

**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

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

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).

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