



# Project Bridge Newsletter

November, 2003

## Pasaporte A Las Américas

Volume 1, Issue 4

On October 16, *Pasaporte A Las Américas* was held at Marian College. The program, under the umbrella of Marian's Mission Effectiveness efforts, was coordinated by Marta G. Cruz-Concepción. Ms. Cruz is a full-time visiting assistant professor of Spanish at Marian, and has many diverse interests, including art and farming.

*Pasaporte* has two primary goals: to raise money for *The Guadalupe Scholarship*, which provides money for Latino students based on financial need; and to present "another face" of Latino citizens in Indiana — that they are as diverse, qualified and talented as any other group.

Ms. Cruz devoted her personal time as a volunteer to coordinate the program, and recruited many professionals from the Latino commu-

nity to speak and conduct workshops on a variety of topics. The speakers are Latino professionals who have excelled in their areas of expertise, are interested in youth, are committed to their culture, and know something that they want to share.

The audience included approximately 600 local Junior High and High School students who are studying Spanish. Participants pay a small fee to attend what Ms. Cruz describes as "a mini-conference presented at a fun level." The students participate in 3 workshops throughout the day, which include presentations by the speakers and an interactive period for the students to experience the topic first-hand.

Examples of the workshops offered at this year's program include: "Music of the

Americas," a "potpourri" of Latin American music put together to demonstrate that different countries have different musical styles; "Medicinal Herbs," a workshop coordinated by Gladys Phillips, a teacher in Marian's Nursing Department, to introduce alternative medicines; "Ecolab—The Wetlands," which presented Marian's own Ecolab project; and "Art of the Caribbean," presented by an artist from Santo Domingo.

Ms. Cruz is coordinating the "Faces of Mexico" trip to Mexico with Dr. Cornelius-Robinson's assistance. It is a 3 credit course that is part of the overseas studies program. Ms. Cruz is dedicated to sharing her knowledge in a variety of interests with others, and believes that "there is a teacher and a student in all of us, and we have a lot we can share with others!"

### Teacher Tips:

Jessica Barnes from School #96 has these tips for our new solo teachers:

- ✓ Make sure that all students are ready and paying attention before you begin a lesson.
- ✓ Keep moving around the classroom.
- ✓ Make use of every moment.
- ✓ Grade papers nightly.

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## Mexican Consul

A special opening address was given at *Pasaporte* by the Mexican Consul, the Honorable Sergio Aguilera Beteta. Mr. Aguilera gave a presentation to Spanish teachers about Mexican immigrants in the US and their contributions to the

economy. He also described the "matrícula consular," the official Mexican identity card that Mexican nationals may obtain from the consulate. He explained why the card is necessary, and described several safety features that

make the card very difficult to counterfeit. He invited teachers to contact him for further information through the web site of the Consulate at <http://www.consulmexindy.com/>

# November 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>INTESOL Conference at IUPUI</b>
2	3 <b>Solo Teaching Phase-In</b>	4 <b>Solo Teaching Phase-In</b>	5 <b>Solo Teaching Phase-In</b>	6 <b>Solo Teaching Phase-In</b>	7 <b>Solo Teaching Phase-In</b>	8
9	10 <b>Solo Teach</b>	11 <b>Solo Teach</b>	12 <b>Solo Teach</b>	13 <b>Solo Teach</b>	14 <b>Solo Teach</b>	15
16	17 <b>Solo Teach</b>	18 <b>Solo Teach</b>	19 <b>Solo Teach</b>	20 <b>Solo Teach</b>	21 <b>Solo Teach</b>	22
23	24 <b>Solo Teach</b>	25 <b>Solo Teach</b>	26 <b>Solo Teach</b>	27 <b>Thanks-giving: No School</b>	28 <b>Thanks-giving: No School</b>	29
30						

## Schedule of Events

Native American Heritage Month

- ✓ **November 2** — "Day of the Dead/El Día de los Muertos" Celebration 2 PM - 5 PM Crown Hill Cemetery, [www.indplsartcenter.org](http://www.indplsartcenter.org)
- ✓ **November 6—9** — "International Festival 2003" Exposition Hall, Indiana State Fairgrounds, <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/~spmckee/2003.html>
- ✓ **November 8** — "Diwali Celebration" by India Association of Indianapolis, <http://www.iaibharati.com/>
- ✓ **November 8—19** — "Spirit & Place: Remembering & Reconciling" civic festival, <http://www.spiritandplace.org/>
- ✓ **November 13—15** — American Indian Heritage Programs. Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, Indianapolis, <http://www.eiteljorg.org/>
- ✓ **November 15—16** — "Introduction to Arabic Calligraphy" taught by Najib Ghoush, 9 AM - 3 PM Saturday, noon - 3 PM Sunday, Indianapolis Art Center, 820 East 67th Street, Indianapolis. Call (317) 255-2464 for information

## Solo Teaching

Interns officially begin their solo teaching experience on November 10, following a 2-week "phase-in" process. As they prepare to take the lead role, mentors should make sure that lesson plans are written in advance, that they meet standards, and that the interns are prepared for all the responsibilities this new role demands. We wish the interns the best of luck in this exciting phase of their teaching experience!

## INTESOL Conference

The 25th annual Indiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (INTESOL) Conference is on November 1, 2003 at IUPUI. INTESOL is a statewide professional association and INTESOL's mission is to strengthen the effective teaching and learning of English as a Second Language in the State of Indiana while respecting individuals' language and cultural backgrounds. Its international parent organization is TESOL, Inc. The theme for the conference is "Assessing Assessment for ELLs: Who How, When, and Why."

The keynote address at this year's INTESOL conference will be given by Dr. Else Hamayan on "Assessment of English Language Learners: Are We There Yet?" Dr. Hamayan is Director of the Illinois Resource Center, Des Plaines, IL. She has extensive teaching, research, and administrative experience in second language teaching and learning, and bilingual education. Her most recent publication is *Dual Language Instruction: A Handbook for Enriched Education*. For more information about the conference, go to the INTESOL

web site at [www.intesol.org](http://www.intesol.org).

All MAT interns are required to attend the conference. Their registration fees will be covered by OELA grant funds. Valerie Hall, Director of Literacy, Cheryl Hertzler, Project Bridge Director, and intern volunteers will collaborate to present a session called "Teacher Understanding Precedes Student Learning". They will share reflections on cultural experiences, and how these experiences helped them empathize with their immigrant students and become better teachers.



## Ecolab

EcoLab is a 45 acre outdoor laboratory, and is both an environmental and historical resource right here on the Marian College campus. At the prompting of and with the help of his students, Dr. David Benson, a Biology Department Co-Chair, began the movement to clean up what had become a dumping ground near campus. His research uncovered a significant amount of property owned by the campus, much of which is wetland and proved to be in good environmental shape. That property had originally been part of a landscape designed for James A. Allison.

When Allison built his mansion, he hired Jens Jensen, a renowned park landscape architect, to produce a park-like design for the mansion grounds. That effort was significant for its attention to native

plant species, and its preservation has resulted in its having national historical quality and its having tremendous value as an educational resource.

The preservation process began with volunteer clean-up projects involving local K-12 groups and Marian students. The next phase involved removing honeysuckle, a non-native species to this area. The honeysuckle had become so dense that it had prevented the survival of other plant life and native bio-diversity had suffered. EcoLab efforts have helped to reverse this process.

The first grant received was from the local Audubon chapter, and grant money has grown significantly since then. This has enabled several EcoLab projects, including: the installation of a 1/2 mile trail; sev-

eral re-vegetation projects; the discovery and preservation of original structures; and the promotion of environmental and historical education, both to Marian students and to the local community.

A partnership with Hook's Discovery and Learning Center will provide science education programming for visiting student groups. Approximately 1000 K-12 students made field trip excursions to EcoLab over the course of the last year, and this is expected to grow in the future.

Dr. Benson encourages everyone to visit EcoLab, both for educational and recreational purposes. The only restrictions are no bicycles and no pets. With peak Indiana Fall color upon us, this is an ideal time to see what EcoLab has to offer!



## Family Math Training

by Dr. Susie Beesley, Department of Education Faculty

I enjoyed working with the MAT interns at our Family Math Training on Thursday, October 16. Since my math and science meth-

ods course is not offered until Block 3 of the MAT program, I have not had many opportunities to get to know this fine group of interns. It was also nice to have Timothy Jackson from Guion Creek attend the session. We

had a great time working together as families and learning math concepts through games and activities that utilize hands-on manipulatives. I am looking forward to next semester and future math and science adventures!

## Culture Corner

Families, communities and cultures have different expectations for student behavior and school achievement. In traditional Mexican culture, the expression "bien educado," which we translate as "well educated," actually refers to a very different concept. In the U.S., we refer to an individual who has been successful in his or her formal schooling as well educated. However, many Mexicans use the phrase "bien educado" to refer to a much broader concept. They use it to refer to a person

who has been well brought up, and they do not value academic skills apart from moral and social development. As a result, teachers may find that Latino parents focus more on their children's social behavior than on academic achievement. Teachers can respect the Mexican parents' concerns by telling them how their children behave in the classroom as well as discussing their academic accomplishments.

If you'd like to read more, you can

find the article "Reclaiming Bilingual Educators' Cultural Resources" by Rene Galindo that was published in Urban Education in March 1996 at <http://classes.csuumb.edu/MAE/MAE600-01/world/articles/Galindo> .

"Teachers may find that Latino parents focus more on their children's social behavior than on academic achievement."



**Project Bridge to Achievement**

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Readers, this is your newsletter. We welcome any contributions you wish to make. If you have a news item, a suggestion or a correction, please contact Jenny M. Witcher by phone or email. If you are a mentor or student and would like to volunteer to be profiled in subsequent issues, or if you would like to contribute a "Teacher Tip," please contact Jenny, Carmen Polk or Cheryl Hertzner. Thank you for your interest and participation!

Newsletter Contact List

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 Program Director  
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 chertzner@marian.edu

Info sessions for prospective students

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 EDU Department Secretary  
 317-955-6089  
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Do you know anyone who would be a good MAT candidate? Then recommend a Project Bridge Information Session! At each session, application packets will be distributed\*, the program will be described, and the application and selection process will be explained. Refreshments will be served. Please call Cheryl Hertzner (955-6087) to make a reservation for one of the following dates; all sessions 6-8 PM in Allison Mansion:

Jenny M. Witcher  
 Project Bridge Assistant  
 317-955-6095  
 jmwitcher@marian.edu

November 4  
 December 8  
 January 14

\*All application materials are due on February 1, 2004 to be considered for the 2004-2005 Cohort.

**Intern Profile: Sally Welp**

Sally Welp is a Project Bridge intern who wants to make a difference. She has a BA in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish, from Butler University. Her diverse professional background includes camp counseling, home health care, and work as an Emergency Medical Technician.

going to school in a place that demonstrates Christian values. Sally felt that such an environment would contribute to her learning the best ways to serve others.

pletes each piece of the Project Bridge program and adds new experiences to her teacher training, she finds herself "tweaking" her philosophy accordingly.

Sally chose Project Bridge to obtain her teaching license for two main reasons. First, she appreciated the program's emphasis on education for all types of students. She felt that she "would receive the necessary tools for catering to the diverse population that has always made America so special." Second, she liked Marian's Catholic commitments and the idea of

On her decision to become a teacher, Sally tell us, "What better way to contribute to the community than by making a difference in the lives of its tomorrow? Teaching also incorporates all of the things that I love into one. I get to serve others by caring for their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs in a creative way. How cool is that?!"

Sally feels that the program is going well for her overall. She reports that there have been "several surprise (and several extremely busy weeks)," but that she has finally found the profession for her. We are glad to have Sally in the program, and wish her the best in her future career as an educator!

Sally's philosophy of teaching is in a continual state of change and re-building. As she com-

"What better way to contribute to the community than by making a difference in the lives of its tomorrow?"