for children, 2010. They also attended the Texas Librarian Conference at the end of April.

Also in April, the Spanish majors served as volunteers (interpreters, etc.) at the Health Fair held at the Convocation Center. The event was sponsored by Univisión and the Feik School of Pharmacy.

**Roxanna Montes-Bazaldúa**, who studied Spanish at UIW, was awarded the Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching, an honor given each year by Trinity University to outstanding teachers in the San Antonio area. Roxanna graduated from UIW in 1998 with a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish and earned a Master’s degree in Education in 2001, also from UIW. She is currently working on a doctoral degree at UIW in International Education/Entrepreneurship. In 2008 Roxanna published *The Legend of the Cascarón*, which started as a class project in one of Dr. Amalia Mondríguez’s advanced Spanish classes at UIW.

Congratulations to the following Spanish majors who graduated in May 2010: **Cindy Dorantes** and **Mayra Vásquez**.

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

## **NEW FEATURE – HELPFUL HINTS FROM STUDENTS**

Please ask your students in the Fall semester to write a brief description of one technique/strategy/idea that helps them learn. It can be something they do (e.g., make flashcards) or one aspect of class that they find particularly helpful (e.g., watching videos in class). We will publish a summary of the ideas in our next newsletter. And a big thank you to Dr. Sally Said for this wonderful idea!

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

**Dr. Amalia Mondríguez** wrote a basic Spanish booklet for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and taught basic Spanish to them in the Spring (12 students) and the summer (10 students). Dr. Mondríguez was the 2010 recipient of the Sr. Margaret Rose Palmer Mission Award for Education at UIW. The “Mission Continues Faculty Awards Program” is a series of five annual awards named for Sisters who represent the congregational heritage of living the Mission through teaching, scholarship, and community service. The awards recognize faculty for their commitment to promoting the Mission and supporting the ministry of UIW in an outstanding manner. Dr. Mondríguez recently attended the summer conference of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) in Los Angeles, California, and is now an officer of the SCBWI. During the past year the Spanish program at UIW sponsored SCBWI presentations on creative writing and held critique groups. Dr. Mondríguez also prepared the test for the Spanish certification for pharmacists.

At Diné College, Tsaile, AZ, **Dr. Sally Said** audited a Navajo language course, June 2009, assisting the instructor with teaching methods appropriate to heritage speakers. She also attended the Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference on Social Justice, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, October 22-24, where she presented her paper, “Latino Students Writing in Spanish: Autobiographical Narrative as Social Justice.” In spring 2010, while on sabbatical, she continued research on Navajo language and the influence of Spanish, traveling to the Navajo Nation for the first summer session at Diné College. She also chairs the dissertation committee of Allison Baez, who is researching a Navajo cultural topic. On Earth Day, April 22, UIW’s Earth Month Committee presented the William Mulcahy Award for Ecological Stewardship to Dr. Said for her work with the Headwaters Coalition and earlier groups dedicated to ecological conservation. Additionally, Dr. Said has served on the First Year Engagement Taskforce and as an evaluator of McNair presentations. She wrote “University of the Incarnate Word and the Arts of Liberation” for an essay-writing activity in CHASS, and the essay was awarded first place, Fall 2009. She also served as a member of the NEH Water Grant faculty group, assisting in planning schedules for speakers presenting on topics related to water law and conservation in Texas and Mexico.

**Dr. Michael Tallon** attended the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2009 Conference in San Diego, California, where he presented “The Effects of Computer-Mediated Communication on Foreign Language Anxiety in Heritage and Non-Heritage Students of Spanish: A Preliminary Investigation.” This paper was published in the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of *Texas Papers in Foreign Language Education*. In addition, he co-authored (along with Dr. Elaine K. Horwitz and Han Luo) a chapter on Foreign Language Anxiety in *Academic Anxieties*. He continues to serve as the Treasurer for the Spanish for Native Speakers (SNS) Special Interest Group (SIG) of ACTFL. He was recently promoted to Associate Professor and is now the Chair of the Department of Modern Languages.

### Leaving

Ms.Carolyn Ogden, adjunct instructor of German, and Mr. Mohsen Omar, adjunct instructor of Arabic, are leaving UIW to pursue other career options. We would like to thank both of them for their service to our department and our students, and we wish them the best.

### Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new adjunct instructors to the Department of Modern Languages: Mr. Abudharr Hussain (Arabic), Ms. Stefania Malacrida (German), Ms. Karin de Villa (Spanish), Dr. Ana María Mutis (Spanish), and Dr. J’Leen Saeger (Spanish).

## **UIW MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT WEB SITE**

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

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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](mailto:tallon@uiwtx.edu) or 210-805-5891.

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*“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”*

Frank Smith

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