



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

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



Volume 9, Issue 1 – Summer 2011

## **UPCOMING LANGUAGE COURSES**

### **Summer Session I** (May 16 – June 23)

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 16 – June 16)

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 27 – August 4)

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 27 – July 28)

SPAN 4321-01	Elementary Spanish II for Pharmacists	MTWR 8:30–10:30 AM
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### **Fall 2011**

ARAB 1311	Elementary Arabic I	MW 6:00–7:15 PM
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	MW 4:30–5:45 PM
HIND 1311	Elementary Hindi I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM
IT 1311	Elementary Italian I	MW 9:00–10:15 AM
IT 1312	Elementary Italian II	MW 10:30–11:45 AM
IT 2311	Intermediate Italian I	MW 1:30–2:45 PM
JAPN 1311	Elementary Japanese I	MW 12:00–1:15 PM
PORT 1311	Elementary Portuguese I	TR 6:00–7:15 PM

SPAN 1311	Elementary Spanish I (19 sections)	
SPAN 1312	Elementary Spanish II (11 sections)	
SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I: Oral Communication – Dr. Sally Said	TR 9:00–10:15 AM
SPAN 3321	Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics – Dr. Michael Tallon	TR 12:00–1:15 PM
SPAN 3342	Spanish-American Lit since Modernism – Dr. Amalia Mondríguez	TR 10:30–11:45 AM

## **PREVIOUS EVENTS**

### **Faculty Brunch**

On Saturday, September 25, 2010, the Department held a brunch and update session at La Madeleine from 9:00 AM to noon. This was a nice opportunity to welcome everyone back from the summer break, meet our new faculty, and catch up on recent faculty activities. In addition, Dr. Amalia Mondríguez spoke about Netflix and Professors Ana Arzoumanian and Elaine Bryant discussed some successful communicative activities for beginning-level language courses.

### **Music Panel/Recital**

On October 1, 2010, Dr. Amalia Mondríguez, with her Culture and Civilization of Latin America class, co-sponsored (along with Estudio Cuatro) a panel and recital with two musical groups: Taller Campesino (directed by Edwin Colon Zayas) and Sabor a Cultura (a group of young musicians from Cayey, Puerto Rico). They played and talked about *el cuatro* and *el tiple*, two musical instruments that look like guitars.

### **Guest Speaker**

On October 5, 2010, Mr. Raúl Rodríguez, Benson Chair of Banking & Finance at the H-E-B School of Business and Administration, was a guest speaker in Dr. Amalia Mondríguez's Culture and Civilization of Latin America class and Dr. James Creagan's International Studies class. Mr. Rodríguez spoke about the current situation in Mexico

### **Altar de Muertos**

On October 28, 2010, students in Dr. Said's Spanish 2311 class constructed the annual Altar de Muertos outside Our Lady's Chapel. On Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, Modern Languages and Campus Ministry hosted a reception after the Mass for Day of the Dead.

### **Workshop**

In Fall 2010, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) held a workshop on writing and publishing in the UIW Library. Both faculty and students attended the workshop.

### **Holiday party**

On Friday, December 10, 2010, the Department of Modern Languages held a Holiday Party In Marian Hall Ballroom to celebrate the end of the semester.

## **FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

The Department of Modern Languages now has a Facebook page! Be sure to "Like" our page so that you can keep up with our departmental happenings and keep in touch with faculty and both current and former students. Find us on Facebook: University of the Incarnate Word Department of Modern Languages.

## CCVI Spirit Award

Congratulations to our own Dr. Sally Said, Professor of Foreign Languages, for receiving the 2011 CCVI Spirit Award! The CCVI Spirit Award recognizes a member of the faculty, administration, or staff who has demonstrated in service to the University and/or to the broader civic community the spirit of the founders, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. The mission of the University flows directly from this spirit. Dr. Said is credited, along with her late dear friend Becky Cross, as the originator of what became the Headwaters Coalition, which established a special recognition and project around the Blue Hole.



## DID YOU KNOW?

New research using neuroscience and other methods suggests that learning a second language – even at a later age than previously thought – might have additional learning benefits for students. One study found early social interaction with native speakers is critical to language learning and might have implications for general learning as well, while another showed students who are multilingual are more flexible problem solvers. The director of education for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages said she hopes the research leads to more language instruction for elementary students.  
(From ACTFL SmartBrief – 10/26/10)

## STUDENT NEWS

At the 2011 CHASS Celebration of Excellence Ceremony, held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the following students received awards from the Department of Modern Languages:

- **Marisol Vásquez** - Outstanding Spanish Major in memory of Carolina Ballester
- **Melisa Martínez** - Outstanding Student in Intermediate Spanish in memory of Joshua Stokes
- **Cristina Castaño** - Outstanding Use of Spanish in Service to the Community
- **Cynthia Trujillo** - Outstanding Student in the Spanish Minor
- **Yesenia Ortiz** - Distinguished Alumna 2011, UIW Spanish Program
- **Michael Kenny** – Outstanding Student in Arabic
- **Susana Cabrera** – Outstanding Student in Chinese
- **Amy Tapscott** – Outstanding Student in French
- **Sarah Lund** – Outstanding Student in German
- **Ana Cavazos** – Outstanding Student in Italian
- **Kelsee McVey** – Outstanding Student in Japanese

In Spring 2011, Spanish students produced a 54-slide PowerPoint presentation about medicines and nutrition for Hispanic patients who do not speak English. The PowerPoint was presented at the UIW Health Fair in May 2011. It will also be used in future health fairs at UIW and UTSA.

Several students in our program attended the annual conference of the Texas Library Association. The students visited booths and met authors.

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.

## **CHINESE NEWS**

From Professor Margaret Gao, adjunct instructor of Chinese:

In Fall 2010, Susana Cabrera was the first student at UIW to obtain a Chinese Minor. She was also the first student to receive the "Outstanding Student in Chinese" award.

In Spring 2011, Elementary Chinese II student Alicia C. Najera was accepted to study at Qin Hua University in Beijing, China! Qin Hua University and Beijing University are very famous, prestigious Universities in China, similar to Harvard and Yale in the U.S. Alicia will go to Beijing to study this summer and next Fall. In China, Alicia will take Chinese courses and will return to UIW next Spring to complete her Chinese minor.

Also in Spring 2011, Elementary Chinese I and II students Jan Santos, Victoria Figueroa, and Ivan Serrano set up a study group to practice Chinese outside of class time. This created an interactive environment for their Chinese study, so they could communicate with each other and help each other. This helped them improve their Chinese proficiency faster and more naturally. They will continue this study group in Fall 2011.

On February 2, 2011, Intermediate Chinese II student Mark Henderson and Elementary Chinese II student Alicia C. Najera demonstrated a role-play program in Chinese on the UIW stage to celebrate Chinese New Year and Asian Festival. The topic of this program was ordering a Chinese New Year meal for parents at a Chinese restaurant. The role-play was well received by the audience.

## **FRENCH NEWS**

From Professor Elaine Bryant, adjunct instructor of French:

For my Intermediate French I class, using the full length, award-winning *Le huitieme jour* was successful. We watched it in 10 segments throughout the semester, each time with previewing, viewing, and post-viewing activities. To supplement my own activities, I adapted activities from an excellent source, Film Aerobics, which has many excellent films in a variety of languages. Because the film provided the class with shared, pre-existing knowledge, it was an excellent source for examples of structures we were reviewing or learning, for listening practice, for discussion, and for writing prompts. We used the last segment for the final exam listening section. The students were all very engaged in content and did really well. Moreover, this film certainly supports UIW's central premise of social justice. The principle character, who won the Cesar at Cannes for his work in the film, is a young man with Down's Syndrome. His character can well serve as a metaphor for all those who are different. Students are encouraged to become aware of and modify their behavior towards all those who are different. Also, students are encouraged to respect all people as members of the human family, all deserving of respect and all offering lessons in living well.

## **ITALIAN NEWS**

From Professor Ana Arzoumanian, adjunct instructor of Italian:

Due to the increased interest in our Italian language courses, we started offering both Elementary Italian I and Elementary Italian II every semester beginning in spring 2011. Effective Fall 2011 we will also be alternating Intermediate I and Intermediate II. The success of the Italian language program has encouraged more students to spend a semester at John Cabot University, our sister school in Rome. In the past, only two students per semester on average would study abroad in Italy. Since Spring 2010, the average has climbed to 8 students every semester! We are excited to see more students deciding to take advantage of the opportunity to experience living and traveling in Europe, without falling behind with their courses. Many

students have reported that the knowledge in the Italian language and culture they acquired in Elementary Italian I and II before their semester abroad had helped them make the most of their stay in Italy. Our new Intermediate Italian courses offer returning students the opportunity to maintain and further improve their Italian language skills.

To benefit those students interested in visiting Italy and Europe without spending a semester abroad, Professor Arzoumanian is organizing a tour to Rome, Florence, and Paris during Spring Break 2012. For more information, e-mail her at [arzouman@uiwtx.edu](mailto:arzouman@uiwtx.edu). This opportunity is open to all UIW students, as well as faculty and staff.

## **HELPFUL HINTS FROM STUDENTS**

In our last newsletter we asked our language faculty to have their students write a brief description of a technique, strategy, or idea that helps them learn the language. Here are some of their ideas:

- Make flashcards.
- Always show up to class!
- Prepare for class.
- Participate in class.
- When studying for tests, recite things out loud.
- Try to use what I learn in class in my daily life.
- Study every day!
- Study with a partner.
- Review what you learned for about 15 minutes every night.
- Use the videos and practice quizzes online.
- Do the workbook at home after class to practice the material.

A big Thank You to Dr. Sally Said for this idea!

## **FACULTY ACTIVITIES**

In the summer of 2010, **Dr. Sally Said** assisted with two Navajo language classes at Diné College in Tsaile, AZ, in the Navajo Nation, teaching the theory portion of Teaching Navajo to Native Speakers and helping to update the curriculum for Teaching Navajo as a Second Language. She also audited a course on Navajo history. From June 14-19, she attended the Sheep is Life celebration, assisting with presentations on wool processing, dyeing, and weaving, at Diné College Rodeo Grounds, Tsaile, AZ. On September 18, she participated in a day-long conference on writing children's books, sponsored by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators—Southwest Texas, held at Incarnate Word, thanks to hospitality chair and conference co-chair Amalia Mondríguez. On October 22-23, she attended the Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference "Transforming Rhetoric: Discovery and Change," at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, where she presented her paper "Transgender in Transition; The Evolving Literacy of Gender Identity and Expression." On October 28, students from her Spanish 2311 class constructed the annual Altar de Muertos outside Our Lady's Chapel. On Sunday, October 31, Modern Languages and Campus Ministry hosted a reception after the Mass for Day of the Dead. On November 5-6, Dr. Said attended the International Conference on Anzaldúan Thought and Art and Performance, sponsored by the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa, at UTSA downtown, where she assisted with the Native American opening ceremony. On March 25, Incarnate Word Day, Dr. Said received the Sisters of Charity's CCVI Spirit Award at a ceremony in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word. Students in her SPAN 2312 class wrote, edited, and published their collection of essays "Vendimia" (Vintage, the Harvest) in May. Along with Dr. Mondríguez, Dr. Said

continues to serve as consultant to the CCVI (Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word) Committee on Bilingualism, where she meets with committee members here, and by teleconference and videoconference, in Mexico and Peru, to follow the progress of Incarnate Word Sisters studying either English or Spanish as a second language.

**Dr. Michael Tallon** presented “The Effects of Foreign Language Anxiety on Spanish Heritage Students: A Preliminary Investigation” at the Texas Foreign Language Association (TFLA) 2010 Fall Conference in San Antonio, Texas, and also at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2010 Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. He also attended the American Evaluation Association (AEA) 2010 Conference in San Antonio, Texas. He presented “Reducing Foreign Language Anxiety in Heritage Language Students” at the 2011 TexFLEC Conference in Austin, Texas. From March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, he attended (along with Dr. Pat Lonchar, Assistant Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) the CIC Conference on Teaching World Languages in Little Rock, Arkansas. Along with Dr. Elaine K. Horwitz and Dr. Han Luo, he co-authored a chapter on “Foreign Language Anxiety” that was published in *Anxiety in Schools: The Causes, Consequences, and Solutions for Academic Anxieties*, edited by Jerrell Cassady. For the 2010-2011 academic year, he served as the CHASS Mentor Liaison for the UIW New Faculty Mentoring Program. He was also elected as an At-Large Senator for the UIW Faculty Senate, and served on the 2010-2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC). In November 2010, he was elected Vice-Chair of the Spanish for Native Speakers (SNS) Special Interest Group (SIG) of ACTFL.

## Leaving

Ms. Karin de Villa and Dr. Ana María Mutis, adjunct instructors of Spanish, 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.

## **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 language programs 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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*“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”*

Rita Mae Brown

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