

Indiana University Department of Spanish & Portuguese Alumni Newsletter



La Gaceta Internacional

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Vol. 15/Fall 2009

Remember the junior year abroad?

When the Department of Spanish and Portuguese launched its academic-year program in Lima in 1959 and a second one in Madrid in 1964, it was part of a scholastic tradition known in those years as the “junior year abroad.” Although the department had previously established a summer program in Mexico in the 1940s, the academic-year model was the dominant paradigm for more than three decades, providing significant academic and cultural experiences for numerous students.

While almost 400 IU students participated in study-abroad programs in Spain and Latin America in 2008–09, only 14 of them participated in an academic-year program. Yet even as the percentage of IU students going abroad for a full academic year has fallen below 5 percent, returning academic-year students have mentioned how critical it was for them to have spent that much time overseas.

Todd Wilson, BA’82, an IU Spanish and journalism major from the 1980–81 program in Madrid, has had a successful career as a communications director at three different U.S. colleges and has strong feelings about having spent a year abroad. “The advantage of spending a year versus a semester or less is that you really find more depth in the experience, well beyond just the obvious longer period of time and more class opportunities. If I’d been in Spain only in the fall, the way I approached the courses would have been much different. I spent much of the fall learning how to get the most out of my classes and the academic experience — and spring semester was much richer as a result. Socially, it was the same — I got over much of the ‘curious tourist’ mode after several months and really internalized (and became more a part of) the European culture.”

To create further awareness about the benefits of an academic-year program, Overseas Study has launched a new promotion this year to encourage students to consider studying abroad for a full academic year. Its longstanding program in Madrid at the Universidad Complutense is more affordable than a one-semester co-sponsored program. With a very knowledgeable staff and excellent resources, the program is well-balanced to offer students what they need in terms of language and cultural immersion at an excellent value. They also have a wide range of content courses available to them and volunteer opportunities as well.

According to Mamen Castaño, assistant director of the Wisconsin, Indiana, and Purdue program in Madrid, “The advantages of an entire academic year abroad far outweigh those of just a semester. First, the adjustment process of getting used to living in a new country is usually long enough that just when a semester student has started to get comfortable, he or she has to leave. The language skill benefits are also incredible. A semester gives you a taste; you learn some Spanish, and you go home. A year provides you enough time to really have to push yourself and to actually feel confident in your language skills.”



Note from the chair

Meeting new challenges

I remember well arriving in the fall of 1985 as an assistant professor, thrilled to be given the opportunity to work in this department and this institution. As I begin my 25th year at IU and finish my first as chair, I am reminded every



Catherine Larson

day how much times have changed in society, in the academy, and in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. We now have 22.5 tenured or tenure-track faculty, 90 graduate students, more than 400 undergraduate majors, well over 1,000 minors, and thousands of students enrolled in our basic language programs in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as Catalan. Compared to even a few years ago, these numbers represent an explosion of students, and we have attempted to meet the demand for our courses by hiring non-tenure-track faculty: we now employ a total of 24 lecturers and senior lecturers, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistant professors teaching at the undergraduate level. We are grateful that the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has given us permission to hire more tenure-track faculty for next year, since we believe strongly that we need to strength-

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VIDA: Seasoned on stage

Grupo de Teatro VIDA completed an exciting third season during the 2008–09 academic year. In November 2008, the group presented its third major production, *Identidades*, at the John Waldron Arts Center. This show combined three one-act plays: *El retablo de las maravillas* (Cervantes), *Estudio en blanco y negro* (Piñera), and *Las nuevas tamaleras* (Mena). This last piece is a Chicano play that the group also performed in Indianapolis at Fringe Friday, a monthly event produced by IndyFringe.

During the spring semester 2009, VIDA presented *Estudio en blanco y negro* in *Take One!*, the Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority Talent Show, and was awarded an Honorable Mention in Diversity at the Student Activities Office’s annual awards ceremony.

VIDA, now in its fourth season, continues to grow and seek opportunities that bring learners and native speakers of Spanish together to create theatrical productions. To find out more about this year’s productions or about how you can help support this group, contact VIDA at vida@indiana.edu.



Robert P. Baxter

Three friends receive help from above as they learn to make tamales in the production of *Las nuevas tamaleras*. From left: **Nisha Elena Brown, Alejandra Carrera, Portia Willy, and Jenny Gibson.**

Guest lectures

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese hosted a number of interesting lectures this year in addition to our regular brown bag talks and film series. Guests and their lectures included **João Almino** (consul general of Brazil in Chicago), “Brazil in the 21st Century”; **Kirsty Hooper** (University of Liverpool), “Negotiating Spanishness in Galician Cultural Discourse”; **Frank McCann** (emeritus, University of New Hampshire), “The Official Story Redux: New Interpretations of 20th-Century Brazilian History”; **Jean-Philibert Mobwa Mobwa N’djoli** (National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination in Mexico City), “La presencia africana en México”; **Michael Renov** (University of Southern California), “Documentary, Contemporary Art and the Ethical Function”; and **Alejandro Springall** (Mexican producer and director), film viewing of “My Mexican Shiva” followed by question-and-answer session.



Frank McCann



Kirsty Hooper

Renowned scholar returns to IUB campus



Frances Aparicio

and the study of bilingualism, and she has been active in studying policy issues relating to Latinos in the U.S. Her second book, *Listening to Salsa: Gender, Latin Popular Music, and Puerto Rican Cultures* (1998), won the MLA’s prestigious Katherine Kovacs Singer Award for best book in Hispanic studies. She has also been active as an editor and translator.

During her visit, Aparicio met with students and faculty and shared her current research. La Casa hosted a gathering for students who were interested in her work. Aparicio’s lecture, “Cultural Twins and National Others: Allegories of Inter-Latino Subjectivities in U.S. Latino/a Literature,” was held at the IMU and explored the challenges of establishing bridges between different groups considered to be Latino and Chicano.

In February, the department hosted the 13th annual **Merle E. Simmons Distinguished Alumni lecture**, given by Professor **Frances Aparicio** (University of Illinois at Chicago). Aparicio received her BA in Spanish and comparative literature from IU in 1978. After receiving her MA and PhD in Spanish literature from Harvard, she went on to become a leading specialist in Puerto Rican and Latino literature, popular culture, music, and gender studies.

Aparicio’s research on constructions of Caribbean and Latino identity includes studies of Puerto Rican writers, media representations of Puerto Ricans in the U.S., and salsa music. Her research also focuses on classroom issues such as multicultural pedagogy

Scholar-in-Residence offers learning strategies

The department welcomed Professor **Andrew Cohen** as the 2008–09 Scholar-in-Residence. Cohen is professor of English in the Second Language Department at the Institute of Linguistics, ESL, and Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He received his BA in French history and literature from Harvard University and an MA (linguistics) and PhD (education) from Stanford University.

During his visit to IUB, Cohen delivered a lecture titled “The Teaching and Learning of L2 Pragmatics: Where Language and Culture Meet.” He offered three workshops for graduate students in linguistics and for language teachers working in Spanish, English, and French, as well as for instructors of less-commonly taught languages from the Inner Asian and Uralic Resource Center. In these hands-on workshops, Cohen presented strategies for learning second languages through culture in the classroom and featured an instructional Web site from the University of Minnesota for the teaching of grammar and pragmatics for learners of Spanish. He also met with graduate students to discuss their current research areas.

In memoriam: Russell O. Salmon

Our colleague and friend **Russell O. Salmon**, associate professor emeritus of Spanish, died on May 28, 2009, after a short illness. Salmon received a BA in Spanish from Williams College in 1956, an MA in Spanish from the Middlebury Graduate Language School in 1962, and a PhD in Spanish and Latin American studies from Columbia University in 1969. He began teaching at Indiana University as an assistant professor in 1969. Salmon's strong background in history and Latin American studies brought a new dimension to the study of literature in the department in the 1970s, and he was responsible for what nowadays would be regarded as a cultural-studies approach to teaching Spanish American literature. His course on the *caudillo* was innovative and highly popular among undergraduate students, and it became the template for a series in the department's core curriculum.

Salmon's cross-disciplinary and transnational research and teaching interests centered foremost on the Southern Cone and Central America and undoubtedly were inspired by the Mexican writer Andrés Bello, his former Columbia professor. Chile was Salmon's initial and lifelong research focus, and he published articles on Alberto Blest Gana, Jotabeche, Joaquín Edwards Bello, Pablo Neruda, as well as the Argentine Domingo Sarmiento. Throughout his career Salmon was interested in the socio-political themes of the novel and poetry, and his early writings examined the *roto* (poor Chilean urban class), the *pueblo*, and the *caudillo*. Later on, he turned his attention to Nicaragua and the poetry of Ernesto Cardenal. Shortly after his retirement in 1998, Salmon produced a special commemorative edition of Cardenal's *Gethsemani, KY*, which he presented to Cardenal at the Feria Internacional del Libro in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the occasion of the poet's 75th birthday. He translated the poems into English and edited the beautifully handcrafted volume with Lilly Library conservator **James Canary**. He also edited a bilingual volume of Cardenal's poetry, titled *Golden UFOs/Los OVNIS de oro*.

Salmon was a gifted classroom teacher who made the study of literature and culture always exciting and relevant to issues of the day. **Joy Logan**, PhD'88, professor of Spanish at the University of Hawaii, writes: "I always admired Russ's social consciousness and activism and was so appreciative of his grounding our studies of literature in the realities of contemporary Latin America. He was such a good role model for us in this sense, and over the years, as I have grown in my own career, I have tried to keep the ex-



Salmon

ample he set for us close to heart." Logan's colleague **Paul Chandler**, PhD'94, who chairs the department's Spanish program, agrees: "I was always impressed with how much Russ was in touch with Latin American current events and their possible impacts elsewhere, including the U.S." Chandler adds: "He was a very caring person, and I remember his great sense of humor too."

Teaching across the Spanish American and Latin American studies curricula, Salmon directed countless independent readings on a range of topics, including the fantastic in Argentine literature, María Luisa Bombal, Mayan culture, German émigré literature in Latin America, and ethnographies on Mexico. He was a major contributor to the department's honors program, chairing numerous theses on Mexican, Chilean, Guatemalan, and other national literatures. After his retirement, he continued to teach occasional courses on Spanish American literature. Just prior to his illness late last year, he was teaching Hispanic literature in translation in IU's Hutton Honors College. He was especially excited about this course and about his students' positive and lively reactions to the texts they were reading; but that was Salmon's general attitude when it came to undergraduate education. Among his other post-retirement activities was a service-learning course on Mexico for the Collins Living-Learning Center in which his students traveled to Guanajuato and worked as volunteers in an optometry clinic.

Following in the footsteps of his colleague and friend **Merle E. Simmons**, Salmon devoted many summers to overseeing IU study-abroad programs in Mexico for our undergraduates, and he spent the academic year 1983–84 in Madrid as program director. His passion for the overseas-study experience resulted in the Spanish Language Workshop for Teachers that he directed for 13 summers in San Luis, Potosí. In 1995, the Indiana chapter of the

American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese bestowed upon him the Postsecondary-Level Teacher of the Year Award — an honor that brought him great joy. Four years later, in 1999, he received the campus-wide Teaching Excellence Recognition Award for his many contributions to graduate and undergraduate education.

At one time or another in his career, Salmon held nearly all of the administrative positions in the department. He was acting chair whenever longtime chair Merle Simmons was out of town or on leave, and he directed the large graduate and undergraduate programs several times in addition to the Honors Program. In 1999, at the department's invitation, he came out of retirement to be acting director of the undergraduate program for one semester. Salmon was selfless in this regard, as he was when he took on the directorship of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in 1988, a position that he held for seven years.

It is difficult to know how Salmon managed to find time to serve on so many departmental, college, and university committees. The list is long and includes elected positions on the University Graduate Council and Bloomington Faculty Council, as well as membership on advisory boards for the William H. Mathers Museum, the Indiana Center on Global Change and World Peace, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Because of his strong dedication to undergraduate learning, combined with his incredibly mellifluous radio-announcer voice, he was repeatedly asked to give keynote addresses and workshops for campus events on behalf of alumni and incoming freshmen. Remember, too, that in addition to his teaching and service commitments, he was a horseman and devoted swimmer who religiously reserved the lunch hour to swim. He was a competitive senior swimmer in later years, in great shape and youthful in both his appearance and outlook on life.

Salmon's community service was a mainstay of his professional and personal life. He worked tirelessly on behalf of Inter-American projects, such as the Bloomington Sister Cities International: Bloomington-Posoltega, Nicaragua, and its offshoot Bloomington-Santa Clara, Cuba; Witness for Peace Elections in Nicaragua (he was one of 112 delegates selected from a nationwide pool to monitor the election); the 10th Pan American Games (Indianapolis); and the Central American Forum. Much of his time was dedicated to lectures and workshops for church organizations.

Salmon is survived by his wife, Kate;

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Faculty News

Faculty notes

J. Clancy Clements published *The Linguistic Legacy of Spanish and Portuguese: Colonial Expansion and Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Melissa Dinverno earned a Travel and Research grant from the College Arts and Humanities Institute to conduct research in Spain on her book project, “Deconstructing Lorca: Identity, Culture, and Nation in Contemporary Spain.”

Patrick Dove was promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Silvana Falconi is beginning a two-year term as president of the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association.

César Félix-Brasdefer was promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Darlene J. Sadlier published an anthology of critical essays that she edited, *Latin American Melodrama: Passion, Pathos,*

and Entertainment. Chicago/Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2009.

Reyes Vila-Belda received a Travel and Research grant from the College Arts and Humanities Institute for her book project, “Gloria Fuertes: Poesía contra el silencio.” She also was awarded the 2008 Trustees Teaching Award.

Erik Willis received the Outstanding Mentor Award given by the department’s Graduate Student Advisory Council, 2009.



Erik Willis

Retirees

John Dyson has been employed full time by the Chickasaw Indian Nation in Ada, Okla., since February 2008. He works in the Department of Cultural Education and

Outreach in the Language Revitalization Program of the tribe’s Division of History and Culture. He has taught adult education courses for tribal members who have never formally studied their own language, and he is currently offering elementary Chickasaw at East Central University in Ada.

Consuelo López-Morillas regularly volunteers with the Volunteers in Medicine clinic, the VITAL program (Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners) at the Monroe County Public Library, and Habitat for Humanity. She devotes an hour or two a day to studying Arabic and listening to Arabic broadcasts online.

Josep Miquel “Pep” Sobrer spent five months in his native Barcelona working on a book on the theater of Josep Maria de Sagarra and seeing through the publication of his translation of the autobiography of Antoni Tàpies. He taught a mini-course on translation with his friend and distinguished poet Francesc Parcerisas at the XLI Universitat Catalana d’Estiu in Prada de Conflent.

From the chair

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en our permanent core faculty to maintain the department’s excellent reputation.

The numbers speak for themselves, but the people at the heart of this department continue to provide leadership in the areas of research, teaching, and service. **Darlene Sadlier** illustrates excellence in research: her monograph on the writer Graciliano Ramos won first place in an international competition sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Not one, but two of our graduate students demonstrated excellence in teaching as winners of system-wide Lieber teaching awards; and our faculty continues the tradition of providing outstanding service at the departmental, campus, national, and international levels. I would also like to especially acknowledge **Patrick Dove** and **César Félix-Brasdefer**, who were awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor, as well as **Josep “Pep” Sobrer**, our buoyant colleague and department chair, who has joined the ranks of the emeriti professors — thank you, Pep, for your years of service and for the *joie de vivre* you consistently shared with your students, colleagues, and staff. Finally, I must report some sad news, which many of you may not yet have learned: the death of **Russell Salmon**, an impassioned supporter of human rights, a lover of Spanish American literature and culture, and an inspiring teacher.

Several years ago, the faculty of this department began tackling the job of revising the curriculum for undergraduate majors and minors in Spanish. The changes were approved last spring, and this year, we are piloting a number of new courses that will, we hope, provide more options for our students, allow them to move more quickly through their degree requirements, and better prepare them for careers using their Spanish. The new requirements for the BA and minor in Spanish will go into effect with fall 2010 freshmen.

This year has proven challenging as we have had to adapt to the economic realities that the country and the university are facing, although I continue to be grateful for the good will I encounter every day. One element of that *bondad humana* is represented by the generosity of donors whose contributions, in honor or memory of a beloved student or faculty member, or in acknowledgement of the quality of their education in this department, have helped us attract and support outstanding graduate students and provide scholarship assistance to undergraduate students.

Since I began my term as chair last January, I have come to appreciate even more the “family” that is our department. My sincere thanks to our director of graduate studies, **Steven Wagschal**; director of undergraduate studies, **Clancy Clements**; director of language instruction, **Silvana Falconi**; director of the Portuguese program, **Darlene**

Sadlier; and director of Hispanic linguistics, **Kimberly Geeslin**. In addition, I am grateful to the faculty who have sponsored or supported our lecture series, our Portuguese and Spanish coffee hours, our film series and theater group — and that is only a sampling — as well as the graduate and undergraduate students who create or participate in countless cultural and intellectual activities. Our family moves forward with the contributions of our amazing staff, but it also wouldn’t exist without our alumni. We very much hope that you will keep in touch; we wish you well in 2010!

— Catherine Larson, larson@indiana.edu

Salmon

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his children Russell, Scott, and Sarah, and several grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Sept. 19, where family, friends, colleagues and former students gathered to share their stories and memories about him. A scholarship fund in the name of Russell O. Salmon has been created in the Office of Overseas Study to help support IU students who participate in programs in Mexico. Those who wish to honor his memory may send donations to IU’s Office of Overseas Study Scholarship Fund through the Indiana University Foundation.

— Darlene J. Sadlier

Student News

Graduate news

We are proud of the many accomplishments of our graduate students. **Lily Ibarra** and **Erin McNulty** won prestigious **Lieber Memorial Associate Instructor Teaching Awards** in a university-wide competition. Ibarra accepted a tenure-track position at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., and McNulty has secured a tenure-track position at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa.

A number of our graduate students have been expanding their educational experience through travel. **Stephen Fafulas** was awarded a Foreign Language Area Scholarship to study Modern Greek during summer 2009 and the 2009–10 academic year. College of Arts and Sciences travel grant were awarded to **Lorenzo García-Amaya** and **Olena Shkatulo**. Shkatulo, who received Graduate School Grant-in-Aid, also was awarded the Agapito Rey Summer Dissertation Fellowship and the Merle E. Simmons Travel Fellowship for Research on Latin American Literature. **Elixabete Ansa-Goicoechea**, who received the 2008 Annette Kolodny Award from the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages, was awarded travel grants from the IU Department of Cultural Studies and from the Modern Language Association. **Nick Henriksen**, **Catalina Mendez-Vallejo**, and **Marda Rose** were awarded Graduate and Professional Student Organization travel grants in fall 2008. Mendez-Vallejo also accepted a teaching assistant professor position at West Virginia University. **Jared Patten** was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Program for Cultural Cooperation to do archival research in Spain.



AI's A-OK: Lily Ibarra, left, and Erin McNulty won university-wide Lieber Memorial Associate Instructor Teaching awards.

Renato Alvim received the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Associate Instructor Teaching Award. **Michael Gradoville** received the Agapito Rey Academic-Year Fellowship, and **Scott Lamanna** was awarded a Latin American Fellowship for spring 2009.

Putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard), **Cara Kinnally** was presented the American Studies La Follette Gunderson Award for outstanding graduate essay, and **Michael Mosier** won the JM Hill Award for outstanding graduate student paper.

The following students have passed the MA examinations: **Jaime Adkins**, **Christopher Cade**, **Eric Carbajal**, **Christopher Davidson**, **Stephen Fafulas**, **Tanya Flores**, **Valeria Fedonkina**, **Teresa Parmer**, and **Giselle Pedrosa**.

In fall 2008, **Alex Puga** and **Scott Ward** defended their doctoral dissertations, and **James Lynch** defended his in spring 2009. The following students have passed the PhD examinations:

Virginia Arreola, **Ninfa Bayas**, **Ryan Hallows**, **Nick Henriksen**, **Paul Kanczuzewski**, **Jason Killam**, **Greg Newall**, and **Lauren Schmidt**.

Yudis Contreras secured a tenure-track position at SUNY-Delhi; **Zak Montgomery** started a tenure-track position at Wartburg College in Iowa; **Andrew Reynolds** secured a tenure-track position at West Texas A&M University; and **Jorge Aguilar-Sánchez** accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Undergraduate news

Our undergraduate students have also been hard at work. **Christopher Chrzan** completed his department honors thesis in December 2008 with Professor **Luis Dávila**, and in May 2009, **Jaqueline Cornetta** and **Lucas Fields** completed their department honors theses, with Professor **Clancy Clements** and Professor **Patrick Dove**, respectively.

Kaytlin Earley received the John W. Ashton Award, and **Laura Engelhardt** and **Adam Hapner** were both recipients of Ashley Crouse Scholarships. **Stephen Hiller** won the Abel Scholarship and the Jeanice Bartling Lewis Memorial Scholarship. **Brittany Keil** was awarded the Theodore Dorf Scholarship, and the Rachel DiPietro-James Scholarship went to **Emma Vakili**.

Students inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society were **Suhasini Bhargava**, **Halley Bonoma**, **Amanda Brockman**, **Thomas Burke**, **Peter Carey**, **Stephen Frantz**, **Alison Garlock**, **Lindsey Grabek**, **Kimberly Harmacinski**, **Lindsay Hermecz**, **Crista Huber**, **Julie Nelson**, **Trevor Reinholt**, **Annie Schroeder**, **Jonathan Ufer**, and **Michael Wolfe**.

What can your gift do for the IU Department of Spanish & Portuguese?

In today's economic climate, your gifts are invaluable to us as we strive to achieve our educational goals and reach out to deserving students. In 2008, after retiring from a productive career, **Donald Riskind**, BA'62 Spanish, MBA'65, decided to create an undergraduate scholarship and a graduate fellowship in Spanish. Aware of how much the Spanish language and cultural appreciation he learned at IU had served him in his career, he wanted to help others receive a similar education. In 2007, **August Aquila**, MA'70, PhD'73, established the Merle E. Simmons Travel Fellowship for Research on Latin American Literatures as a lasting memorial to his late mentor. This award allows graduate students to conduct onsite field research in Spanish-American countries. And the Culler Study Abroad Scholarship, established by **Gene** and **Ann Culler**, both '61 graduates with BA degrees in Spanish, will help a deserving undergraduate student study on IU's Lima, Peru, program for the academic year 2010–11.

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 journeys of future generations.

To honor the memories of **Ashley Crouse** (2005) and **Rachel**

DiPietro James (2008), students who lost their lives in tragic accidents, scholarships have been awarded to students attending the summer program in Cuernavaca and the CIEE academic-year program in Buenos Aires, Argentina, respectively. A year ago, contributions from former students and friends in memory of Associate Professor Emeritus **Dan Quilter** made it possible to create a scholarship in his name, and this past summer, a new scholarship was initiated to honor the memory of Associate Professor Emeritus **Russell Salmon**. Both scholarships are intended to aid students in study-abroad programs. Any of these existing fellowships and scholarships could use a financial boost to ensure that they continue to impact the lives of students to come.

A "Senior Award" to honor the achievement of our undergraduate students is on our departmental wish list. Other donations could help establish new grants and fellowships that are critical in our quest to attract the highest-quality students to IU. Competitive institutions have enticing packages — combinations of scholarships and research and travel grants — that are changing the recruitment process and the academic market as a whole. Your generous contributions allow us to establish new funds that help us recruit the very best students to our department. We deeply appreciate your support.

1960s

Myra Lorber Epstein, BA'61, writes that she "likes to dabble in freelance writing occasionally." After raising her three children, she enrolled in writing classes at IUPUI, and several of her articles have since been published by the *Indianapolis Star*. In addition, Epstein has worked as a legal secretary; helped her husband, David, '55, start a commercial real estate business; and mentored students in Indianapolis elementary schools. Several of her family members are IU alumni, including her mother, uncle, sister, brother-in-law, two nieces, husband, and three children. Epstein lives in Carmel, Ind.

Phillip H. Taylor, BA'65, is an attorney in Punta Gorda, Fla., where he lives. He serves on the Florida State College of Law Alumni board of directors and as chairman of the alumni awards committee.

Mary M. Carr, BS'66, MAT'71, retired in 2004 from Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis, where she was chairwoman of the world-languages department and taught Spanish. Currently she is a world-languages consultant for Pearson Education. In March, Carr received the 2009 Founders Award for leadership and contribution to world languages at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Chicago. The Founders Award was established in 1988 to honor educators in the 17 Midwestern states that comprise the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. It is the highest award the Central States Conference presents to world-languages professionals. Carr lives in Indianapolis.

Carlos B. Vega, MA'67, is a professor of Spanish at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, N.Y. He has been a Spanish professor for more than 30 years, an editor for several leading U.S. publishers, and an author of 48 publications to date. Vega specializes in the Spanish language and Hispanic literature, history, and culture, and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and written extensively,

in all these areas. His most recent publications are *Painless Spanish*, published by Barron's, a book about the role of women in the conquest of America, and a biographical dictionary of men and women in early American history, published by the University of Leon in Spain. Vega lives in North Bergen, N.J.

Chancellor's Professor **Daniel A. Dinnsen**, BA'69, of the Department of Linguistics at IU Bloomington, is the co-author of *Optimality Theory, Phonological Acquisition & Disorders*, published by Equinox as part of its *Advances in Optimality Theory* series. The book, co-written with Judith A. Gierut, PhD'85, a professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at IU Bloomington, reports some of the most recent descriptive and experimental findings from the authors interdisciplinary work on the sound systems and learning patterns of young children with speech disorders. With funding from the National Institutes of Health over the past 23 years, Dinnsen and Gierut's research team has provided free diagnostic and clinical services to hundreds of children in Monroe County (Ind.) and surrounding communities.

Susan Davidson Levin, BA'69, is the trustee of the Levin Family Trust in La Jolla, Calif., where she lives with her husband, Rick, BA'68, president of Blue Book Publishers Inc. The couple has four children.

Martha D. Valdetaro, MA'69, was born in Ecuador and speaks five languages. After studying at IU she taught part time in the IU Department of Spanish and Portuguese and in the Kelley School of Business. Valdetaro has traveled to Europe many times as a translator and interpreter at international conferences. She is now retired and lives in Indianapolis.

1970s

Margaret Steele Neal, BA'74, is a professor and director of the Institute on Aging in the School of Community Health at Portland (Ore.) State University. Her research focuses on the area of work and elder care, and her most recent book is *Working Couples Caring for Children and Aging Parents*, published by Lawrence Erlbaum in 2007. Neal, an I-Woman in tennis, is an alumna of the 1972-73 Madrid overseas study program. She co-developed and leads a study-abroad program to Nicaragua for students working with the elderly. Neal and her husband live in Newberg, Ore.

Kathleen Sideli, MA'75, PhD'83, is associate vice president for overseas study at IUB. She received from IES Abroad its Lifetime Achievement Award, the organization's highest honor.

Kevin M. Caress, BA'76, EdD'89, was one of three IU alumni named as 2009 district superintendents of the year by the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. At the time he was named Superintendent of the Year for North Central District III, Caress was superintendent of the Community Schools of Frankfort. In May, he was hired as superintendent for Clark-Pleasant Schools in Whiteland, Ind. Prior to becoming superintendent in Frankfort, Caress was

superintendent of Flat Rock-Hawcreek Schools in Hope, Ind., and had been principal at Twin Lakes High School in Monticello, Ind.

Frances Rivera Aparicio, BA'78, a professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, was recently named a University Scholar. The University Scholar program, now in its 25th year at UIC, honors faculty members for superior research and teaching, along with great promise for future achievements. The award provides \$10,000 a year for three years. Aparicio's books include *Listening to Salsa* (1998), *Tropicalizations* (1997), and *Musical Migration* (2003). She lives in Chicago.

1980s

Cynthia Doyle Chmiel, BA'80, is a sales associate and cake decorator for County Market in Monticello, Ill., where she lives. She has two daughters — one who serves in the U.S. Navy and one who attends Columbia College, Chicago — and a granddaughter.

The Indiana Youth Institute has appointed **Ruth Rust Hendrix**, BA'81, MPA'05, of Seymour, Ind., as its secretary-treasurer. Hendrix, the corporate secretary and director of Rose Acre Farms in Seymour, is one of two IU alumni elected to executive board positions. The IYI promotes the healthy development of children and youth by serving the institutions and people of the state who work on their behalf.

In January, **Anne Waltermann Murphy**, BA'85, was named secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, the agency that handles health care for low-income families. Formerly chief of staff of the FSSA, Murphy previously spent nine years with the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, where she held the position of general counsel and vice president and chief operating officer. She lives in Fishers, Ind.

David L. Schisla, BS'85, lives in Indianapolis and is the Senior Strategic Account Manager, Latin American and Caribbean division, for WILD Flavors Inc.

Natalie J. Stucky, BA'85, JD'89, has received accreditation as a leadership-in-energy-and-environmental-design-accredited professional, the only attorney in Indiana to achieve such accreditation, according to U.S. Green Building Council records. She is a partner in the Indianapolis law firm Bose McKinney & Evans's real estate and financial institutions group and leads the firm's green initiatives, advising clients on all aspects of green building, from assisting with site selection and acquisition to helping clients identify and obtain funding, incentives, and other resource options available for green projects. Stucky lives in Indianapolis.

1990s

Jennifer Lawson, BA'93, is a pediatric occupational therapist living in Dallas.

Lauren R. Dorosz, BA'99, writes, "Upon
(continued on page 7)

Indiana University will no longer automatically send paper ballots to all graduates. Therefore, beginning with the 2010 trustee election, graduates must request a ballot if they wish to vote in the traditional manner.

Watch for a postcard explaining how you can request that a paper ballot be sent to you.

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Alumni notebook

(continued from page 6)

graduation in 1999, I served four-and-a-half years as a signal officer with the 22nd Signal Brigade in Darmstadt, Germany. I deployed to Iraq in 2003. I separated from the Army in November 2003 and moved to Boulder, Colo., and worked as a university/college recruiter. In June 2008, I embarked on a lifelong goal of mine. I moved to Ecuador to serve as an urban youth development volunteer in the Peace Corps. I would love to hear from old friends. I can be reached at lauren_dorosz@hotmail.com.”

2000s

Rachel M. Barnhard, BA’04, graduated in May with an MBA from Vanderbilt University’s Owen School of Graduate Management. She lives in Nashville, Tenn.

Margaret J. Culivan, BA’04, is director of the Berlitz Language Center in St. Louis. The former Spanish and political science major writes, “I have clients and colleagues worldwide, many of whom are located in Central and South America.” Culivan lives in Brentwood, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis.

Christa Williams Plew, BAJ’04, MBA’09, is Latin America project manager for Chore Time Brock, an international agricultural company based in Milford, Ind. She is responsible for working with distributors and representatives to increase the sales and image of Brock products. Plew married her husband, Cameron, who is assistant vice president of Lake City Bank in Warsaw, Ind., in September 2008. The couple lives in Cromwell, Ind.

Rachel Ellies, BA’06, lives in Buffalo, N.Y., and is a biologist with the environmental consulting firm Ecology and Environment Inc.

Kayla M. Czape, BA/BS’07, who graduated from IU with bachelor’s degrees in both biology and Spanish, is pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Cincinnati. She lives in Cincinnati.

Charles H. Haitjema, BA/BS’07, who received bachelor’s degrees in microbiology and Spanish, is currently working toward a PhD in microbiology at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. He plans to graduate in 2012. Haitjema lives in Ithaca.

Katherine G. Wood, BA’08, teaches English and science at a primary school near Seville, Spain. She is originally from Findlay, Ohio.

Annie Berning, BA’09, was crowned 2009 500 Festival Queen during the annual Breakfast at the Brickyard event at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in May. As Festival Queen, Berning participated in a variety of events throughout the month of May, including pre- and post-race celebrations as well as the Festival Queen tradition of kissing the winner of the race in Victory Circle. Berning also serves as an ambassador for the 500 Festival and the Indianapolis 500 throughout 2009. She plans to turn her passion for public service and her compassion for humanity into a career of policymaking and issue advocacy.

In memoriam

Donald J. Riskind, BA’62, MBA’65, died Sept. 23, 2009. We offer our sympathy to his family.

Alumni profiles



Two perspectives

Nancy Duncan Swigger, MA’65, PhD’69

I’ve used my Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian language skills as an interpreter, as a patient educator in hospitals, and in Latin America on professional photographic assignments. I’ve coached opera singers on Portuguese pronunciation. While conducting interviews (in Spanish and Italian) for the Albuquerque Museum, I was inspired to start my own business, recording life stories on audio and video. A rewarding part of my work with the League of Women Voters led to helping black women run for office in Brazil (where one ended up on President Lula’s council). A highlight of living in Albuquerque, N.M., was working at the National Hispanic Cultural Center with its pyramid, state-of-the-art theater and galleries.



Swigger

Now that I am in Seattle, I use Spanish nearly every day in the classes I teach at a community center for people 50 and over (fitness, computers, tai chi, cooking, and art), and in interview work for the census, which has ongoing surveys about housing, economics, health, etc.

When my two daughters were young, they thought their mother was crazy to think it mattered about speaking other languages. Now they realize the importance of these language and cultural exposures and have both used these experiences to enhance their own careers.

My advice to others is to learn languages while you are young. I am currently studying Mandarin, but it isn’t coming as easily for me now!

Julie Wolinsky, BA’91

My experiences in the IU Department of Spanish and Portuguese helped shape my world perspective, provided concrete skills and life tools, guided my personal and professional path, and served as a springboard for future life accomplishments.

The fond memories in Ballantine Hall are too numerous to count, but what I remember the most is the dedication and competence of many distinguished professors, including John Dyson, Catherine Larson, Consuelo López-Morillas, Daniel Quilter, and Russell Salmon. They taught, guided, and inspired me. The classroom environments they created were warm and welcoming, often filled with deep discussion and humor too. In fact, I have maintained lifelong friendships with students I met in my IU Spanish classes.

My junior year abroad at La Complutense in Madrid was a phenomenal and transformational time, certainly one of the most meaningful of my life. The adventures, challenges, and revelations of that year in Spain are still vivid. During the summer after Madrid, I worked for the U.S. State Department at the American Embassy in Guatemala City, an enriching and mind-stretching experience on many levels that also inspired my senior thesis on “Religion and Politics in Guatemala.”

After graduation, I spent a few months in Spain and then moved to Washington, D.C., where I accepted an internship with the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration’s Office of Latin America. That led me to a job as program director with Caribbean/Latin American Action, a nonprofit organization promoting economic development and trade and investment opportunities in the Western Hemisphere. I traveled occasionally to Latin America and used my Spanish daily for my job. I later got my MBA from Harvard Business School and spent the summer between my two years of study in Boston working with AT&T Argentina in Buenos Aires. After business school, I traveled a lot domestically for several years, focusing on corporate strategy initiatives as a management consultant for large corporations in the telecommunications sector. I’m now married with two young children, and I recently started my own company, Packtoozi, which designs and sells a line of eco-friendly organizational products for busy families on the go. I have volunteered with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia for the past 10 years and now serve on their board of directors, which continues to keep me connected with the Spanish-speaking world.



Wolinsky

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