

# Apuntes

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Spanish/>

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- Milwaukee

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## Hispanic Sociolinguistics in Transatlantic Perspective: A Symposium

Presented by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the well-attended Symposium on Hispanic Sociolinguistics in Transatlantic Perspective took place on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The presenters were Prof. Fernando Ramallo (University of Vigo, Spain), author of *Manual de ciencias da linguaxe*, and Prof. Kim Potowski (University of Illinois-Chicago), author of *Language and Identity in Dual Language Immersion School*.



Dr. Ramallo's talk, entitled: "Why is the Galician Sociolinguistic Situation Relevant from an American perspective?", focused on the

Status of the Galician language in Spain and how it may serve as a research model, considering similarities and differences, for investigating the status of Spanish in the United States. He highlighted what it means to be a speaker of a 'minority' language (*lengua minoritaria*) in both countries, as well as the communicative possibilities that receptive multilingualism presents, drawing more specifically from the receptive bilingualism between speakers of Galician and speakers of Spanish.

Dr. Potowski's presentation was "The Sociolinguistics of Mexican Spanish in Chicago," which focused on research on children of Mexican/Puerto Rican parents in order to understand which modality may dominate the way in which a Mexican speaks Spanish. Noting how vocabulary varies considerably between those two modalities and how they are used in the Chicago Latino context, Prof.

Potowski's case-studies show a tendency in which usually it is the mother's Spanish (Mexican or Puerto Rican) the one that more clearly influences what Mexican Americans speak. Interestingly, there were cases in which the Spanish spoken by the youth appeared to be right between the two modalities, thus creating a hybrid midpoint.



This event was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Sigma Delta Pi. Special thanks to Prof. Gabriel Rei-Doval for organizing this symposium.

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

- Cara Renee Campbell
- Benjamin Michael Feiner
- Dana Michelle Gilbertson
- Travis Bernard Morales
- Zuzana Nikodemova

## Sigma Delta Pi—April 2009 Ceremony

On Friday, April 10th, 2009 the Sigma Delta Pi Initiation Ceremony was held in recognition of its new members:

**Kelli Bernhoft, Cara Campbell, Lisa Holicek, Amy Olen, Sarah Pressman, Adam Rigg, and Jessica Wierman.**

This year's recipient of the Sigma Delta Pi Scholarship is **Jamie Kathryn Vogt.**

**Luz María Pineda** is the recipient of the Meta S. Steinfert Award, and **Michael Grossman** has been awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Scholarship. Congratulations to all!

Special thanks to Sigma Delta Pi's Faculty Adviser, Prof. César Ferreira, and Erika Almenara, President, for organizing the ceremony.

## Poetry Corner

### “CAN” Identity

many will cross U.S. border  
from all walks of life  
to find the American dream  
so Lady Liberty is not just for  
fame

but many will learn its no  
game  
a lot of struggles for success  
can become such a mess  
with bills, low paid jobs  
language barriers

many move beyond these  
barriers  
do climb up the ladder  
U.S. cultural identity has  
changed

for the better not worse  
cherish U.S. Diversity  
we are all one Community  
when we face struggles  
we should stay true to  
our Identities  
identities that CAN  
Ameri-CAN  
Mexi-CAN  
Puerto Ri-CAN  
and all Latin Ameri-CANs

NOT Ameri-CAN”t, Mexi-  
CAN”t, Puerto Ri-CAN”t, and  
Latin Ameri-CAN”t

we can make a difference  
follow the American Dream  
these and every cultural  
identity  
should not be rejected  
but accepted  
we have all transformed U.S.  
identity

—Christina Marie Villa  
(Spanish 371, Fall 2008)

Our department  
is on  
FACEBOOK  
Groups!  
—  
Join us!

## Announcing: Luna Creciente and Student Colloquium

*Luna Creciente*, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese creative writing journal has received its first “batch” of submissions for a forthcoming publication later this spring.

It is a collective project steered by the graduate students and teaching assistants in the Department, and it is open to students, faculty and staff at UWM. It is projected to begin as an on-line publication and its main goal is to foster a sense of creative community for its contributors.

Submissions can be in Spanish, Portuguese or English, no more than five pieces per person, and should be sent to:  
luna.creciente.mag@gmail.com.

March 1st is the standard deadline for submissions to be considered by the *Luna Creciente* volume to be published that same year.

Special thanks to Elena García-Oliveros and Karyn Halmstad for getting this project started.

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After the success of last year’s First Student Colloquium in Spanish and Portuguese, we would like to encourage graduate students and advanced undergraduates in the Department to consider participating in the next colloquium, to be held in October 2009.

It is an excellent forum to present a paper and get feedback from peers.

For questions, please contact Prof. Melgarejo at: melgarej@uwm.edu

## News from Our Students Abroad: Touching Base with Our Department

Nos cuenta Charity Ann Falkey en un correo a Estrella Sotomayor:

“...estoy en España, en la ciudad de Sevilla. Estudio aquí la comunicación en español y el sistema de medicina aquí. Voy a hacer en los siguientes meses una práctica en unas clínicas de medicina. Tengo un tutor español, un estudiante de la medicina en la universidad de Sevilla, para aprender más vocabulario en adición a lo que he aprendido el semestre pasado.”

## Alumni Reports: Crystal Dalkin

--I am currently working as a Spanish interpreter/translator with a small company called Speech Solutions LLC. This particular company is based out of Milwaukee but contracts work from Lake County's Early Intervention Program in Illinois. As an interpreter, I travel with the therapists to each child's home and work with them and the family during their therapy sessions. Other duties include providing interpretation for therapy, hearing and vision evaluations and some medical appointments. As a translator, I work from home doing written translations for therapy and medical reports.

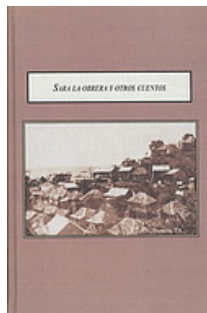
I currently am a mentor for the Summit Educational Association, Inc. (Tel: 414-672-1786)

The next session starts in January. The program is really fun! It is a 2 hour a week commitment. The area is predominately Hispanic and volunteers could request to work with a Spanish-speaking student if they are interested.

-Crystal Dalkin (May 2007, BA Spanish)

## Faculty and Teaching Staff News

**Nancy Bird-Soto** has published the book *Sara la obrera y otros cuentos: El repertorio femenino de Ana Roqué*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 2009.



She has also published a book review of Norma Valle Ferrer's *Luisa Capetillo: Obra Completa* under the title: "La obra completa de una voz inextinguible." En Rojo: *Claridad*. 12-18 mar 2009: 18, <<http://claridadpuertorico.com/content/view/403585/32/>>.

Recent panel presentation: "The (Un)Making of the Woman as Sinner: Graciela Limón's *The*

*Memories of Ana Calderón*," 42nd Annual Conference of the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (March 2009).

She is also part of a CIE grant for a research cluster on Arabic for Students of French and Spanish, alongside Professors Anita Alkhas, Larry Kuiper, Hamid Ouali, and Caroline Seymour-Journ.

**César Ferreira** recently co-edited the book: *Para leer a Luis Loayza*. Lima: Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos-Editiones del Vicerrectorado Académico, 2009. 296 pp.



He has also published the article: "On Reading Claribel Alegria" *Antípodas* XIX (2008): 145-152; as well as the book review: Mario Vargas Llosa. "*Al pie del Támesis*." *World Literature Today* (March-April 2009): 79  
Recent panel presentations: "La realidad trastocada: Voces y sombras en los relatos de Clarice Lispector," 62nd Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky (April 2009), and "Los mundos de Mario Bellatin," 42nd Annual Conference of the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (March 2009).

**María del Pilar Melgarejo Acosta's** most recent panel presentation is: "José María Vargas Vila: en busca de los Césares de la Decadencia," 2009 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference University of Kentucky (April 2009). She has also been awarded a 2009-2010

Junior Faculty Research Award. The title of her project is: "Language of Regeneration: The Production of Political Discourse in Colombia and Mexico."

**Jeffrey Oxford** has published the article: "Tirano Banderas: A Case of Early Postmodernism." *Dissidences: Hispanic Journal of Theory and Criticism*. Vols 4/5. <<http://www.dissidences/4OxfordValleInclan.html>>

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Congratulations to **Erika Almenara** on her acceptance into the Spanish PhD program at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

## Featured Photo



### Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

View of the Monumento al niño descalzo, Malecón, and the Caribbean Sea.

Photo by: Nancy Bird-Soto

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## Apuntes

**Congratulations to our  
May 2009 graduates!  
¡Felicitaciones!**

Dear Alumni and/or Friend of the Department:

Another year is quickly drawing to a close, and much has happened in the Department. You will have noticed on prior pages many of our activities, and how engaged the faculty and Department are professionally. We are trying to reach out and stay ever more connected to our community, and in an effort to do so, we have created our own Facebook group --- so come join us!

As reported in the fall newsletter, the M.A. in Spanish is now officially in place, and the response has been tremendous. In fact, we have received approximately a dozen applications for admission in Fall 2009, our first true recruitment class—this in addition to the dual-track and Spanish Translation students (degrees that remain with MAFLI). As is evident, then, growth in graduate education in Spanish is continuing to increase in spite of the economy.

Speaking of the economy, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider donating to the departmental Alumni Award scholarships. It is our intent to make the first of these awards next year. In these hard, economic times, I can assure you that the recipients of these awards will be extremely grateful for your generosity in helping make the scholarships available.

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 [www.uwm.edu/Dept/Spanish](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Spanish).

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, Chair

**Prof. Jeffrey Oxford in  
Panama, March 2009**

