FEATURES

Living the Trujillo Life

Students spent their spring 2008 semester traveling the countryside and getting to know their host families while living the Spanish life.

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Month-long Celebration

Hispanic Heritage Month was yet another success this year, with students from all over the College coming out to learn about the culture.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Lola Colomina-Garrigós
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Contributors, Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles and artwork to this year’s HispaNews.
In the Dean’s Office
Dr. David Cohen assumed responsibilities as Interim Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs with C. Michael Phillips acting as Associate Dean for this and the next academic year.

Joe Weyers stays on as Chair
Dr. Joseph Weyers remained as Chair of the Department of Hispanic Studies, and continues his work as Certified OPI tester.

Faculty Evaluations
The following faculty were evaluated for promotion or renewal of their rank in the past academic year: Dr. Karen Berg was renewed as senior instructor; Dr. Raúl Carrillo-Arciniega successfully passed his Third Year Review for Tenure; and Drs. Herbert Espinoza and Luis Linares-Ocanto both had a satisfactory Post-Tenure Review. Congratulations to all of them on their success!

New faculty members, Drs. Samuel Francis and Gladys Matthews attend events during the year.

New Hires
In the Fall of 2007, the Department of Hispanic Studies welcomed two new colleagues: Dr. Sam Francis and Dr. Gladys Matthews. Dr. Francis (Ph.D., Purdue University) previously taught at Colorado State University. His research interests are second language acquisition and Spanish linguistics.

Dr. Matthews (Ph.D., Universite Laval in Quebec) comes to us from Indiana. She joined the department to take the position of Director of the Interpreting Program, effective July 2008.

In the Fall of 2008, we will welcome Dr. Emily Beck (Ph.D., Columbia University) to take a position in Golden Age. She received her Ph.D. in May 2008.

Farewell To
Sue Turner, senior instructor and former Spanish coordinator, will be leaving the department this year after many years of teaching and serving the College. We wish her well on her future endeavors.

Dr. Janice Wright will also be retiring after dedicating many years to both the department and the College. We wish her the best of luck in this new phase of her life.

Graduate Certificate in Medical Interpreting
The one-year Graduate Certificate in Medical Interpreting began in Spring 2007.

In May 2008, four students completed the Program: Milenka Almonacid, Peter Comfort, Monica Correa, and Leticia Nava-Linares.

The Medical Interpreting Graduate Certificate Program has been revised to become part of the Master’s Program in Bilingual Legal Interpreting Program. The two programs have been renamed The Bilingual Interpreting Program and will include all of the graduate interpreting programs.

Interdisciplinary Linguistics Minor Program
The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Minor Program has been very active this year. In Spring 2007, the Linguistics Discussion Series was established to provide faculty and students an opportunity to present their research and projects in the area of linguistics. This year two faculty members presented their current research. In Fall 2007, Dr. Katherine White, from the Department of Psychology, presented “Might Recent Exposure to Orthography Influence What We Write? An Experimental Investigation of Homophone Substitution Errors;” and in Spring 2008, Dr. Silvia Rodriguez-Sabater presented “Code-switching in the Spanish press of Barcelona.”

The program is expanding to consider a course in African American Pre-Colonial History. The course will be submitted for approval in the fall 2008.
In the Know
What's New in Faculty Achievements

Dr. Nadia Avendaño published “El deseo mimético y las relaciones homosociales en dos triángulos amorosos del Quijote” in Hispanic Journal.

Dr. Karen Berg’s new book Javier Marias’s Postmodern Praxis looks at the topics of humor and interplay in selected essays and novels and is in stores now.

Dr. Raúl Carrillo-Arciniega recently published a book based on his dissertation, which deals with the poetry of the Mexican writers, Jorge Cuesta and José Gorostiza: “Huellas y oquedades: teoría de la poesía de Jorge Cuesta y José Gorostiza.”

“David Huerta dentro de la tradición del poema frustrado y del lenguaje metapoético: ¿aproximaciones a una poesía neobarroca?” was accepted for publication in Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea.

“La sintaxis del héroe mítico, su voz y sus realizaciones en los Naufragios de Cabeza de Vaca” was published in Trayectos. Revista de Investigación Científica de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades.

“Poesía y revolución en la obra poética de Roberto Fernández Rematar” was requested to be included as book chapter about Fernández Rematar.

“Jardines emergentes” and “Tumor acústico” were published in Periódico de Poesía.


Dr. Herbert Espinoza published “Mexico: Mito y religiosidad en los personajes femeninos de Malcolm Lowry” in the South Carolina Modern Language Review.

Dr. Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson, along with Tracy E. Gibson, published “Addressing Language Access in Health Care” in the Fall 2007 issue of Hispanic Health Care International.

Dr. Luci Moreira published a textbook entitled Ponto de Encontro: Portuguese as an International Language, followed by a workbook, audio and video components, and an answer key. The material was released by Prentice Hall and is already used in more than 100 universities. She also delivered a paper on it at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Conference in San Diego, in July 2007. In addition, she offered two workshops: “Ponto de Encontro,” at the Florida Statewide Meeting of Professors of Portuguese, in Valencia Community College, Orlando, in May 2007, and “L2 teaching challenges in the world of globalization” – Connect ED – a conference on global education in Monterey, CA, in January 2008. Dr. Moreira was also an invited speaker at the First Annual Nutrition/Culinary Diversity Workshop, organized by MUSC, in November 2007. That same month, she spoke to the College of Charleston Hostell Program on “Our Neighbors from the South: Enemy or Foe?”

Dr. Sarah Owens was on sabbatical during the spring and fall of 2007. She was invited as the keynote speaker for a graduate student conference at the California State-Long Beach in March, 2007. She was also invited as a guest speaker at the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon. She traveled during her sabbatical to Spain to conduct archival research for her forthcoming book on Spanish nuns.

Dr. Silvia Rodríguez-Sabater was on sabbatical during the fall of 2007, and worked on code-switching in the Barcelona Press.


Dr. Andrew Sobiesuo published his article “Guerrero, Manuel Vicente, El negro valiente de Flandés, Introducción, edición y notas de Moses E. Panford Jr.” in Crítica Hispánica.

Dr. Parissa Tadrissi’s article “Negotiating Girlhood: Mediating Bodies and Identities in Novels by Care Santos” will appear in Reflecting the Self: Critical Essays on Spanish Women, a forthcoming book from Bucknell University Press.

Dr. Joseph Weyers gave the presentation “The OPI meets the conversation class: Increasing proficiency” at the ACTFL Conference in San Antonio in November 2007.

In May, several faculty took part in the MOPI (Modified Oral Proficiency Interview Tester Training) given by Lisette Mujica Laughlin of the University of South Carolina. This aim of this workshop was to give faculty insights into realistic expectations from their students in regards to the question: “What is oral proficiency?”

Faculty-Student Research


Faculty Awards

In February 2008, Dr. Andrew Sobiesuo was appointed as an External Reviewer (on MLA recommendation) of the Spanish Program at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. For Summer 2007, Georgina Schlau was a recipient of a College of Charleston Research and Development grant to do research in Oaxaca, Mexico. For Summer 2008, Dr. Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson was the recipient of a grant awarded by the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs and also a College of Charleston Research and Development Grant for her project “English in Spain.”
> In the Know

Student Achievements

Sigma Delta Pi

The following students were initiated in Sigma Delta Pi during the fall of 2007: Amanda Andrews, Lauren Beltran, Anna Lisa Dumler, Matthew Brendan Foster, Lindsey Goehring, Alexis Gross, Shivani Jani, Daniel W. Jones, Kara Mayfield, Barbara McHenry, Jennifer C. Morrison, Amanda Faith Overton, Jennifer Patty, Jennifer Salmorin, Lauren Tanner, Jenny Treadway, and Carolyn Williams. Dr. Félix Vásquez conducted the initiation ceremony, assisted by Dr. Marianne Verlinden as "Secretaria".

In the spring of 2008, five additional members joined the Spanish Honor Society: Amanda Adams, Callie Carpenter, Joshua Langdon, Amanda Taylor and Andrea Tremols. Dr. Marianne Verlinden conducted the ceremony, graciously assisted by Dr. Karen Berg as "Vicepresidenta" and Dr. Félix Vásquez as "Secretario".

Both ceremonies were held in the Alumni Center of the New School of Education.

Student Awards

On April 17, 2008, the Department of Hispanic Studies recognized the contribution of the 2007-2008 Spanish and Portuguese Tutors, Spanish and Portuguese Conversation Peer Teachers, Portuguese and Spanish Club Officers, Casa Hispanica Residents, as well as the Outstanding 202 Students of Portuguese and Spanish. The ceremony was conducted by Dr. Joseph Weyers. A reception followed the awarding of certificates.

On May 9, 2008, the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs hosted its Annual Student Awards Ceremony for its graduating seniors in the Jewish Studies Center.

The 2007-2008 Highest Achieving Spanish Major Award went to Hallie Ritzu, who also received the Spanish Departmental Honors Award. The Distinguished Performance in the Spanish Major Award was shared between Emily Connor and Stephanie Fauvelle, and Diana Rivera was recognized as the Distinguished Performance in Portuguese Award recipient. Fiorella Brittingham, Ali Dumler, Christiane Camarillo, Emily Connor, Stephanie Fauvelle, Alexis Gross, Nikki Howell, Kara Mayfield, Alison Mercier, Rachael Nemeth, Hallie Ritzu, Ashley Sinclair, Whitney Smith, Sarah Straub, Megan Wheeler won the Outstanding Student Award in Hispanic Studies.

Dr. Félix Vásquez is pleased to announce that Shivani Jani is the winner of a scholarship from Sigma Delta Pi Undergraduate Summer 2008 Scholarships for study at the Universidad Internacional/The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies of Cuernavaca, Mexico.

One of our senior students, Sarah Straub, celebrating her academic recognition as Outstanding Student with her proud parents during the reception that followed the Annual Student Awards Ceremony on May 9, 2008.

Holding a red carnation, the flower of the Spanish Honor Society, our five Spring 2008 initiates: L-R: Amanda Adams, Andrea Tremols, Joshua Langdon, Callie Carpenter and Amanda Taylor.
Lecture Presentations

Dr. Luis Linares-Ocanto invited two distinguished guest speakers: Dr. Percio Castro, from the University of Dayton, who gave a presentation entitled “Going with the Flow – An Audio-Visual Civilization: Image, History, Culture and Society through Ibero-American Cinematographic and Literary Production” on September 20. Dr. Sara Rosell, from the University of Northern Iowa, who delivered a series of presentations: “La identidad y el espacio liminal: escritoras dominicanas en el nuevo milenio” on September 27, with a book signing following the lecture; “Julia Alvarez entre la historia y la ficción: En el tiempo de las mariposas y En el nombre de Salome” and “La mujer en el teatro dominicano,” both on September 28.

Hispanic Fair

Dr. Nadia Avendaño organized the 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Fair which took place on October 9, from 11-2 in the Alumni Center in the new Education Building. It was, as usual, a great success with students representing several countries of the Spanish-speaking world. Three presentations stood out and received prizes: those on Spain, Colombia and Argentina.

Film Festival

Dr. Lola Colomina-Garrigós organized the Annual Hispanic Film Festival. Three of the most recent and critically-acclaimed Hispanic films were shown: “Pan’s Labyrinth” (Mexico) on September 18, “Quinceañeras” (USA) on September 25, and “Volver” (Spain) on October 2. The film festival was sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies, the Language Resource Center, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the Spanish Club. The Spanish Club provided refreshments and movie snacks to the large crowd that turned out for every film.

Thank you so much for making this year’s Film Festival a huge success. Special thanks to Sabine Hagn-Ford and Georgia Schlu who were instrumental in organizing the event as well as to Devon Hanahan, Jose Moreira, and Dr. Gladys Matthews who introduced the films.

Other cultural activities during the Hispanic Heritage Month included a reception at the Casa Hispánica for Prof. Rubén Max from the University of Buenos Aires; a Poetry Night organized by Dr. Raúl Carrillo-Arciniega on October 4; a Taller de salsa on September 27; the Hora del café on September 28 and October 11; the “Sabías que...?” daily cultural highlights researched and distributed by Prof. Maricela Villalobos; and our traditional Tertulias at Yo Burrito every other Friday of the month.

Our special thanks to the chair, Dr. Nadia Avendaño, all the members of the Hispanic Heritage Month committee, as well as all of the faculty members and students who participated in these events to make them so successful.
Celebrate the Culture

Language Clubs

Portuguese Club

On March 28, the Portuguese Club and their faculty advisor, Dr. Luci Moreira, brought us another exciting and fun learning experience. After the Bate-Papo (Conversation Table in Portuguese), students, faculty and members of the community were invited to learn the Forro, a Brazilian dance. In the fall of 2007, the Portuguese Club co-sponsored several events: a presentation on “Contemporary Issues of Brazil”, by Brazilian Consul João Almino, and CoC Professors Tim Coates, Doug Friedman, and John Rashford on November 13, a lecture and demonstration on “Samba, the Soul of Brazil” with Kenia and Nick, from New York on October 26, 2007, and Capoeira Night, with Capoeira Charleston and Mestres Arriranga, Bom Jesus, featuring Capoeira, Afoxé, and Maculele, on October 27. The Club also organized and sponsored the viewing of Brazilian film: “The Man Who Copied” in November.

In the spring of 2008, the Portuguese Club co-sponsored two lectures: “African Settlers: Brazil’s Unique History, Myths, and Realities” by Professor Emeritus Russell Hamilton (Vanderbilt University), as part of the celebration of Black History Month, on February 21, and “Prophets in the Tropics: Jewish Culture and Literature from Brazil” by Professor Nelson Vieira (Brown University), on March 13. The Brazilian Night was held on April 10, with Brazilian food and live music, with Brazilian singer Duda Lucena. The Club also offered Forró Lessons (Brazilian dance) in March and April. Finally Bate-Papo (Conversation Table in Portuguese) was held every three weeks, during the academic year.

Linguistics Club

On March 20, Dr. Carla Breidenbach organized the first meeting of the newly forming Linguistics Club, offering yet another opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom to our students.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club did a wonderful job organizing numerous events throughout the academic year under the leadership of President Maria Wersinger, Vice President Megan Squires, and Treasurer Laura Hoffman and the faculty adviser Dr. Parissa Tadrissi.

Taller de Salsa

The Spanish Club hosted a Salsa workshop on September 27 where attendees danced the night away. First they learned basic salsa steps from Julio Garrido, Charleston’s famous Salsa instructor. Later, participants were able to practice on their own in pairs while the instructor showed each group tips on how to improve. Students and community members alike enjoyed dancing and were able to replenish their energy with the food provided by the club.

Tertulias

Tertulias took on a new dimension this year as more tertulianos from Charleston joined in on the Spanish Club’s social gathering at Yo Burrito. Students found themselves conversing about more than just parties as new people joined in. They not only shared their study abroad experiences but even chatted about politics and philosophy.

Latin American Carnival

The Spanish and French Clubs combined their efforts to organize the end-of-year celebration. This year’s event, with the theme of Carnival so central to Latin America, added another twist to the already popular Noche Latina. Held on April 4th in the Stern Center Ballroom, the Carnival was standing room only, with great food, music, dancing and demonstrations in authentic costumes from various Latin American countries. As in the past, numerous members of the community join in this festive occasion. Thank you to the language clubs and their faculty advisors for a wonderful night!

Poetry Reading

On April 9, we had the opportunity to hear Mexican poet and UNAM professor Dr. Rocio González and our very own Dr. Raúl Carrillo-Arciniega read some of their creative work. Dr. Rocio González, who has already published 8 poetry collections, won two national prizes in Mexico for her fine production. Her most recent works are entitled Azar que danza (Aldus/sco), Lunacerco and Como si fuera la primera vez (Ediciones sin nombre, 2006). The event, held at the Faculty House in celebration of the National Poetry Month, was well attended, and a reception followed.

On April 11, Dr. Rocio González also offered a workshop on creative writing to C of C students interested in exploring their skills in Spanish.
Audio Tapes
Movies
Posters
Flyers
Web sites
Presentations
Events planning
Editing
Researching
Developing —
Georgia Schlau
and Sabine
Hagn-Ford have
had their hands
in everything, but
that’s about to
change

story p.10
The Michael Pincus Language Resource Center eventually evolved into the advertising and marketing section of the Division of Languages through the efforts of Dr. Earl Rickerson and his vision of making foreign languages a greater presence on campus. Dr. Rickerson — former Division Head — thought that the language lab should be much more than just an audio lab. These efforts resulted in the acknowledgement of the merit of advertising the College programs in all areas, in addition to Languages. This required the hiring of three students as design staff to produce a variety of multimedia products, such as posters, fliers, websites, etc. Due to the continuous development of technology, the adjacent audio visual lab became obsolete and is now on track to be completely updated into a computer lab. From the beginning to today, Georgia Schlau and Sabine Hagn-Ford have handled the Language Lab in all of its many iterations. Now, the lab is set for a new direction as both of them head off to different positions within the school.

Former director of the LRC, professor Georgia Schlau, managed the LRC for 15 years and is about to join the Department of Hispanic Studies as a full time instructor.

HispaNews: Can you tell us a little about your background? How did you become interested in languages?

Schlau: I majored in Spanish and enjoyed it so much that I continued into grad school and started teaching as a graduate assistant at the University of South Carolina. When I received my degree, they asked me to stay on as an instructor. Thus began my long career in college teaching.

HispaNews: How did you come to work at the College of Charleston?

Schlau: I came to Charleston in 1970 because there was a position available at The Baptist College where I continued until 1987.

HN: Could you describe for us the various facets of your work, and how your job has changed over time?

GS: In 1990 I came to the College of Charleston. At that time I did not know how to turn on a computer. Dr. Michael Pincus, the department chair at that time, made me learn how to use a computer because there were no typewriters available for me to use. The Director of the Language Lab, Dr. Katie Sprang, gave an orientation in which she introduced the use of laser disks, a great innovation at that time. That did it for me: I was hooked on technology. When she left the College in 1992 to pursue a higher degree in Washington, DC, she named me as her replacement. At that time we had an old tape lab with half the stations not working, but we had three laser disk players connected to Apple MacIntosh computers. She had done all the paperwork for the purchase of a Sony 9000 state-of-the-art lab. The chair secured funding for its installation and I oversaw its implementation. It was called the Language Multimedia Lab. The first few years were extremely busy. We had two students on duty all day from 8-5 M-F. On Wednesdays, we were open until 9 PM. The student staff was kept occupied duplicating cassettes morning, noon, and night. We had SCOLA International TV with requests from faculty to copy programs for personal and classroom use. Many students were required to spend one hour in lab by their instructor and had to be logged in and out. In the meantime, the language departments became the Division of Languages. A new Division Head, Dr. Earl Rickerson, came on board. Digital technology allowed us to digitize the cassettes thus making the audio files available online to students and lab attendance started falling off. Dr. Rickerson decided that the Division of Languages had to make its presence known on campus by advertising its events and programs and the lab evolved into the Michael Pincus Language Resource Center. As technology progressed, the lab stayed in the 1990s while the production of posters, fliers, and Web pages flourished. In 2008, the interim Dean, Dr. David Cohen, decided it was time for the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs to have a computer lab and that the advertising phase was no longer needed. Therefore the Language Resource Center is entering into a new era.

HN: Please, tell us about the teams you have worked with, their special skills, and how they have added to the learning and promotion of languages and cultures on campus.
GS: I was the original Languages Webmaster using Netscape Composer the first few years. But since I was not a graphic designer, the lab started hiring students with artistic skills to maintain and create new Web Pages and later posters, flyers, signs, etc. We went from one, to two, and then, three graphic designers. Patrick McCarty has been with us the longest and has become indispensable. All the graphic designers have been talented, but our current graphic designer, Sam Tyson, has created the most eye-catching Web Pages for departments in the School, each with its own blog to post events.

HN: What are the aspects of your work you have most enjoyed? What project(s) are your most proud of? In your opinion, what contribution has been your most significant?

GS: The most fun part of my job has been trying to keep up with all the developments in technology. It doesn't stand still and the only way to keep up is by going to national conferences in foreign language technology. It has allowed me to travel to states I had never been to before, to meet the people in the forefront of teaching with technology, and to learn how to use different software programs by participating in workshops. The pioneer years were the most creative. Karen Berg and I created programs for the laser disk videos in the lab collection and I developed a culture capsule called "El zócalo" for the Macs. Nowadays there is so much more out there with the advent of YouTube, the iPod, the Second Life virtual world, and other emerging technologies I can hardly keep up.

HN: In what direction would you like the new language lab to go, in other words, if you had any recommendations to make regarding the new language lab, what would those be?

GS: I would like to see the lab go completely digital. All movies and software would be available on demand to students and faculty with all classrooms installed with technology at the tip of the finger.

HN: Finally, what's next for you? Would you mind sharing with HispaNews what your future endeavors might be?

GS: I am returning to full time teaching, my first love. I'll probably continue to teach, even after I retire, as long as the College needs adjuncts and continues to use available technologies to engage students into learning Spanish. When not teaching, I plan to travel and take classes in subjects that interest me.

Sabine Hagn-Ford ensured the smooth running of the Language lab for a decade.

HN: Can you tell us a little about your background? How did you become interested in languages?

Hagn-Ford: I have always liked languages. I wanted to study languages at a language school in younger years, but my plans changed.

HN: How did you come to work at the College of Charleston?

Hagn-Ford: I was working for a crazy psychiatrist at MUSC when I read about the job opening in the Language Lab and immediately applied.

HN: Could you describe for us the various facets of your work, and how your job has changed over time?

HF: When I started in the spring of 1998, the Language Lab was buzzing with student workers duplicating tapes, and there was a steady stream of students coming to the Lab for their various assignments and checking out audio cassettes. Then tapes were put online, overall technology changed rapidly, and we had fewer customers which resulted in a reduction in the number of student assistants. There was also less Lab-related work for me, so when LCWA was founded, I expanded my administrative services to all the language departments.

HN: Please, tell us about the team (student workers, graphic designers) you have worked with, their special skills, and how they have added to the learning and promotion of languages and cultures on campus and beyond.

HF: We have always had the best student workers and we have always put emphasis on hiring international students. Our graphic designers are the most talented and most resourceful ones, and they will be sadly missed by everyone.

HN: What are the aspects of your work you have most enjoyed? What project(s) are your most proud of? In your opinion, what contribution has been your most significant?

HF: I have particularly enjoyed the variety my job at the Lab has afforded me and the fact that I could work with all the language departments.
**> Eye on Alumni**

**Vonnie Calemine**, '02 is working as an adjunct professor at Coastal Carolina University teaching Latin American and world politics and she is also applying to jobs in NGOs dealing with Latin America in Washington, DC. Vonnie is really glad she that majored Spanish as it led her to her Latin American Studies career.

**Tony Cella**, '06 has been accepted at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, to start his Ph.D. in August 2008.

**Meredith Clark** completed an MA in Hispanic Literature at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2008 and plans to pursue her doctoral studies at the same institution. She has also been an assistant instructor there for the past two years. She loves teaching Spanish at the collegiate level. She has many fond memories of her time at the C of C, most of them in the Department of Hispanic Studies, and recalls the impact her professors had in her life.

**Stephanie Frye** (formerly Long), married Nathan Frye in 2002. They have two boys, Griffin (born 04/18/2005) and Harper (born 01/14/08). After C of C, she went on to Boston University and obtained her MBA. The family now resides in San Diego.

**Amanda Grove-Ketterlinus**, '04 worked for Teach for America in Philadelphia after graduation. There she taught bilingual elementary and middle school for two years in a predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood, and got her Master’s in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She taught all subjects in English and Spanish. During that time she married **Jack Ketterlinus**, '04. Her husband started an international MBA at USC in Columbia in 2007, where they stayed for a semester, during which time she taught a Gen Ed class to low income dropouts. Then they moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, for his language training, during which time she taught English and traveled with friends. They will be moving to Panama for his internship soon, and in the fall will be moving back to Charleston where she will be looking for employment in the teaching or social work fields so she can continue to use her Spanish.

**Chryystal Hepler**, '04 graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and Spanish. Immediately after leaving C of C, Chryystal went to teach 2nd grade in Reynosa, Mexico for a year. She then went to Europe where she was an au pair in Italy for five months and earned her TEFL in Sevilla, Spain. She returned to Mexico and lived in Monterrey for two years teaching 4th grade. This school year Chrystral moved back to her hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she taught high school Spanish at Central Noble High School.

**Trevor Hollingsworth**, '04 is now teaching Spanish to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at Midway Elementary School in Anderson, SC, and just recently got married to Meghan Provost, '03, a Charleston alumna.

**John Kohler**, '07 has been studying medicine at MUSC since graduating from C of C. His first year has been difficult though exciting. He continues to use his Spanish in various settings, mostly with Hispanic patients. He feels that the education he received at the C of C has enabled him to become a more effective communicator and hopefully a better physician.

**Christopher McClellan** began working for Community First Bank in Charleston after graduation. When he started working for the bank, employees were paid extra for each checking account that they opened. His first year working for the bank he was credited with opening the most checking accounts and was treated to lunch by the president of Community First Bank. He admits he could have never opened as many new accounts as he did without being able to speak Spanish. The Spanish-speaking customers that he has met are grateful to find someone who can speak their language and help them with banking transactions. By being able to speak Spanish, he has made several new friends, including his wife, who is from Colombia. The family plans to travel to Colombia sometime next year. He uses Spanish everyday and he is very proud to have studied at the College of Charleston.

**Tessa McKenzie**, '03 was eager to explore Latin America with the skills she had acquired at the College. She comments on being ready, curious, and fueled by the unknown at the time. Her first challenge was as a middle-school health teacher in Honduras. She was faced with the challenge of creating classroom curricula with the limited resources available in the village in which she taught. She felt empowered to be able to teach young Honduran minds, as she was their only link to modern health information. While in Honduras, she became involved in health related concerns beyond the classroom. She volunteered as a medical interpreter for a team of North American doctors when they brought medical supplies and restored smiles to children with cleft-palates. After her experiences in Honduras, she knew she wanted to continue to work in developing countries and focus on strategies and research that would advance global health. She continued interpreting throughout Latin America with an Interplast surgical team as their Spanish Medical Interpreter and Trip Coordinator. She enjoyed bridging the gap between the nurses and patients, but she found herself particularly interested in learning about their public health system's infrastructure and the health issues that were specific to that area. Her knowledge of the Spanish language and her desire to help diverse ethnic minorities has landed her in Portland, Oregon as a Spanish Medical Interpreter. Tessa loves Portland although she misses the Charleston sunshine! She is happy to report that she was recently accepted to grad school for a Masters in Public Health.

**Caroline Mullinax**, '05 graduated from the College with a Master's of Education in Languages. She is currently teaching Spanish at Wando High School, Mt. Pleasant, SC, where she was named "Rookie Teacher of the Year 2008."

**Cameron Neal** spent from June to December of 2007 studying International Relations in Florianopolis, Brazil. **Dr. Rene Mueller**, with the Business School, assisted her in getting a federal grant to study. Knowing Spanish really helped her with Portuguese. She came back in December to intern with the South Carolina World Trade Center for about 4 months where she served as a Trade Assistant, doing market research and analysis for South Carolina companies interested in expanding into the global market. A couple of months ago she submitted her résumé to the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C., for a position with their Commercial Service sector, was called for an interview (15 people were interviewed out of 161 applicants) and got the job! So she recently moved to D.C. to start working. She admits that without her knowledge of another romance language beforehand, she would never have been able to learn Portuguese so quickly and easily.
Robin Otterbacher, M.Ed., '03 worked for two years at Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Bilingual Enrollment Analyst, and used Spanish daily in her job. She then entered an alternative certification program for business professionals who want to become educators. This year she has completed the program, a three-year process. She has been teaching the past two and a half years at Blythewood High School in Blythewood, SC. As a Spanish teacher, she gets to share the joy and benefits of knowing Spanish with her students. She completed her Master's of Education at Southern Wesleyan in March 2008. She will be teaching Spanish in the same school district at their newest elementary school in August. She also used Spanish to translate important documents for businesses within the state.

Kathy Ramirez Ramsbottom, '02 got married to Garnett Ramsbottom in May 2007, and relocated to Charlotte, NC. In the transition to Charlotte she resigned from her pharmaceutical position to open up her own business as a Business/Personal Life Coach. The name of her business is Point of Motivation. She works with individuals and small businesses to help further their personal or professional development. She incorporates different assessments with her clients and helps them develop strategies to meet their goals.

Brittany Rodgers, '06 is currently finishing her first year at the USC School of Medicine. Although she is not using Spanish much this year, she is going to become involved with a student-run project to help out with interpreting and other services at a local clinic with many Hispanic patients. They also have a Medical Spanish curriculum next year as part of their Introduction to Clinical Medicine course.

Alicia Ingram, '01 graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in August 2007, with a doctorate in Hispanic Literature. She joined the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill last July, and she is thoroughly enjoying teaching there as a lecturer. She often thinks back to her time at the College of Charleston (and in particular her study abroad trip to Chile with Dr. Walter Fuentes). She remembers what a wonderful experience she had as a Spanish major, and she is very thankful for the stellar relationship that she had with all of her teachers and advisors, as well as for the wonderful education that she received. In particular, she would like to thank Dr. José Escobar and Dr. Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson for teaching her about the Spanish language and Hispanic culture and literature (and inspiring her to continue learning)! Dr. Joseph Weyers and Dr. Andrew Sobiesuo were also great supporters/advisors. Last year she married Matthew Shade, a Davidson graduate.

Jessica Joiner, '03, started a Spanish community group in West Palm Beach. She no longer leads the group but is still a member. They meet monthly to speak Spanish and enjoy cultural events in South Florida. She is an outside sales representative for OVE.com, a division of Manheim, an auto auction company. The territory she serves is South East Florida, mostly in Dade county. She is glad her Spanish is useful on a daily basis with her numerous Spanish speaking customers.

Rachel Prosser, '04 has completed a Master's in Spanish Translation and Language from New York University in Madrid, Spain, in 2005-06. In the fall of 2007, she started a Ph.D. program in Multicultural/Bilingual Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is conducting research on projects regarding the assessment of English Language Learner students, and is working with minority high school students, particularly girls, who are learning more about the Computer Sciences and Engineering fields.

Ginny Rorrer Coykendall, '03, will begin teaching Spanish at Christ Church Episcopal School in August, 2008. She went deep sea fishing off the coast of Belize and Mexico with her husband in June, and had the opportunity to use her Spanish skills.
Summer 2007 Program in Trujillo, Spain

Drs. Michael Gomez and Karen Berg took 27 students to Spain last summer. The group left Charleston on May 15 and returned on June 23. As for trips, they traveled to Caceres and Merida, to Andalusia. They ended their program with a trip to Madrid and its surroundings where they visited the Museo del Prado, the Museo del Reina Sofia, El Escorial and other historical sites.

Spring 2008 Program in Cuba

Dr. Luis Linares-Ocanto took nine students to Cuba in the Spring of 2008. The students stayed at the Montehabana Apartotel and had the opportunity to participate in multiple extracurricular activities. They met with students from the University of Havana, Santa Clara and Las Villas, visited the Museo de la Revolucion, Museo de Bellas Artes, Museo Casa de Africa, the Ministry of Education and Public Health, the Ludwig Foundation, the Fernando Ortiz Foundation, the Cuban Parliament, and the Ministry of Culture. They had a workshop at the School of the Arts “San Alejandro,” attended a conference on Cuban Art, another conference on Cuban Theater and Music, had a meeting with playwrights and actors, and visited the theater to see live performances. In addition, the group also made excursions to the Provincia de Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Escambray, Playa Varadero, and Vinales in Pinar del Rio.

Fall 2007 Program in Santiago, Chile

Eight students participated in last year’s Chile program, from August 23 to December 2. The group attended the Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago de Chile and stayed with host families, which allowed the students to immerse themselves in the language and culture of the country. In addition to visiting the most important cultural and historical sites in the city of Santiago, the group went on several excursions in Chile, including a visit to Pucon and Villarrica (November 7-11), located South of Santiago, where they could enjoy different outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, and bathing in their famous hot springs. The international trip was to Peru (October 5-12), where students spent a week exploring Cuzco, the capital of the Inca Empire, Machu Picchu, the ‘Lost City of the Incas,’ and Lima.

Spring 2008 Program in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Twenty students traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, on January 19, where they stayed until May 6, 2008. The group attended classes at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and stayed at the Residencia estudiantil, both located downtown, where they also enjoyed the diverse cultural offerings that can be found in a city once known as “the Paris of South America,” such as museums, theaters, plazas, cafes, restaurants, etc. The group also made excursions to the beautiful and breathtaking Iguazu falls, to Salta, in the northwestern part of the country, as well as to Uruguay’s capital, Montevideo.
Dr. Elaine Griffin and Communications Professor Celeste Lacroix took 12 students to Trujillo, Spain, for the Spring semester of 2008. The group left on January 23 and returned home on May 6, 2008. The students took a variety of courses in both Spanish and Communications, including several 300 and 400-level courses in Spanish as well as Comm 221, Intercultural Communications, and another independent study in the latter area. The group went on two traditional trips: one to Southern Spain, with visits to Córdoba, Granada, and Sevilla; and their final trip to Madrid and its surrounding areas.
We would like to hear from you! Please update us on your recent accomplishments, awards or any other news (or pictures) you would like to share. Please complete this form and mail to:

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Current/Professional Activities __________________________

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Other comments/suggestions __________________________

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