

## Indiana University Department of Spanish & Portuguese Alumni Newsletter



# La Gaceta Internacional

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Vol. 16/Winter 2010

## Symposium brings early modern scholars to IU

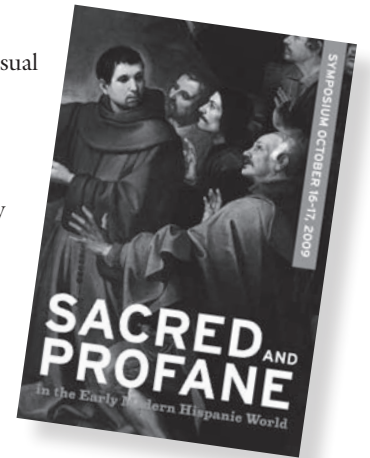
In October 2009, our department joined IU's Department of the History of Art to host an interdisciplinary symposium on religiosity in the Hispanic world from 1492 to 1680, the period often known as the "Golden Age." The symposium was presented in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition "Sacred Spain" at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA).

Organized by **Steven Wagschal** (Spanish), **Giles Knox** (art history) and **Ronda Kasl** (curator at the IMA), "Sacred and Profane in the Early Modern Hispanic World" was a two-day event. The opening day was held in Indianapolis at the IMA and ended with a concert of early Spanish and Colonial music featuring the Bloomington-based early-music ensemble, "Fénix de los Ingenios." The second day featured scholarly

papers delivered on the Bloomington campus.

The IMA exhibition examined the religious visual culture of 17th-century Spain and its American colonies and included works from collections throughout Spain and Latin America, many of which had never been exhibited in the United States. At the IMA, curators and scholars directly involved with the organization of the exhibition spoke about the show, and participants had a chance to see and discuss the artwork in the galleries.

The symposium drew synergistically on the exhibition while seeking to present its themes in a broader light. While the exhibition focused on Christian religious imagery—which was, of



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### Note from the chair

## Dear alumni and friends,

The great early modern poet Francisco de Quevedo reminds us of the elusive nature of time, "*Ayer se fue; mañana no ha llegado; / hoy se está yendo sin parar un punto.*" Time surely holds diverse meanings for each of us at different moments



Steven Wagschal and Catherine Larson

in our lives. Those of you who are recent graduates of the department are embarking on the still-new adventures of your first jobs, while others have settled into the balancing of careers and family lives, and those retired souls among us are experiencing the joys associated with choosing how to fill the hours of each day. As I reflect on what has happened since I wrote to you a year ago—and on what lies ahead in this new academic year—it is amazing to think about all that has transpired and that which is yet to take place.

First, a verbal collage of some of the memorable events from the 2009–10 academic year: the piloting of new courses for the revised undergraduate curriculum; **Jane Drake** winning the IU Staff Merit Award for support staff; PhD students finding jobs despite tough economic times; Catalan international videoconferences led by **Edgar Illas**; former graduate students celebrating the works of Gustavo Sainz; Portuguese, Spanish and Catalan

coffee hours; **Darlene Sadlier**'s first-place prize for her monograph on Graciliano Ramos; **Silvana Falconi**'s service as president of the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association; superb theater performances of one-act plays by VIDA in Bloomington and with the Indianapolis Fringe; the only two winners of the Lieber Associate Instructor Teaching Awards coming from our department (**Ryan Hallows** and **Renato Alvim**); graduating seniors' level of satisfaction with their education averaging very high. Other highlights: piloting the associate chair position with **Melissa Dinverno** doing a wonderful job; generous grants from several donors (with a special thank you to **August Aquila** and **Emily Haliziw**, the **Nicholas** and **Eleanor Chabraja** Foundation, and **Gene and Anne Culler**, whose contributions to the department have allowed us to fund meritorious students in a variety of ways; a wonderful

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## A distinguished Catalanist, our 2009 MESDA lecturer

**P**hilip Rasico, professor of Catalan and Spanish linguistics in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt University, was our 14th MESDA lecturer. Rasico received a BA in Spanish from Xavier University in 1974 and an MA in 1975 and a PhD in 1981 in Hispanic linguistics from Indiana University. He has also studied at the Universidad Javeriana, the Universidad Complutense, and the Universitat de Barcelona. Since 1997, Rasico has been a member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, the official academy of the Catalan language. He is also a member of the Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres de Barcelona and of the Institut Menorquí d'Estudis, and he currently serves as vice president of the Associació Internacional de Llengua i Literatura Catalanes.

Rasico's prominent work focuses on historical phonological development and dialectal variation of the Catalan language, but touches on a wide range of topics involving history, sociology, and toponymy. He is the author of seven books, has co-authored two others and co-edited two volumes, and he has published more than 250 articles. His groundbreaking work on the Minorcans of Florida, "Els menorquins de la Florida: Història, llengua i cultura," is an interdisciplinary and transatlantic study that was written much before the topic drew general attention. His more recent book on the characteristics and uses of old Catalan, *El català antic*, is equally appealing to sociolinguists, historians, and literary critics. Rasico also collaborated with **Joan Coromines** and contributed to the colossal *Onomasticon Cataloniae*, the eight-volume encyclopedia of the etymologies of Catalan toponyms.

Rasico's MESDA lecture, "A Catalan Linguist on the Far Side of the World: Joan Coromines in Argentina (1939-1945)," discussed the life and works of one of the most important and prolific scholars of Hispanic and Catalan linguistics during the 20th century. During his visit, Rasico also led a workshop with graduate students on his work on the Minorcans of Florida. The presence of Rasico at IU was an honor and a pleasure for all of us.



MESDA speaker Phil Rasico, seated in middle, with graduate students at an informal coffee hour.

## Symposium

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course, central to both Spain and the Hispanic world—the conference situated Catholic religiosity within the contexts of irreligiosity, non-religiosity, Spanish Judaism and Islam, pre-Columbian religions, and the Renaissance resurgence of classical myth. Drawing on and expanding upon the interdisciplinary makeup of its organizing committee, the 24 conference papers represented the fields of literature, art, religious studies, and history.

The symposium featured four plenary speakers: **Tanya Tiffany**, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, presented "True Portraits' and Sacred Memory: Diego

Velázquez's Madre Jerónima de la Fuente;" **Jeffrey Schrader**, University of Colorado at Denver, spoke on "The Fortunes of Sacred Art in Modern Spain;" **Anne Cruz**, University of Miami, presented "A Fig Leaf for Philip: Profane Icons and Philip II's Patronage of Renaissance Art;" and **Ignacio Navarrete**, University of California Berkeley, discussed "Paganism in the Spanish Renaissance Reconsidered." Also, Dr. **Heidi Gealt**, director of the IU Art Museum, offered a gallery talk on early Spanish works in the IUAM's collection.

The well-attended symposium offered many opportunities for participants, faculty, and graduate students to meet and discuss literature, art, religion, and history in both formal and informal settings.

## Guest speakers

The department invited a number of scholars last year to share their work with students and colleagues in the university community. 2010 guests and their lectures included:

**Pía Barros** (Chilean writer and publisher)

**Justin Crumbaugh** (Mount Holyoke College), "Victim Discourse, Victim Studies, and the Biopolitics of Counter-Terrorism: The Case of Iñaki de Juana Chaos;"

**Diego Escolar** (Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina), "*Entre la invisibilidad, el secuestro y la emancipación. La emergencia indígena en la Argentina contemporánea*"

**Anna Klobucka** (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth), "And Then There Were Plenty: Women and Literary Authorship in Modern Portugal"

**Ana Gabriela Macedo** (Universidade de Minho, Portugal), "There and Back Again' – Paula Rego, Portuguese Painter and Illustrator, and the Art of Storytelling"

**Luis Ortíz López** (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras), virtual

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## Contact us:

If you would like to speak to someone concerning our graduate or undergraduate programs, please contact:

**Patrick Dove**  
Director of Graduate Studies  
pdove@indiana.edu  
812-855-9194

**Manuel Díaz-Campos**  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
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# In memoriam: Juan Alborg (1914-2010)

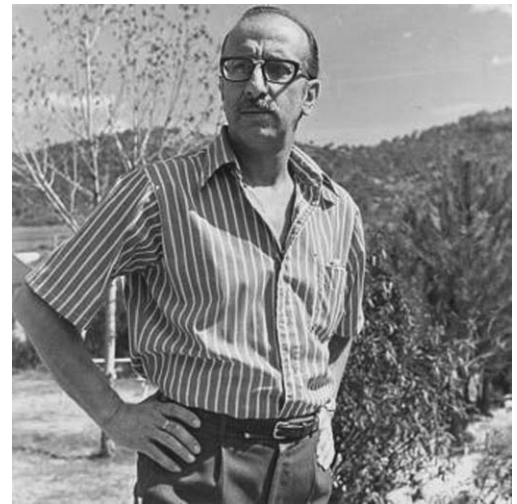
**J**uan Alborg, emeritus professor of Spanish and a giant of literary scholarship, died in June at age 96. His obituaries in the *Bloomington Herald-Times* and in several Spanish newspapers, most notably Madrid's *El País*, recount what is undoubtedly a stellar career in our discipline. His studies of the contemporary Spanish novel and, mostly, his six-volume *Historia de la literatura española*, with its companion volume *Sobre crítica y críticos*, are majestic proof of Alborg's preeminence.

To those memorial praises, I would like to contribute a personal memoir of my acquaintance and indeed friendship with Juan. I began visiting him regularly when I was approaching my own retirement. In those visits, I learned about his life—from his fringes-of-poverty youth in Valencia to his position as professor in our department. He told me of his survival from the Republican front during the Spanish Civil War, his years as a student in Valencia and then Madrid, his entry into the Spanish capital's literary and critical scene, his interest in North American literature (which got him a fellowship to teach in the United States), and his decision to move to Purdue and later to IU. Here he met and married **Muriel Kdan**, a partner who helped his continuous study of literary and, of late, philosophical matters. Wives are often the unsung heroes of their husbands'

success stories; Muriel navigated the computer for her husband and fed his voracious reading by frequent trips to Bloomington's libraries and book shops.

At the time of my regular visits, Juan had given up his *Historia* series after the 1,000-plus-page volume devoted to just two writers: Armando Palacio Valdés and Vicente Blasco Ibáñez. Juan felt that the latter, much maligned by conservative critics and almost ground to non-existence during the Franco years, deserved commentary due to his true stature. "Si no escribo sobre Blasco," Juan told me, "me muero dos veces." Work on his admired Blasco, paradoxically, brought about the realization that a history of Spanish literature is a babelic project that can only be abandoned, not completed, and particularly in the way Juan approached the task: taking into consideration all serious criticism published on each author and topic and weaving that scholarship into his own appreciation of and love for his writers, all in Juan's clear, plain, almost chatty and insistent, detailed prose.

After Blasco, he turned his interest to Émile Zola. But from Zola he turned to the long and long-suppressed body of European materialist thought, from Democritus and Lucretius to Darwin and



*Alborg was a "giant of literary scholarship."*

his followers. Juan led me to one particular moment of that tradition, the one involving 18th-century writers such as La Mettrie and Pierre Bayle. But Juan left me behind as he kept reading hungrily, pressing me to read three or four new books each time I went to visit him, sharing his enthusiasm for some writers, his disagreement with others, and gradually dissolving himself, alert and perceptive to the end, in this great ocean of thought in words we call literature.

—Josep M. Sobrer

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## From the chair

*(continued from page 1)*



*Juan Manuel Soto and Silvana Falconi*

staff to support us; the Merle E. Simmons Distinguished Alumni Lecture delivered by **Phil Rasico**; undergraduates studying abroad in record numbers; the Sacred and Profane in the Early Modern Hispanic World Conference held in both Bloomington and at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and organized by **Steven Wagschal**; 20 Phi Beta Kappa inductees; and the passing of Emeritus Professor **Juan Luis Alborg**.

The 2010–11 academic year began with big changes. First, we welcomed **Laura Gurzynski-Weiss**, who specializes in Hispanic linguistics; and we will welcome in January **Anke Birkenmaier**, a Caribbeanist who is currently in Germany on a Humboldt fellowship. We will miss our director of language instruction of many years, **Silvana Falconi**, who left for greener pastures outside academe. We are pleased that her position has been filled this year by our interim DLI, **Juan Manuel Soto**, ably assisted by the new assistant DLI, **Virginia Hojas**. Our specialists in Hispanic linguistics, led by **Kimberly Geeslin** and **Manuel Díaz-Campos**, organized the well-recognized Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, attracting scholars from around the world. And Manuel was awarded the Mentor of the Year award by our graduate students who announced this honor at our annual fall reception.

The department continues to grow by leaps and bounds with ever more students and almost 50 tenure-stream and non-tenure-track faculty members. The eighth floor of Ballantine Hall is filled with active, energetic scholars and dynamic teachers. Please take the time to drop us a note and let us know how you are doing—or, even better, come and visit before too much more time passes.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year!

—Catherine Larson, [larson@indiana.edu](mailto:larson@indiana.edu)

# Faculty News

**Anke Birkenmaier** was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Fellowship for Experienced Researchers for her project, "Oswald Spengler in Latin America. A Critical Edition of 'Montezuma. Ein Trauerspiel'."



*Díaz-Campos*

**Manuel Díaz-Campos** received the 2010 Outstanding Mentor Award given by the departments' Graduate Student Advisory Council.

**César Félix-Brasdefer** was selected as a spring 2011 residential fellow for the IU Institute for Advanced Study.

**Edgar Illas** received a West European Studies Center (WEST) Summer 2010 Curriculum Development Grant to create the course Literature and Nationalism in Modern Catalonia.

**Alejandro Mejías-López** published *The Inverted Conquest: The Myth of Modernity and the Transatlantic Onset of Modernism*. He received an IU College Arts and Humanities Institute Travel Research Grant for his project, "Sinful Subjects, Successful



*Mejías-López*

Texts: Religion, Nation, and Homosexuality in Early 20th-Century Hispanic Fiction" and a Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies Travel Grant to present a paper at the next Modern Language Association Convention in Los Angeles. He also was honored with a Trustees Teaching Award.

**Kathleen Myers** received a Project Engage Service Learning Grant to help bring together learning about Spanish culture and teaching it to Bloomington-area pre-schools. She was also selected for the Seville Faculty Exchange Program.

**Inmaculada Navarro** earned the 2010 Trustees Teaching Award in the at-large core lecturer group.

**Miguel Rodríguez-Mondoñedo** won a WEST Travel Grant to present papers at the Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages in Seattle.

**Darlene Sadlier** won the first-place prize in the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations' international competition for best monograph on the novelist Graciliano Ramos.



*Sadlier*

The \$20,000 prize was awarded at a reception in her honor held by the Brazilian Consul in Chicago. She received a College of Arts and Humanities Institute Travel Research Grant and a grant-in-aid from

the Office of the Vice President for Research for "Good Neighbor U.S.: Inter-American Cultural Relations, 1940-45."

**Estela Vieira** received a WEST Travel Grant for a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association as well as a WEST Summer Curriculum Development grant to develop the course, Portugal: The Cultural Context.

**Steven Wagschal** was awarded a grant from the Spanish Program for Cultural Cooperation to help organize the symposium, "Sacred and Profane in the Early Modern Hispanic World."

## Meet our new faculty members

### Anke Birkenmaier

**Anke Birkenmaier** is a new assistant professor in Caribbean and Latin American literature and culture. She studied at the University of Tübingen (MA in German, French and Spanish Philology) and in 2004 received her doctorate in Spanish from Yale University. Before coming to IU, she was an assistant professor at Columbia University. Together with **Roberto González Echevarría**, Birkenmaier is the editor of *Cuba: Un siglo de literatura (1902-2002)*, and she is the author of *Alejo Carpentier y la cultura del surrealismo en América Latina*, which received the Latin American Studies Association's Premio Iberoamericano 2007. More recently, she co-edited *Beyond the Ruins: A Cultural Map of Havana after 1989* (forthcoming from Duke University Press in 2011). In her current book project, Birkenmaier studies the scientific and literary international networks that led to the rise of Latin American academic anthropology in the time between the two world wars. Currently in Germany doing research under the auspices of the Humboldt Foundation, Birkenmaier looks forward to becoming a member of IU's community and to exploring the diasporic relations and literary exchanges between the Caribbean, the United States, and Europe as a particularly rich area of study in today's globalizing world.



*Birkenmaier*

### Laura Gurzynski-Weiss

**Laura Gurzynski-Weiss** joins the department as our new assistant professor of Spanish linguistics. She recently completed her PhD in Spanish applied linguistics at Georgetown University, where she also served as the assistant director of beginning and introductory Spanish. She received her MA in Hispanic linguistics from Georgetown and BA in Spanish and public relations from Marquette University. Gurzynski-Weiss focuses on interaction- and task-based classroom research, specifically individual difference (ID) factors and oral corrective feedback provision and perception, as well as second language acquisition teaching and research methodology. Current projects include in-depth analyses of instructor feedback and task behavior in naturally occurring Spanish and Portuguese foreign language classroom interaction; comparisons of learner feedback perception and reported state anxiety in the face-to-face and computer-mediated modalities; and longitudinal research on instructor and learner cognition and beliefs. She and her husband, Nick, both originally from Wisconsin, are looking forward to taking advantage of the wide variety of art, music, and food venues Bloomington has to offer.



*Gurzynski-Weiss*

# Student News

## Graduate awards

**Lieber Memorial Associate Instructor Teaching Award**  
(*university-wide competition*)

Renato Alvim  
Ryan Hallows

**Louise McNutt Graduate Fellowship & the Salaroglio Modern Foreign Language Fellowship**

Olena Shkatulo

**Merle E. Simmons Travel Fellowship**  
Thomas Neal

**Agapito Rey Academic Year Fellowship**  
Teresa Parmer

**Agapito Rey Summer Dissertation Fellowship**  
Lauren Schmidt

**JM Hill Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper**

Silvia Roca-Martínez (literature)  
Christopher Davidson (linguistics)

**Department Outstanding Associate Instructor**

Michael Mosier

**CLACS Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship**

Virginia Arreola  
Eric Carbajal  
Christopher Davidson  
Elizabeth Herring

**Completed PhD degree**

Jorge Aguilar-Sánchez  
Renato Alvim  
Elixabete Ansa-Goicoechea  
Yudis Contreras  
Nicholas Henriksen  
Lily Ibarra  
Catalina Méndez-Vallejo  
Vicent Moreno  
Anita Park  
Andrew Reynold



Renato Alvim and Ryan Hallows at the Celebration of Distinguished Teaching Ceremony, April 16, 2010

**Completed MA degree**

Robert Baxter  
Adam Hook  
Elizabeth McDyer  
Miriam Mora-Quilón  
Elsie White  
Michelangelo Zapata

**Secured tenure-track position**

Renato Alvim,  
California State University  
Elixabete Ansa-Goicoechea, University of British Columbia  
Mario Bahena,  
Johnson C. Smith University  
Nicholas Henriksen,  
Northern Illinois University

## Undergraduate awards

**Culler Study Abroad Scholarship**  
Rebecca Cottongim

**Ashley Crouse Memorial Scholarship**  
Laura Engelhardt

**Rachel Di Pietro-James Scholarship**  
Emma Vakili

**Theodore Dorf Scholarship**  
Jeff Carlson

**College of Arts & Sciences Scholarships**  
Morgan Beatty  
Cian Deegan



Thomas Neal, Mrs. Connie Simmons, and Dr. August Aquila at the department's fall reception. Neal received the 2010 Merle E. Simmons Travel Fellowship.

Maria Iglesias  
Richard Scinteie  
Anastasia Yesnik

**Graduated with Department Honors**  
Erin Arthur  
Anastasia Yesnik

**Phi Beta Kappa Inductees**

Margaret Bruce	Lauren Muskat
Jacqueline Cornetta	Samuel Pennington
Alexander Costakis	Emily Pickett
Chelsea Crean	Maria Puzanov
Vincent Gemma	Kirsten Reinecke
Lindsey Harmon	Sarah Renkert
Kaley Hendrickson	Rachel Roper
Nicole Horvath	Gregory Solon
Amanda Kilibarda	Cristina Turino
Matthew Magee	Laura Woodsmall

## Pay it forward: Your donation can make a difference

Your donations help the department continue to excel in undergraduate and graduate education, fund research projects, and enhance our pedagogical mission in Spanish and Portuguese. Both undergraduate and graduate students have benefited from the generosity of those who have wanted to “pay it forward” to future generations. Whether contributing to existing funds, establishing new awards and grants, or making an annual gift to the general fund account through the IU Foundation, you can touch lives and enrich the academic and personal journeys of present and future students.

You can make a difference. Please consider supporting the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Gifts of any size are welcomed and deeply appreciated. Thank you! *Gracias! Obrigado!*

**How to donate:** Please visit [www.indiana.edu/~spanport/giving.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~spanport/giving.shtml) or feel free to contact us directly.

# Alumni Notebook

## Before 1960

**Dolores Rodriguez Rains**, BA'53, MA'58, writes, "[After I graduated] I used my experience to chair a Spanish program at St. John's Seminary College in Camarillo, Calif. I retired from there in 1997. I have been extremely active in my community. I have lived in Camarillo for fifty years and have served on the local school board as an elected trustee for 26 years. I have also served on various state committees representing school board members. I am presently on the Camarillo Council on Aging."

## 1960s

"I taught high school Spanish in Washington State for 20 [before] retiring in 2007," writes **Judith Jagger Pasco**, BA'69. She adds, "I continue to teach adult Spanish community education classes through Peninsula College of Port Angeles, Wash." Pasco is the founder and the board chairwoman of Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation, a not-for-profit organization which partners with indigenous women of a seamstress cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico, to provide them with access to education. For more information about the organization, see the website [www.mujeresdemaiz.org](http://www.mujeresdemaiz.org). Pasco, who lives in Sequim, Wash., also writes, "I thank IU for an excellent education that has served me well."

## 1970s

After retiring from a career in human resources and personnel management, **Patricia Howard Atkinson**, BA'70, MBA'82, decided to "enter the world of fine art." She took her first workshop about 15 years ago, focusing on pen and ink drawing and oil painting. Atkinson then took several classes in representational art, becoming especially interested in painting landscapes and birds. A subsequent workshop with experimental artist Maxine Masterfield "changed the entire direction of my art," she says. Atkinson now paints mostly abstract subjects. One of her mixed media works, *Warrior*, won a Best of Show award in May at the North Port (Fla.) Art Center. A few days later Atkinson received a first-place ribbon for her abstract watercolor, *Reflections in Blue* at the Venice Art Center's Absolute Abstract show. Several of her works appear in juried competitions this fall, including a members-only exhibition in the Selby Gallery on the campus of Ringling College of Art



Robert P. Baxter

*Grupo de Teatro VIDA staged its fourth major production, Juegos, at Willkie Auditorium during the 2009-2010 academic year. The four one-act plays performed were Las aceitunas (Lope de Rueda), El censo (Carballido), Resguardo personal (Pedrero), and Una mariposa blanca (Roepke), which was also performed in Indianapolis at Fringe Friday, a monthly event produced by IndyFringe Theatre. To find out more about this year's productions or about how you can help support this group, please contact VIDA at [vida@indiana.edu](mailto:vida@indiana.edu) or visit our website at [www.indiana.edu/~vida](http://www.indiana.edu/~vida). In the photo, Diana Beltrán and Maya Wahrman play co-workers in the production of Una mariposa blanca.*

and Design in Sarasota. The exhibit will be open to the public through December. Atkinson works out of a studio on the grounds of her home in Venice, Fla. She is represented by the Studio at Gulf and Pine on Anna Maria Island, Fla., and can be reached at [patriciahatkinson@verizon.net](mailto:patriciahatkinson@verizon.net).

"After graduating from IU," writes **Teresa Dillon Sakowski**, BA'72, MA'75, "I stayed on to finish a master's degree (with a second year at the University of Madrid, Spain) and taught at Miami University of Ohio. Restless, I then went on to retire as a U.S. Marine Corps colonel. I picked up a second master's in strategic intelligence, living for a year in Asia, and spending some years employed as an officer in the CIA. My proudest accomplishment, however, is being married for 25 years and having two wonderful children who are currently in college." Sakowski lives in Haymarket, Va.

**Shirley Yancey Kloepfer**, MA'72, PhD'00, is a coordinator at La Casa Amiga, a not-for-profit organization that assists local Hispanics in Madison, Ind. She writes, "At La Casa Amiga we teach ESL, computers, host a weekly bilingual story hour, help with medical appointments, women, infants, and children's programs, vaccinations, housing, job related matters, etc."

## 1980s

**Donald F. Foy Jr.**, BA'89, works for Eli Lilly & Co. as a district sales manager in the Chicago area. He lives in Cary, Ill.

## 1990s

**Timothy D. Dawson**, BA'92, develops and teaches radio-training courses for radio stations all over the Americas for HUSB Voz Global. He and his wife, Amy, and their three children live in Quito, Ecuador, about 25 minutes south of the equator.

**Maria Piccininni Ross**, BS'93, is the author of *Branding Basics for Small Business: How to Create an Irresistible Brand on Any Budget*, published in 2010 by [Norlightspress.com](http://Norlightspress.com). Ross lives in Seattle.

**Scott A. Miller**, BS'95, is a partner at Umbaugh, a Midwest-based public accounting firm and advisor to local governments. Umbaugh works closely with cities, towns, utilities, school corporations, and local governments to find creative ways to fund projects. Miller joined Umbaugh in 1995 and frequently represents clients before the Indiana Regulatory Commission. He lives in

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## Alumni Notebook

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Westfield, Ind., and is based in Umbaugh's Indianapolis office.

**Aaron C. Powell**, BA'95, MA'00, is an ESL and Spanish instructor at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla., where he lives.

**Carric Parkinson Sanders**, Cert/BA'99, lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, Jesse, Cert/BA'00, vice president of Allied Capital, a private equity investment firm.

## 2000s

**Nicholas F. Baker**, BA'01 JD'06, is an attorney with the Hastings Law Firm in Indianapolis, where he lives. His practice focuses on civil trial and appellate advocacy. [minor in Spanish]

**Gavin Mariano**, BA'01, writes, "I was selected as the guest speaker for the League of United Latin American Citizens

scholarship luncheon in Chesterton, Ind., in July. The group awarded 10 scholarships — two of them to IU Bloomington students. I spoke about my journey at IU, and the financial support I received that was crucial to my success there." Mariano lives in Merrillville, Ind., where he serves as program coordinator, public relations specialist, technical support/webmaster, and youth-as-resources coordinator at the Crisis Center Inc. in Gary, Ind.

**Tiffany Walker Shimada**, BS'01, writes, "I got married on June 26 to Jeremy Shimada. I am an attorney with Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, where I practice trademark and copyright law." The couple lives and works in Chicago.

*Law & Politics* magazine has named **Abram B. Gregory**, BA'02, JD'05, as a 2010 Indiana Rising Star. The designation recognizes Indiana's best attorneys under 40 who have been practicing for 10 years or less.

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## Staff news

### Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce that **Jane Drake**, senior office services assistant, received a 2009 University Staff Merit Award, the highest recognition earned by support staff on the Bloomington campus. Drake has been a member of the department since 1992, and her professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication are greatly appreciated by us all. Congratulations, Jane, for this well deserved recognition!



Drake



Howard

**Jennifer Howard** has joined the support staff as student services assistant. Her presence as first point of contact in the undergraduate office is a welcome addition for students, faculty, and guests to the department.

**Jennifer Brown** celebrated her 10th anniversary in the department as administrative graduate secretary this past spring.

**Jennifer**

celebrated her 10th anniversary in the department as administrative graduate secretary this past spring.



Brown

## 1965 Peru Group reunites

When a group of 20 IU students, along with their program director and his family, left to spend an academic year in Lima, Peru, in 1965, none of them would have imagined they would reunite years later. But that's what happened: the Peru '65 group has held a reunion every five years since 1990. This year's reunion took place July 17-19 in Washington, D.C..

"We were a group back then," said its former director George Zucker, "but we are family now." The group, still referred to by Zucker as "my Peru kids," originally had 20 members—17 women and three men. For the 45th anniversary, 13 were able to travel to the D.C. area to share memories and show off pictures of grandchildren: Mary (Mullins) Sugar, Mary Carr, Rita Marsh, Diana Glad, Linda (Jefferson) Segall, Nancy (Jones) Villalobos, Sharon (Goodnight) Sylvester, Cherie (Biddle) Engber, director George Zucker, Coleman Dirhan, David Clapp, Sue Turner, Sherrie (Hitchcock) McKenna, and Linda (King) Kelsey.

The reunion started with drinks and dinner at the Hyatt on Friday, breakfast get-togethers Saturday and Sunday, and dinner Saturday evening at the home of Sugar, who, along with McKenna (both D.C.-area residents), helped organize the event. That dinner featured authentic Peruvian food—from *ceviche* to *alfajores*. On Saturday, most of the group chose to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, which featured a Peruvian exhibit, complete with song and dance.

As the years have passed and people have grown older, so has the tenor of the reunion. "Did you notice," commented Carr, "there was a lot less reminiscing about our days in Lima and more talk about family and what's going on in our lives?" The Peru '65 group doesn't want to wait another five years, so they are planning a winter reunion in Tampa, Fla., in 2013. Although two and a half years is a long time to wait to get together again, everyone has an updated e-mail list, and many are on Facebook. "Technology is great," said Segall. "It lets us get together even when we can't be face to face." After all, family has to keep in touch.

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**"We were a group back then,  
but we are family now."**

— GEORGE ZUCKER

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Visit the department at:  
[www.indiana.edu/~spanport/](http://www.indiana.edu/~spanport/)

## Two perspectives

**Kathy Sideli, MA'75, PhD'83**

When Professor **Merle Simmons** called me in New York on Good Friday in 1973 to offer me a summer fellowship and an assistantship, I could not have imagined that four decades later I would still be at Indiana University. And he could not have anticipated that I would someday head the study abroad enterprise at IU that he himself created and led from the 1940s to 1960s.

I was attracted to IU because it offered a study abroad component for Spanish graduate students. Yet, it was because that option was suspended after my arrival that I accepted a one-year position with IU's undergraduate program in Madrid which led to my future career. From the moment I began working for the IU program in Madrid in 1974, I knew I had found my calling. Although I returned to IU to complete my PhD (and took another hiatus from my studies to work for the same program in Madrid again, this time as the wife of **Daniel Quilter**), I knew that my future would involve study abroad. The week I passed my prelims, I accepted a part-time advising position in overseas study. In the 1970s, IU was sending more than 200 students abroad through a dozen programs. It was satisfying for me to help them plan for their academic year programs in Europe and Latin America.

Even after my part-time position in overseas study changed to full-time in 1989, I continued teaching in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese so that I could better advise students, given the expanding array of options our office provided. Although we continued to offer traditional academic year programs, it became clear that as students from different majors wanted to study abroad, we needed to diversify program models in locations around the world. I became involved in conferences, presentations, publications, and the governance work of a number of education abroad organizations. Through this exposure to best practices in the field, we were able to continually expand and refine our options for IU students. In 2003, I was named director of the Office of Overseas Study and associate dean for International Programs with responsibility for study abroad on all eight campuses of Indiana University. When **Michael McRobbie** became the IU president in 2007, he brought a new urgency for further internationalization and expanded my responsibilities. I am now associate vice president for overseas study. Today, more than 2,500 IU students participate in study abroad programs around the world. More than 25 percent of undergraduates leave IU Bloomington having had an international educational experience as part of their degree program.

My education as well as teaching experiences in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese were an excellent background for the work I do today since each program is a microcosm of an institution of higher learning. Our programs involve language learning, academic issues, cultural adaptation, and student services challenges (health and safety, residential, volunteerism, etc.). There is nothing as exciting as talking to our students on site, witnessing firsthand the transformation they experience there. I have visited more than 30 countries and innumerable universities and centers of learning, each time invigorated by the common threads shared within higher education entities around the world.

I consider it a privilege to do the work that I do—along with an energetic and talented staff—continuing the international legacy that Merle Simmons began at IU more than 70 years ago. What better tribute is there to the man—my professor, colleague, and friend—who made that fateful call to me in 1973?

**Hubert (Herb) P. Weller, MA'58, PhD'65**

After completing my MA in Spanish in 1958, I spent a year in Chile on a Fulbright doing research on Chilean theater for my PhD, which I completed in 1965. My dissertation was on Antonio Acevedo Hernández, an early 20th century Chilean dramatist.

In graduate school, I fell in love with teaching, and when I finished my PhD, I applied to Hope College, in my hometown of Holland, Mich. In my wildest dreams, I never thought I would end up back in Holland, but that's exactly what I did. I spent almost my entire career at Hope College, retiring in 1996 after 34 years. I served both as chairman of the Foreign Language Department and supervisor of the Spanish section. I published an analytical and critical bibliography and two essays on the Peruvian poet, Martín Adán. In the 80s, I turned to computer-assisted language instruction and published "Spancom," a highly interactive drill program in Spanish verb tenses and object pronouns. I have also traveled quite extensively to Peru, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Mexico, Spain, and Cuba. After retirement, I have kept myself busy as a Spanish translator, interpreter, and instructor. I have been able to realize a childhood dream of learning to fly.

My wife and I have traveled frequently and led groups to Mexico three times. We have also been very involved in the community in the formation of a grassroots group whose objective is to make Holland a welcoming community for everyone. I have also been active in the local Chamber of Commerce in reaching out to area minority businesses. As a result of this work, I was honored by the Chamber in 2006 as the Outstanding Advocate for Minority-Owned Businesses.

In 2007, two of my graduate school friends and I spent a few days on the IU campus. Although quite a bit has changed, it was great to visit some of the old haunts and reminisce about our experiences in Bloomington.



# Alumni Notebook

(continued from page 7)

An associate in the Indianapolis office of the law firm Taft Stettinius & Hollister, Gregory practices in the area of civil litigation defense. He lives in Brownsburg, Ind.

**Deirdre Finzer Read**, BA'02, is a magazine picture editor for Time Inc. in New York City, where she lives. She had her first cover story for Time's annual "Making of America" issue, published in July 2009. Read also worked on Time's special Michael Jackson edition published shortly after the singer's death. She married global freelance photojournalist, Lucian Reed, in NYC in 2007.

**Kristin Calvario Suma**, BA'03, writes, "I am teaching Spanish 1-5 in Fairfax County, Virginia. My husband, Matt, BA'03, and I have been married five years and have 2 children." The family lives in Arlington, Va.

**Rachel E. Himm**, BS'05, received an MD degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee in May. Following graduation she began a family medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She is originally from Bloomington, Ind. [minor in Spanish]

In May, **Jessica Gall Myrick**, Cert/BA'05, MA'07, married IU School of Journalism staff member Scott Myrick at Beck Chapel on the Bloomington campus. An I-Woman in both track and cross country, Gall Myrick worked for the School of Journalism for two years and as a reporter and producer for WTIU and WFIU for another year. She began a PhD in journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

**Rachel E. Tate**, BA'05, graduated with special recognition from Des Moines (Iowa) University College of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2009. She has undertaken an internal medicine residency program at Des Peres Hospital in St. Louis, where she lives.

**Nicolas J. Torres**, BA'06, is a multicultural recruitment coordinator for Franklin (Ind.) College. He and his wife, Natalie, welcomed their son, Manuel Jose, in September 2009. Torres lives in Indianapolis.

**Austin L. Deakins**, BA'07, writes, "I teach sixth grade math in Houston. I'm also currently working on a master of education degree at the University of St. Thomas." Deakins lives in Houston.

"In June I began working as an associate producer on the CNBC series American Greed at Kurtis Productions in Chicago," writes **Jeanne M. Power**, BA'07. "Previously I worked as a freelance editorial assistant at Chicago Public Radio. My fiancé, **Joshua B. Heffron**, BS'07, works in commercial development at British Petroleum in Chicago. We

are planning a June wedding (and de facto college reunion!) in Bloomington."

**Ryan A. Dorn**, BA'08, has started a Web development and marketing firm in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he lives. For more information about the company, visit <http://fizzmod.com>.

**Alan J. Rosenbaum**, BA/BS'08, is a student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He plans to graduate with a medical degree in 2013. Rosenbaum lives in Pittsburgh.

**Leah B. Linder**, BAJ'08, has joined Euro RSCG Worldwide Public Relations in New York City. She works on the Sears and Kmart accounts and was involved in the Design on a Dime fundraising event, the proceeds of which went to the organization Housing Works. Linder formerly worked as the marketing and communications manager at Dylan's Candy Bar in New York City. She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Rhett M. Tanselle**, BA'08, is a business-development analyst at Monroe Hospital in Bloomington, Ind., where he lives. He lists his hobbies as fantasy football, traveling, and learning new languages.

**Haley K. Bakker-Arkema**, BAJ'09, is an assistant account executive in GolinHarris International's Chicago office. She was recently involved in a July 4 program for Splenda Sweetener Products in New York. The company partnered with Meals on Wheels to distribute a record-number of apple-pie slices to veterans and those in need. Bakker-Arkema lives in Chicago.

**Lindsay R. Pollack**, BAJ'09, has returned to the U.S. after a year teaching English in Costa Rica. She plans to live in Washington, D.C., and work in a job that requires her to use her skills in Spanish.

**Ryan J. Shupe**, BS'09, writes that he is attending the University of Notre Dame Law School. He is originally from Fort Wayne, Ind. [minor in Spanish]

In September, **Jessica R. Wray**, BS'09, relocated to Huelva, Spain, to teach English as a second language. She plans to be in Spain until May. Wray is originally from Wilmette, Ill.

**James J. Solon**, BA'74, and his wife, **Mary Kay (Schulte)**, BS'74, who met as freshmen at IU Bloomington, recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Jim practiced physical therapy until 1999 and is now a financial planner and adviser with Edward Jones Investments in Fort Wayne, Ind. Mary Kay is a professor at the University of St. Francis, where she directs the physical therapist assistant program. Three of the couple's sons have IU degrees — **Neal**, BA/BS'04, taught mathematics with Teach for America and is now a law student in New York City; **Tim**, BAJ'10, is teaching English with TFA in Colorado Springs, Colo.; and **Greg**, BA'10, completed a triple major in fine arts, Spanish, and Near Eastern languages and cultures and is continuing his education at IUPUI. The couple's daughter, **Megan**, is a graduate student in the Spanish Department at IU Bloomington. The elder Solons live in Fort Wayne, Ind.

## Guest speakers

(continued from page 2)

lecture "Objetos directos (nulos) en la frontera dominico-haitiana: ¿contacto de lenguas o motivaciones internas?"

**Kim Potowski** (University of Illinois at Chicago), "I was raised talking like my mom": The Influence of Mothers on the Spanish of MexiRicans" and "Teaching Spanish to Heritage Speakers: Pedagogical & Administrative Considerations"

**Nelson Vieira** (Brown University), "The Cultural Politics of Diaspora: Ways of Being Jewish and Female in Brazil"

Professor **Edgar Illas** organized four videoconferences with Catalan architects and urban geographers.

- **Oriol Bohigas**, architect and head planner of Olympic Barcelona, talked about the Barcelona model of urban transformation.
- Italian-Catalan architect **Benedetta Tagliabue** spoke about the projects of her firm Enric Miralles/Benedetta Tagliabue (EMBT).
- **Joan Roca i Albert**, director of the Museu d'Història de Barcelona, talked about the relationship between urbanism and capitalism in modern Catalonia.
- **Francesc Muñoz**, urban geographer from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, discussed the Barcelona urban model vis-à-vis the diffuse suburbanization of global megalopolises.

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IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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