



# Apuntes

<http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/spanish/>

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## Latin/o American Writers Symposium

On April 8th, **José Castro Urioste, Ricardo Chávez Castañeda** and **Pilar Melero** were the guest authors at the Latin/o American Writers Symposium.

Urioste is a professor at Purdue University Calumet in Illinois. Some of his works are the novel: *And What Have You Done?* and the play: *A la orilla del mundo*.

Chávez, on his part, currently teaches at Middlebury College and is the author of *La conspiración idiota* and *El día del hurón*, among various other narrative works.

Melero, a professor of Spanish and Chicano literature at UW-Whitewater, read from her collection of stories: *From Mythic Rocks/ Voces del Malpáis*.

As part of their visit to UWM, the writers attended Prof. Bird-Soto's Spanish 350 class to converse with the students.

The Symposium/Reading took place in Lubar Hall N110 and was accompanied by a session of questions and answers.

This event was sponsored by: The Department of Spanish and Portuguese, The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Sigma Delta Pi, The Roberto Hernández Center and the Women's Studies program at UWM.

Thanks to all who helped and participated in the Symposium!

In this photo:

**José Castro Urioste, Nancy Bird-Soto, Pilar Melero and Ricardo Chávez Castañeda.**



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## INTERCAMBIO VIRTUAL: El uso de SKYPE en las clases de conversación

### -Entrevista a la Prof. María del Pilar Melgarejo-

¿Cuál era/es el propósito principal de la actividad?

-Skype es un software que permite realizar llamadas gratis utilizando la red. En el contexto específico de las clases de conversación el propósito principal es darles a los estudiantes la oportunidad de conversar con hispanohablantes que se encuentran en cualquier parte del mundo utilizando audio y video. De esta manera tienen oportunidad no sólo de practicar sus destrezas

comunicativas sino también hacer de ésta una experiencia de aprendizaje e intercambio cultural. Gracias a Skype los estudiantes han conversado con personas en España, México, Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Perú, Argentina, incluso Francia, donde hay una comunidad de hispanohablantes bastante grande.

¿Cómo reaccionaron los estudiantes?

-Después de realizar una encuesta a los estudiantes sobre su experiencia con la actividad, se puede decir que ésta ha sido para ellos una

experiencia totalmente novedosa con grandes beneficios. Resaltan el hecho de poder conversar con un hispanoparlante, oportunidad que sólo veían viable viajando a otros países. Escuchan diferentes acentos y están obligados de algún modo a mejorar su comprensión para poder continuar la conversación. Pueden ver a su compañero/a de conversación como alguien que no sólo les ayuda y corrige sus errores sino a quien pueden preguntar sobre las diferencias en el uso del español en diferentes regiones. (Continúa en la página 3.)

### Congratulations to the new members of the Eta Chapter of Wisconsin (UWM) of Phi Beta Kappa:

**-Jacqueline Kaye Dreyer**  
**-Amy J. Polenske**

Phi Beta Kappa, is one of the most exclusive academic honor societies in the U.S.

## AWARDS CORNER

**Amy Olen receives the Gabriela Mistral Award****Ann Weyers receives the Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarship****Molly Talajkowski receives the Meta M. Steinfort Scholarship****The 2010 Graduate Alumni Award goes to Jodi Elias****Linguistics Symposium**

The symposium: *Galician Linguistics: From Tradition to Modernity* was held on Thursday, April 29th, 2010 at 3:30 PM in Holton Hall 180.

The speakers were Dr. Alex Alonso, from Brooklyn College and Graduate Center (CUNY), and Dr. David Mackenzie from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alonso's presentation was entitled: "¿Por qué la lengua gallega no quiso ser nacional-popular? El debate en torno a los modelos de la lengua durante el franquismo."

Mackenzie presented: "The *stenna codicum* of the *Crónica de Iria*: The problem of the Vatican Manuscript and the "da cámara" code.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

We would like to thank Prof. Gabriel Rei-Doval for organizing this symposium.

**Presenting the new Sigma Delta Pi members:**

**Carlos Alberto Carrillo**  
**James Colbo**  
**Jennifer Chappa**  
**Paola Félix Encarnación**  
**María Gleason-Maddox**  
**Alicia Johnson**  
**Torrey Lauer**  
**Perry Weber**  
**Ann Weyers**

**The initiation ceremony was held on Friday, April 30th, 2010.**

**Alumni Reports:****By Tim Hall**

It is difficult to quickly summarize the experience that I gained from studying abroad in Galicia into a few paragraphs. There is just so much to touch upon. I learned more than I ever imagined about the history and culture of an autonomous community located on the western-most tip of Europe.

Upon arriving in the capital city of Santiago de Compostela, I was immediately struck with the natural beauty that Galicia possesses. Maybe it was from the jet lag, but as I hailed a cab leaving the airport, I couldn't help but feel like I was walking through a beautiful painting of a landscape so incredibly green with rolling hills and bluffs as far as I could see with a clear blue sky and the sun shining brilliantly over this clandestine garden. After coming down from my cloud, I came to realize that this place called Galicia was simply enchanting.

Galicia is a very beautiful nation of people with a very rich and strong sense of identity located in the country of Spain. Their history dates all the way back to pre-romantic times and the culture has been preserved very well through museums and literature, with writers such as Rosalia de Castro and Castelao, but also through landmarks which still stand like the historic village in the city of Santiago de Compostela such as: the Cathedral of Saint James, the monument of María Pita in the coastal city of A Coruña, and the Tower of Hercules.

Professors **Rei-Doval** and **Méndez-Santalla** did an amazing job of integrating the learning process, utilizing class time, guest speakers, and excursions which enhanced the learning experience. By traveling and studying in Galicia, not only did we learn history and culture, but we also had the opportunity to explore other parts of Spain and Portugal on our own time. In addition, this trip really put into perspective for me why and how America was created the way it was and how it came to be. Many Galicians emigrated from their homeland in search of a better life in the Americas, not especially to the United States; but their reasons for leaving can be compared to other cultures throughout Europe who came to this country in search of a new life.

## Faculty and Teaching Staff News

### Publications, Presentations and other projects:

**Nancy Bird-Soto** published the book review: "Ese otro mundo: *Fe en disfraz* de Mayra Santos Febres" en *Rojo: Claridad* 21-28 enero 2010 (Review of Mayra Santos-Febres's *Fe en disfraz*. Alfaguara, 2009).

She also presented: "Subversivo y sin verbos: 'Acto de fe' de Mayra Santos Febres" at the II International Congress on Caribbean Studies in Cartagena, Colombia.

**César Ferreira** presented: "De la memoria a la ficción: *Vivir para contarla* de Gabriel García Márquez" at the 63rd Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky (April 2010).

**Jeffrey Oxford** has published the article: "Unmasked Men: Sex Roles in *Like Water for Chocolate*," *Laura Esquivel's Mexican Fictions*, Ed. Elizabeth Willingham. Brighton, Portland and Toronto: Sussex Academic P, 2010. 76-89.

**Gabriel Rei-Doval** recently published the book: <A lingüística galega desde alén mar>, with the University of Santiago de Compostela Press.

**M. Estrella Sotomayor** presented on Feb. 12th at the conference Implementing ELO's in Courses and Programs at UW-Milwaukee, focusing on the learning objectives and outcomes in Spanish for Health Professionals I. She also presented: "Regional Spanish: The Case of the Puerto Rican Dialect and Health" at Alverno College on February 19th.

**Kathy Wheatley** co-edited *Formulaic Language*, 2 vols.

(Amsterdam, John Benjamins) and co-authored *Introduction: Approaches to the study of formulae*. In *Formulaic Language*. She also reviewed Visnja Pavicic Takac's 'Vocabulary learning strategies and foreign language acquisition'. *Modern Language Journal* 93, 1: 123. In October 2009, she presented at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) Conference in Bloomington, Indiana on the Lesson study project that she worked on with **Ester Suárez-Felipe** and **Magaly Zeise**. In April 2010. Kathy, Ester and Magaly will be presenting on the use of Lesson study to learn how students learn at the UW President's Summit on Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

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### More on Research and Pedagogy:

**Nancy Bird-Soto**, **María del Pilar Melgarejo** and **Estrella Sotomayor** are participating

in a Campus Reading Seminar sponsored by the Institute of Race and Ethnicity and is led by Visual Arts Professor Shelleen Greene. **Bird-Soto** is also one of the co-coordinators of the Center for 21st Century Studies Feminist Research Workshop.

**Melgarejo** and **Bird-Soto** participated in the first faculty technology presentation: **Using Podcasting and Skype in Spanish Language Classes** on April 6th. It was coordinated by **Mingyu Sun**, Director of the Language Resource Center.

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Congratulations to **Magaly Zeise**, who received a university-wide teaching award on February 19th. The award ceremony was in honor of academic staff who have earned a UWM Certificate in Blended/Online Course Redesign.

### Intercambio virtual - Entrevista a la Prof. Melgarejo (continuado de la página 1)...

Comente los retos a la hora de implementar esta actividad.

-Ésta ha sido definitivamente una experiencia de aprendizaje en varios sentidos, ya que hay una serie de obstáculos que poco a poco hay que ir resolviendo. Uno de los elementos más importantes a tener en cuenta es la planeación. De ella depende el éxito de la actividad. Planeación en cuanto al grupo con el que los estudiantes conversarán, el

horario y los temas de conversación de las sesiones. Una de las grandes dificultades que se pueden encontrar son los problemas técnicos que pueden aparecer en el momento de comenzar la conversación, por esto es importante que el/la instructor/a y los estudiantes se aseguren de que haya buena conexión a la red y que el audio y el micrófono funcionen bien. Es fundamental proveer con algún tipo de guía para que estén

para la conversación y esta última pueda ser lo más provechosa posible.

En conclusión, pienso que la tecnología de programas como Skype es útil como herramienta pedagógica que complementa el trabajo de los instructores en la clase y que abre posibilidades de aprendizaje en varios niveles. Sin embargo, todavía queda por explorar muchas de estas posibilidades.

**And more  
congratulations to  
Prof. Melgarejo  
whose son,  
Antonio Sánchez  
Melgarejo, was  
born on Saturday,  
May 1st, 2010!**

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## Apuntes

### FELICITACIONES

**May 2010  
graduates!**

**Alicia Brister  
Ricky Burroughs  
James Colbo  
Chelsie Collins  
Cara Campbell  
Ben Feiner  
Sarah High  
Alan Lozano  
Jocelyn Mancl  
Melissa Meléndez  
Nicole O'Leary  
Nicole Pfeifer  
Amy Polenske  
Adam Rigg  
Kate Tauschek**



**Cartagena, Colombia**

Dear Alumni and/or Friend of the Department:

Sitting here in mid-April, under unseasonably pleasant weather, it seems incredible that another academic year is almost behind us and that yet another “crop” of students will soon be heading off to their respective places in life. It is with pleasure and pride that I look back over the Department’s accomplishments of this past year and note that our students, staff and faculty certainly have accomplished a lot. I am confident, in fact, that you, our friends and alumni, are equally proud since it is the overall value/standing of your degree, the UWM name, the Department and its programs that are being positively affected.

As of fall, 2010, we will have two students with degrees from the recently implemented M.A. in Spanish who are working on their doctorate degrees in Spanish at prestigious universities; I am certain that this will only continue to increase as our inaugural class graduates next year and the program continues to grow. In addition, the department recently made a tenure-track hire in Portuguese (Ricardo Vasconcelos, University of California-Santa Barbara) and so we expect to see that aspect of the Department grow even more. Our long range plans, in fact, include the implementation of an undergraduate, B.A. degree in Portuguese or Lusophone studies.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider donating to the departmental Alumni Award scholarships. Thanks to your contributions, we have been able to set up these scholarships, and our first award was made this year (Ms. Jodi Elias—see page 2 for a photo of the award ceremony—of whom one nominator said: “Jodi [...] is capable of successfully carrying out independent research and developing it into a high-quality product and [...] is] someone who represents a high level of character and abilities in graduate studies of Spanish”). In these hard, economic times, I can assure you that the recipients of this financial assistance will be extremely grateful for your generosity in helping make the scholarships.

If you would like to increase even further the reach of your donation by issuing a “matching challenge,” I’d be delighted to speak to you about such and publish that information in a subsequent departmental newsletter this coming spring. Of course, larger, long-term gifts are deeply appreciated as well, and I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you concerning such.

Additionally, we would love to hear from you and certainly hope that you will stay involved with our department and learn about our news and activities by visiting our web site and reading our future on-line newsletters at [www4.uwm.edu/letschi/spanish](http://www4.uwm.edu/letschi/spanish). We also have a Facebook group page, so be sure to join us there as well.

If you would like to participate in increasing our scholarships, you can do so either online at <http://www4.uwm.edu/alumni/foundation/epay.cfm>, by calling the UWM Foundation at 1-800-654-0434 or 414-906-4640, or by sending a check or money order payable to “The UWM Foundation” at 3230 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53211. Please *indicate your support for Spanish and Portuguese – Alumni Scholarship (Account 67650)*. Your tax-deductible donation can be even more valuable if your employer matches your gift. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Oxford  
Professor and Chair  
[oxford@uwm.edu](mailto:oxford@uwm.edu)