

# APUNTES

Department of Spanish and Portuguese | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## Engaging Bits

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese has participated in and/or co-sponsored several events this semester. Among the highlights:

- 1) The Department helped publicize U.S. Poet Laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera's** visit to UWM in March.
- 2) The Department was one of the co-sponsors of **Norma Cantú's** talk: "Healing the Wound: Reflections of a Chicana Feminist from the Border" on April 7th.
- 3) The Department also co-sponsored the CLAC's **Latin American Film Festival**.
- 4) The "Somos Latinos" initiative by Spanish MA student **Sergio López** was featured on the UWM website: <https://uwm.edu/languages/sergio-lopez-ramos-leads-effort-to-create-spaces-focused-on-the-spanish-speaking-community-through-somos-latinos/>
- 5) **Leticia de la Paz**, one of our Spanish MA graduate students, presented her *buñuelos de calabaza* to the judges (one of whom was L&S Dean Rodney Swain) at the 3rd annual UWM International Dessert Competition. (Photo on page 2.)
- 6) **Bate-Papo** continues to be a favorite for Portuguese conversation (Colectivo-Prospect).
- 7) Thanks to Prof. Katie Vater and Prof. César Ferreira for organizing the February 12th Graduate Student Colloquium and to **Leticia de la Paz**, **Ruth Otero Carballa**, and **Elena García Oliveros** for presenting their research.

## Sigma Delta Pi Ceremony- Spring 2016



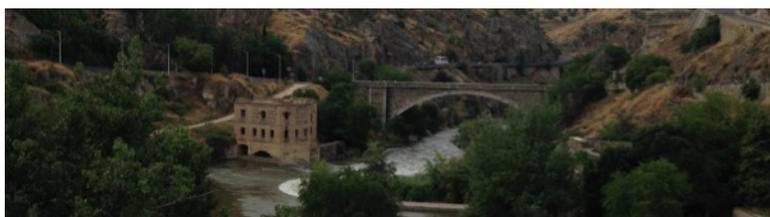
Congratulations to the new members: **Yousef Alaeddin, Brenda Andrade, María Ayete-Gil, Sarita Coe, Jacquelin Frías, Laura Johanna Mendoza Montañez, Julia Montemuño Rodríguez, Aimee Orndorf, María G. Romero, Ian Roudebush, and Hannah Weston.**

**And ¡Enhorabuena! to Prof. Ferreira!**

From the Sigma Delta Pi press release dated May 7, 2016:

*"On May 6, 2016, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society's President Emeritus, Dr. Germán D. Carrillo of Marquette University, inducted Dr. César Ferreira, Professor of Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, into the Order of the Discoverers, one of Sigma Delta Pi's highest honors. Professor Ferreira's exceptional contributions to the profession and his loyal promotion of the ideals of Sigma Delta Pi have earned him this international distinction."*

(Below: View of the Río Tajo, Toledo. Photo by Nancy Bird Soto)



# Alumni News

By Kathy Wheatley

In our Fall and Spring 2015 newsletters, I included news from our Spanish MA alumni who graduated between 2009 and 2011, as well as several of our Spanish BA alumni and MALLT alumni. In this issue, I will highlight the Spanish MA students who graduated in 2012, along with some of the Spanish BA students who graduated in the previous century, listed in chronological order (one of them almost 50 years ago!). There is not enough room to include everyone that contacted me, so stay tuned to future issues for more updates. Please continue to send me your stories at [wheatley@uwm.edu](mailto:wheatley@uwm.edu). We all enjoy hearing about the wonderful things that our alumni are doing.

**Amy Dillon** (Spanish MA 2012) teaches Spanish classes at UWM. We are fortunate to have her on our teaching staff.

**Jillian Koenen** (Spanish MA 2012) is a Project Manager at *Epic* in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Ginett Pineda** (Spanish MA 2012) is working on her PhD at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

**Fabiola Sigala-Díaz** (Spanish MA 2012) is a bilingual training instructor at *Occupational Training & Supply* in Willowbrook, Illinois.

**Christine Vázquez** (Spanish MA 2012) is a professional development manager at the non-profit *International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans* in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

**Kitty (Katherine) Morse** (Spanish BA 1967) has written 11 cookbooks of Moroccan and other cuisine. Her website includes chronicles of her journeys throughout the world <http://www.kittymorse.com/>.

**Margaret Mika** (Spanish BA 1981) has taught English writing courses for many years and is the Director of the UWM Writing Center. Her study of Spanish has given her a deeper understanding of the efforts of the many international students at UWM who are studying in their disciplines and at the same time working to improve their skills in English.

**Mark Hagen** (Spanish BA 1987) is the Assistant Director of faculty-led Education Abroad Programs at Appalachian State University, and he recently began a Master’s program in Spanish there as well.

**Karen Shantz** (Vetter) (Spanish BA 1989) is now a teacher at St. Anthony Middle School in Milwaukee, where most of the students are Hispanic, and she has used her knowledge of Spanish in several jobs throughout her career.

**Joyce Naylor** (Spanish BA 1989) did graduate research in Public Health and History in México. She also taught Sociology, Anthropology, English, and Latin American Studies at several universities.

**Teri Ruíz** (Skellet) (Spanish BA 1997) works in the medical field in California as a computed tomography technologist, and uses Spanish often with her patients.

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**Leticia de la Paz** describing her *buñuelos de calabaza* at the 3rd annual UWM International Dessert Competition.



## Faculty News

**Nancy Bird-Soto** has published her first novel in Spanish: *Aries Point o el viaje de Pleione* (Santo Domingo & San Juan: Editorial Isla Negra). The book presentation event will be held at La Tertulia in Old San Juan on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, alongside poet Lydia Pagán. Prof. Bird-Soto's short-story collection, *Sobre la tela de una araña* has been published this spring in print format (San Juan: Editorial Tiempo Nuevo) and it features three new stories. She presented the paper "Parts of Constellations: Gloria Anzaldúa's Queer Spirituality" at the VI Congreso Del Otro La'ó at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez in March. She continues to be an invited columnist for *Revista Cruce*.

**César Ferreira** presented the following papers: "La narrativa de Edgardo Rivera Martínez y una utopia posible," 69th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky (April 2016); and "Castración y cultura popular en *Los cachorros*, de Mario Vargas Llosa," La invención de la novela contemporánea: Tributo a Mario Vargas Llosa," Academia Peruana de la Lengua, Lima, Peru (February 2016). He published the article: "Consideraciones en torno a la narrativa de Edgardo Rivera Martínez," *Letras-Organó de la Facultad de Letras y Ciencias Humanas de la Universidad Mayor de San Marcos* Vol. 86 No. 124 (julio-diciembre 2015): 213-225. Also, Dr. César Ferreira was invited to serve as a member of the Editorial Board of *World Literature Today* in January 2016. Published at the University of Oklahoma, *World Literature Today* is an international literary journal now in its 90th year of publication.

**R. John McCaw** moderated a panel at Quixotic Legacies II: Graduate Symposium in Hispanic Studies at Loyola University in Chicago on February 27.

**Gabriel Rei-Doval** attended the MLA Annual Convention in Austin, TX, where he acted as respondent in the session "Translation, Bilingualism, Glocalization: New Linguistic Approaches in Galician Studies". As a member of the MLA Galician LLC Forum he also took part in the discussions on future plans for Galician Studies at the MLA. He also participated in the II North American Symposium on Galician Studies, held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (April 20-23 2016), where he presented on "A lingua e a lingüística galegas nos Estados Unidos: algunhas consideracións historiográficas e epsitemolóxicas". Likewise, he presented in the Linguistics Colloquia on "Language Contact and Language Standardization in Iberian Perspective: the Galician Case" on April 15 2016. Gabriel Rei-Doval's academic projects have been present in the media in several pieces of news, such as <http://www.galiciainconfidencial.com/noticia/27655-gabriel-rei-doval-galego-permite-dialogar-pe-igualdade-mundos-imperiais>, <http://www.sermsgaliza.gal/articulo/cultura/cultura-galega-estudo-na-universidade-michigan/20160421171924046925.html> or <http://www.edu.xunta.es/portal/es/node/18763>.

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## Lusophone Corner

Os Revolucionários, the Portuguese program co-ed soccer team, participated in the Intramural's 6vs6 soccer tournament for the second year in a row.

(Photo and description courtesy of Cássio Muniz)

## Letter from the Chair

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of our Spanish majors, Spanish MA students, Spanish minors, and Portuguese minors who are graduating this semester. I also want to acknowledge the new inductees into the *Sigma Delta Pi Hispanic Honor Society*, as well as this year's recipients of the Department scholarships that I will describe below, **Jennifer Venancio**, **Gabriella Van Den Elzen**, and **Kate Young**. In addition, I would like to thank our outstanding teaching staff, who love what they do and are committed to students and their learning success. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and honored that they chose to specialize in one of our programs.

During this difficult fiscal crisis at UWM and throughout the University of Wisconsin System, we are facing many significant challenges and difficult decisions, but we are committed to continuing to offer a high quality education to our undergraduate and graduate students. We also understand the financial challenges of our students and have been working hard to be able to offer students more support. At the graduate level, UWM will be increasing salaries to our teaching assistantships next year, and many of our graduate students also receive a *Chancellor's Award*. At the undergraduate level, we made some significant improvements to our scholarships this year. The *Meta Steinfort Scholarship*, which is granted to a junior or senior majoring in Spanish, either in the College of Letters & Science or in the School of Education, was increased to \$1000. In addition, we started offering a \$1000 scholarship from the *Hilda Becher Modern Languages Fund* to a Spanish major or minor who participates in our Summer Study abroad program in Madrid, Spain. We continue to offer a \$500 *Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award* to a Spanish major who has excelled in his/her studies, but this fund is nearly depleted and our students would benefit greatly from your contribution. If you are interested, there is more information about our scholarships at <http://uwm.edu/spanish-portuguese/undergraduate/scholarships/>, and you can make a contribution online under the *Give* tab.

I hope that you enjoy the other news in this issue of *Apuntes*, and I want to personally thank Professor Nancy Bird-Soto for preparing this newsletter every semester. Archived issues of the newsletter can be found at <http://uwm.edu/spanish-portuguese/category/apuntes-newsletter/>.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

**Kathleen Wheatley**

Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
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