

# APUNTES

Department of Spanish and Portuguese | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## Highlighted Feature: New Members of Sigma Delta Pi



### *New inductees:*

Miguelina Berroa, Arcadio Bolaños, Alexandra Campos, Ana María Casas Olcoz, Aaron Mathew Edwards, Lisette Frías, Jesús Alberto García Bonilla, Ana Martínez-Ortiz, Laura Martínez-Geijo Román, Samantha Montalvo, Madelynn Randel, Lucero Rocha, Kirsten Sipek, Jennifer Venancio, and Jennifer Zuperku

### *In this issue:*

*Alumni News pp. 2-3; Graduate Student News, p. 3; Volunteer Opportunities, p. 4; Portuguese, p. 5;*

*Faculty News, pp. 6-7; Events, p.7; Letter from the Chair, p. 8*

## ALUMNI NEWS

---

By Kathy Wheatley

Over the past several years, I have included news of alumni from our Spanish MA students and Spanish majors. Recently, we were able to expand our outreach to include MA alumni from the MALLT program with a Spanish concentration, and also to Spanish and Portuguese minors, and I have heard back from many students who we hadn't reached before. The alumni listed below are presented in chronological order, from 1971 through 2016. As always, I have found it so inspiring to hear about the experiences of our alumni and the ways in which studying Spanish has enriched your lives, so please continue to send me your stories at [wheatley@uwm.edu](mailto:wheatley@uwm.edu) so that I can add them to future issues of *Apuntes*.

**Mike Moratz** (BA-Spanish major 1971) was an ROTC student who was assigned to an Infantry unit in the Canal Zone of Panamá. Thanks to his fluency in Spanish, he became the Assistant Protocol Officer and Junior Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, accompanying visiting dignitaries from Central and South American countries. Following his military career, he worked for a number of health care companies. He has instilled in his daughter, who is now in college, a love of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures, and his message to current students is to "never underestimate the power of a foreign language".

**Diana Aldrete** (BA-Spanish major 2003) continued her studies in Hispanic literature, earning an MA from Marquette University (2005) and a PhD (2014) from SUNY-Albany. She is now teaching at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

**Megan McGee** (MA-MALLT Spanish 2004) is the Executive Director of Ex Fabula, a Milwaukee non-profit organization that strengthens community bonds through the art of storytelling, including bilingual English <> Spanish events and workshops as part of the Puente Project. She invites Milwaukee-area grads interested in getting involved to visit <https://www.exfabula.org/en-espanol/>.

**Erin Patten** - née Hallen (BA-Spanish minor 2004) works as a registered nurse at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison and is now a nurse case manager. She is able to use Spanish with Hispanic patients and finds that it makes them and their families feel much more comfortable to have someone who can speak directly to them in their language without the use of an interpreter.

**Cassandra Flechsig** (BBA-Spanish minor 2005) received an MA in Psychology from NYU and has been working in various positions related to integrating healthy food access into low-income communities. She often uses Spanish within the communities where she works as well as in her travels to Spanish-speaking countries. She recently started her own tour company and led her first tour group to Cuba.

**Sarah Smith** - née Shanebrook (MA-MALLT Spanish 2007) is the Coordinator of World Language and Language Acquisition Programs in the Kenosha Unified School District.

**Barbara Schumacher** - née Ederich Ramos (BA-Spanish major 2011) is working at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, a local non-profit organization that represents Mining, Construction, Forestry, and Utilities companies globally, including several countries in Latin America.

**Marit Harm** (BA-Spanish minor 2012) is a program development manager for TEMPO Milwaukee, a professional association for women executives. She participates in Milwaukee's Big Brother/Big Sister program, and is able to communicate with her little sister's mother in Spanish.

**Alexandria Sedar** (BA-Spanish minor 2015) also studied Portuguese at UWM. She is now the Special Projects Coordinator at the Center for International Education at UWM.

**Carrie Herian** (BA-Spanish minor 2016) volunteered in Quito, Ecuador for three months, working with street children in the markets throughout the city. She is now working as a legal assistant at a law firm in Bayside, WI.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Congratulations to María Ayete Gil for  
successfully passing her M.A.  
Comprehensive Exams and defending her  
Master's thesis.  
  
¡Enhorabuena!**



### *Graduate Student Symposium*

The 2nd Graduate Student Symposium took place on Friday, March 10th 2017, and it consisted of two panels: 1) “Voces latinoamericanas: los cuentos de Bryce, Ribeyro, y Monterroso” with presentations by **Arcadio Bolaños Acevedo**, **Jesús García Bonilla** and **Ana Casas Olcoz**; and 2) “Estudios transatlánticos de la violencia y la represión” with presentations by **María Ayete Gil** and **Laura Martínez-Geijo Román**.

Thanks to Professors **César Ferreira** and **Katie Vater** for organizing this event. It was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Sigma Delta Pi (Epsilon Iota Chapter).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*By Allison Libbey*

This semester, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese partnered for the first time with UWM's Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research to provide bilingual volunteers once a month for the Hope House Food Pantry. Hope House is located on the south side of Milwaukee, and its food pantry is the only one that serves city residents in two of that area's zip codes. Many of the individuals and families who go to the Hope House for assistance are bilingual, and a number of them only speak Spanish. By providing volunteers once a month who are Spanish-speakers, our department has filled a large gap in the food pantry's needs.



The partnership was arranged by the Spanish Language Coordinator, Allison Libbey, who organized the logistics for the trips and promoted them among the intermediate-level Spanish classes. Over the course of the spring semester, a total of 10 members of our department participated at least once in this volunteer opportunity, including teaching staff, graduate students, undergraduate students, and 60+ audit students. Several of our participants even went back more often than just on the dates organized by the department because they enjoyed the experience so much! The students who volunteered helped customers make their selections in the food pantry while also practicing their Spanish and learning lots of new food-related vocabulary. Additionally, those at a more advanced level helped the office staff by interpreting for new Spanish-speaking clients as they set up their accounts. Over the four visits made so far this semester, volunteers helped at least 110 families, many of whom felt more comfortable using Spanish than English.

The department has one more date slotted for the spring semester: Thursday, May 11. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Allison Libbey** at **libbey@uwm.edu** to sign up to represent our department. There is a shuttle that leaves from campus at noon and returns by 3:00 pm, or you can meet with the group directly at Hope House.

## FROM THE PORTUGUESE PROGRAM

### *Student Reports*

On March 27th, Chef Gregory Léon from Amilinda and Renan Utrera, Rodizio's general manager, were the guest speakers for Portuguese 360, who answered many questions about Portuguese and Brazilian cuisines. Students were able to try food samples such as the popular Brazilian feijoada and the Portuguese pastel de nata. -Saad Alazawi

On February 27th, the Portuguese 360 group went to Colectivo Coffee on Humboldt, for a talk by Colectivo Vice-President Al Liu. We learned about how coffee is harvested, the importance of prices in Brazil, and how women producers around the world are starting to have a place in an industry mainly dominated by men. -Amira Rupnick

The Portuguese 203 class was visited by Brazilian coffee producer Miriam Monteiro de Aguiar of Fazenda Cachoeira. We learned about life on a fazenda, the many struggles of owning a coffee farm, and the importance of maintaining quality products. Miriam is on the board of directors of the Associação Café Orgânico Brasileiro and is also active in the Brazilian chapter of the International Women in Coffee Alliance. Thanks to Al Liu, Vice-President of Colectivo Coffee, and CLACS for supporting this event.

-Marcos A. Cruz & Molly Ellis Hayes



**Photo on the left: Miriam Monteiro de Aguiar's visit**

### *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships*

Congratulations to **Eduardo Jimenez** and **Nia Wilson**, from Portuguese 104, who each were awarded a FLAS fellowship for the next academic year.

### *Topics course for Fall 2017:*

#### **PORTUGUESE 360, with Prof. Susana Antunes, Mondays 4:30-7:10**

The Visual Arts represent both the real and imaginary world and appeal primarily to the visual sense. Visual arts are related to aesthetic beauty and to the creativity of the human being, capable of expressing feelings, concerns, ideas, and ideals. New technologies have also revolutionized the concept of visual arts in areas such as web design. This course will explore a range of visual arts expressions in the Lusophone world as both cultural affirmation and a result of the interactions with new cultures. From Portugal to Brazil to the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa, this course will explore: rock paintings, sculptures, paintings, pottery, textiles, masks, personal decoration, dance, and jewelry, and will present a critical reflection of cross-cultural issues through the visual arts.

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

**Susana Antunes** attended a Professional Development Seminar related to National Examinations in World Languages (NEWL) in Washington, DC, on February 11. She also attended the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSTFL) in Chicago (March 9-11), as well as the 48th Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Annual Convention at Baltimore (March 23 – 26). At the NeMLA she co-chaired the Luso-Hispanic roundtable: *La ciudad erotica/A cidade erótica*. She also presented the paper: “Do erótico-grotesco com a cidade ao fundo em ‘Choro de Criança’, de Jorge de Sena.”

**Nancy Bird-Soto** presented at the “Cuarta Jornada de Estudios sobre Puerto Rico y el Caribe” in February at the University of Rennes 2 in France, where she was invited to guest lecture about Jorge Luis Borges and Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda. She chaired a panel on Caribbean Literature at the 70th Annual Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference in April, where she presented the paper: “Los gozos que se amplifican (o la caribeñidad) en *Los instrumentos del gozo* de Rebeca Castellanos.” Prof. Bird-Soto’s most recent book: *Gendering XXI: Latinas, caribeñas y sus otros modos de ser* is due out this May (San Juan: Editorial Tiempo Nuevo). Her review of Margaret Randall’s *Only the Road/Solo el camino* has been published in *Latin American Literature Today* <<http://www.latinamericanliteraturetoday.org/en/2017/april/only-road-solo-el-camino-eight-decades-cuban-poetry-margaret-randall>>.

Prof. Bird-Soto continues to co-chair the Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latin@ (LACUSL) Committee. This is her fifth year as guest columnist for *Revista Cruce*. A recent book review column can be found here: <<http://www.revistacruce.com/letras/item/2613-lecturas-para-viajar-y-aprender>>. On April 26th, she participated in the Length of Service Awards Ceremony, marking her tenth year at UWM.

**César Ferreira** published the article “La palabra viva de Julio Ramón Ribeyro,” *Voces literarias del Perú: Julio Ramón Ribeyro, Jorge Eduardo Eielson y Gabriela Wiener*. Giovanna Minardi, editora. Palermo: Qanat Edizioni, 2016: 59-68, as well as the review on Jorge Edwards, “La última hermana,” *World Literature Today* Vol. 91 No. 2 (March-April 2017): 81-82. He also presented four papers: “De lo andino a lo universal: relaciones y dinámicas para la inclusión en Perú y Ecuador,” 3er Congreso Internacional de Ciencias Pedagógicas, Instituto Tecnológico Superior Bolivariano, Guayaquil, Ecuador (April 2017) and “On Reading Luis Hernández’s *The School of Solitude*,” Instituto Cervantes de Chicago (April 2017); and “Ribeyro y los narradores Generación del 50,” Casa de la Literatura Peruana, Lima, Peru (January 2016). Ferreira was also the keynote speaker for “La aventura creadora de Ciro Alegría: Notas a *La serpiente de oro*,” Congreso Internacional Un mundo ancho pero ajeno: 50 años de la desaparición de Ciro Alegría,” Academia Peruana de la Lengua-Universidad Católica del Peru, (April 2017).

### Photo on the right:

**Professor Ferreira receiving the Premio Nous a la Excelencia Educativa 2017 from Dr. Rosalía Arteaga, President of the Fundación para la Integración y Desarrollo de América Latina and former President of Ecuador in Quito.**



**R. John McCaw** gave a talk in mid-March titled "Cervantes and His Legacy" at the University of New Orleans, and in late March he presented "Between Courtly and Country Spaces: The Role of Hunting in Lope's *El villano en su rincón*" at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Chicago.

**Gabriel Rei-Doval** participated in the 2017 Modern Language Association Conference (Philadelphia, January 5-8 2017). In this Conference he acted as respondent to the session "The Standardization of Galician: A Response to Language Maintenance and Change in Languages in Contact", organized by the MLA Galician LLC Forum. He also participated in the roundtable "What is 'Galician' in Galician Studies", equally organized by the MLA Galician LLC Forum. On April 19th he presented in the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference (Hispanic Linguistics Track) the paper "Hacia una historia contemporánea de la Real Academia Galega: un análisis historiográfico de la investigación sociolingüística y lexicográfica de la RAG (1982-2015)". In 2017 professor Rei-Doval is serving as Secretary of the Modern Language Association Language Galician Language, Literature and Culture Forum.

Prof. Rei-Doval has been accredited as a tenured Professor (Profesor Titular) in the Division of Arts and Humanities in Spain by the governmental National Agency for the Assessment of Academic Quality (ANECA by its Spanish initials).

**Katie Vater** presented the paper "Art and Commerce in Enrique Vila-Matas's *Kassel no invita la lógica*", based on a chapter of her book project, at the Forum for Iberian Studies conference at Oxford University in September 2016. See image below.



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK GROUPS!**  
**UWM DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND  
 PORTUGUESE**

## EVENTS

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, as a community partner with the Milwaukee Public Library's Big Read, sponsored with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese a book discussion in Spanish of *En el tiempo de las mariposas* (*In the Time of the Butterflies*) on Thursday, May 4th. This historical novel, written by Julia Álvarez in 1994, relates the account of the Mirabal sisters during the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic.

## ***Apuntes - Letter from the Chair***

---

I would like to begin by congratulating all of our Spanish MA students, Spanish majors, Spanish minors, and Portuguese minors who are graduating this semester. I look forward to applauding each of you at this year's graduation ceremony. I also want to acknowledge this year's inductees into the Sigma Delta Pi Hispanic Honor Society, as well as this year's recipients of the Department scholarships, **Gabriella Cisneros** and **Madelynn Randel**. In addition, I would like to congratulate **Michael Penneau**, one of our Spanish majors who received a Path to Panthers scholarship from the College of Letters and Science. All three of these students were honored at the L&S Scholarship ceremony recently, and we are very proud of the accomplishments of these and other students who are studying Spanish or Portuguese.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese currently offers three different scholarships to our students each year. The Meta Steinfort Scholarship is a \$1000 award which is granted to a junior or senior majoring in Spanish, either in the College of Letters & Science or in the School of Education. The Hilda Becher Modern Languages Fund is a \$1000 award granted to a Spanish major or minor who participates in our Summer Study abroad program in Madrid, Spain. The Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award is a \$500 award granted to a Spanish major who has excelled in his/her studies. Unfortunately, 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.

As the academic year draws to a close, I want to thank the outstanding instructors in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese who care so much about our students and offer them excellent learning experiences. I hope that you enjoy the other news in this issue of Apuntes, which has been prepared once again by Professor Nancy Bird-Soto. 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  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



**Newsletter editor: Nancy Bird-Soto**

Spanish and Portuguese - Curtin Hall 733 - 3243 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211