

Spanish Department Newsletter

Las noticias para ti

Blackburn
College

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November 2011

Noche Internacional

Noche Internacional is a cultural celebration for students, faculty, and the community to learn about traditions and cultures from various countries. On Saturday, November 12 the Spanish Department once again hosted *Noche Internacional* in Bothwell auditorium. This year there were performances from Colombia, Perú, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, India, and the Middle East. The night began with guests arriving to view display tables, purchase souvenirs and raffle tickets, and to enjoy international refreshments, including middle eastern food, Baklava,

and (*alcohol free*) Sangria. The show opened at 7pm with a fashion show by *Sol Perú* modeling traditional Peruvian attire. The audience then viewed dance performances from Troupe Zahava, Grupo Atlántico, Aparna Kalyanaraman, and Blackburn Dance Club. Troupe Zahava graced the stage with performances from Istanbul, Egypt, and Turkey, while Grupo Atlántico brought a taste of Colombia, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. Guests then got the pleasure of experiencing Indian culture through dances performed by Aparna Kalyanaraman, and Blackburn Dance Club dem-



onstrated dances from the Dominican Republic, Peru and Bolivia. After the show, guests were encouraged to join salsa ambassador, Julio Barrenzuela, for social dancing. Julio was a crowd favorite and the majority of the audience stayed to join in the fun. Thanks to the donations from local businesses and organizations, and the help from volunteers, Noche Internacional was a successful multi-cultural experience for all who attended.

-Marissa Watson



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Mueller Presentation: Ecuador

In Spring of 2011 Erin Bates was granted the Mueller Fellowship, and during the summer she traveled to Ecuador. On November 17, 2011 Erin gave her presentation on her trip, titled *From Class to Clase: An Educational Journey Around the Equator*. In her presentation Erin said she went to Ecuador not because she needed credits, but because she wanted to improve her Spanish. This opportunity allowed her to improve her Spanish and travel to a new country at the same time. Erin is majoring in Education and in Ecuador she had the opportunity to tutor five boys at an orphanage and to visit some schools. In her presentation, she talked about the five students and about the topics she helped them with. In addition,



Erin discussed how she noticed children in Ecuador do not have the same resources as children have in the United States; for instance they have less books and less teachers. While in Ecuador, Erin stayed in the city of *Cuenca* with the Mora-Serrano family, and they made her feel like she was at home. For example, her host mother made her fruit juice every morning.

This was one of her favorite memories from Ecuador. She also traveled to *Ingapirca*, *Otavalo*, and to the rainforest. In several of her excursions, she traveled with students from Augustana College, which is another college in Illinois. Erin had a great experience and she loved it so much that she did not want to come back!

-Roselia Flores

Word of the Month

Chocolate caliente

Hot chocolate

Día de los Muertos

On Wednesday, November 2, the Spanish Department celebrated Día de los Muertos, a Mexican celebration focused on remembering loved ones who have passed away. This year, the department set up various activities for students and faculty to participate in. For example, students

made *ofrendas* (altars for the dead), decorated sugar skulls, and ate *Pan de Muertos* (dead bread) while learning more



about the importance of this celebration. The Spanish Department strives to not only teach students the Spanish language, but also inform them about the cultures and traditions that accompany it.

-Marissa Watson

Featured Recipe

Coquito

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour

Total Time: 1 hour, 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2 15-ounce cans cream of coconut
- 2 14-ounce cans condensed milk
- 6 ounces white rum (it is optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon coconut (or vanilla) extract

Preparation:

1. Mix all ingredients in a blender.
2. Refrigerate for about an hour before serving. Serve cold.

<http://latinfood.about.com/od/beverages/r/coquito.htm>



“Coquito is a traditional punch served at Christmas and New Years celebrations. The drink is similar to eggnog with rum”

***Congratulations to
Marissa Watson for being
selected as an Honor
Worker for the month of
November!***

Latin American News

Chavez tours new Latin America, Caribbean bloc

CARACAS, Venezuela—What if someone threw a giant party for the countries in the Americas and didn't invite



the United States or Canada? That's what Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is

doing with a two-day, 33-nation summit starting Friday December 1, 2011, welcoming nations from Brazil to Jamaica in what he hopes will be a grand alliance to counter U.S. influence. The United States is no longer seen as an essential diplomatic player in regional affairs. Eduardo Gamarra said, “it's unclear whether the region's governments are truly committed to forming a close alliance that brings together Latin America in ways that offset U.S. power”. At least publicly, though,

only some of Chavez's closest allies seem to share his interests in creating alternatives to established bodies such as the Washington-based Organization of American States. Not all the region's leaders are likely to agree with Chavez in creating organizations to replace those he strongly criticizes, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the World Bank.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/latinamerica/articles/2011/12/01/chavez_touts_new_latam_caribbean_bloc/?page=

A Spanish Class Field Trip



On Friday, November 18, several of Blackburn College's Spanish classes went to St. Louis for a fun filled day of Spanish. The first stop on the field trip was the *St. Louis Art Museum*, where students viewed Pre-Colombian art. Getting the chance to see this art was great for the students because they got to view pieces of art they had learned about in their classes. For lunch,

they went to *Guido's on the Hill*, where they dined on various *tapas* such as *croquetas* and *tortilla española*. The last stop on the trip was *Global Foods Market*, which includes a vast amount of products that one cannot find in a typical supermarket. Here the students were given activity sheets to complete which involved finding and identifying food, beverages, and spices from different countries. By participating in this exercise, students were able to practice vocabulary and discover new food items they had never seen before. A field trip like this is not only fun for students, but also highly beneficial. It provides

them with the opportunity to expand their knowledge of the things they learn in class.
-Marissa Watson



CONGRATULATIONS TO CALLIE CUMMINGS!

Phrase of the Month

"Felices Fiestas"

"Happy Holidays"

On November 12, 2011 there was a Habitat for Humanity chili cook-off fundraiser at Carlinville's square. Three chili recipes were entered in the contest. The contest was judged by community members who tasted a bowl of each recipe and put money in a jar in front of the one they liked the best. Callie Cummings, a Blackburn alum, won first place! Callie said

"I'm happy that I had the opportunity to enter and support Habitat for Humanity".

-Roselia Flores



SPANISH CLUB!

WHEN: Wednesday Nights, 6:30pm

WHERE: Hudson 200

WHAT: Learn / Practice Spanish

Participate in Fun Activities

Make Friends

Have a Good Time

Questions? Contact the Club President!

Amelia.kirby@blackburn.edu



We want to hear from YOU!

If you have suggestions, articles, recipes, phrases, photographs, or anything else you can think of that you would like to submit to the Spanish Department Newsletter, please

contact

Marissa Watson at:

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or Roselia Flores at:

roselia.flores@blackburn.edu

Any and all submissions are very much appreciated.

¡Muchísimas gracias!

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Latin American News.....[http://www.boston.com/news/world/latinamerica/articles/2011/12/01_](http://www.boston.com/news/world/latinamerica/articles/2011/12/01_chavez_touts_new_latina_america_caribbean_bloc/?page=1)

[_chavez_touts_new_latina_america_caribbean_bloc/?page=1](http://www.boston.com/news/world/latinamerica/articles/2011/12/01_chavez_touts_new_latina_america_caribbean_bloc/?page=1)

Featured Recipe..... <http://latinfood.about.com/od/beverages/r/coquito.htm>