



# The IWLA Bulletin

A Newsletter for the Members of the Iowa World Language Association

Volume XVI No. 1

Fall 2009

## *From the President:* Patricia Calkins

Welcome to the start of a new academic year and to a new and exciting IWLA conference. Our theme this year, “A Passport to the Future,” can help us not only to reflect on what language educators can offer their students, but also to highlight the changes that have been happening within the IWLA itself. This is an exciting time to be involved in our organization. The members of the Executive Board and the Advisory Council, along with the support of all of you, the members of IWLA, have been working to refocus the IWLA’s efforts to build alliances for language education across Iowa.

The changes have been many and varied, but all are helping to reinforce the vital role the IWLA can play in the future of Iowa. I’d like to highlight a few of these changes.

- In just the past few years the IWLA’s website <<http://www.iwla.net>>, hosted by the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State, has become a valuable resource for language educators across the state. With a simple click you can learn more about language advocacy in Iowa, read our newsletter, find language-related resources, and register for our conference. You can also sign up for the IWLA discussion list, through which you can discuss language topics with colleagues throughout the state.
- The IWLA has begun an advocacy campaign with Iowa legislators. We have been working to remind Iowa’s leaders of the vital role that languages have to play in building a stronger, more inclusive Iowa. At the same time, we have been asking legislators to reinstate the full-time world language consultant in the Department of Education. You can join in this advocacy effort by downloading and sending a letter on our website or by signing an advocacy letter at this year’s conference.
- The conference this year in Des Moines—as is only fitting with the theme “A Passport to the Future”—features a post-conference technology workshop, offered in partnership with the Des

Moines Area Community College. You can find more information on this workshop later in this newsletter.

The focus of next year’s conference will be on building partnerships with another untapped stakeholder in world language education in Iowa: the business community. The business community in Iowa already recognizes the importance of world language education and study abroad for Iowa’s students. It is now up to us to approach Iowa’s employers and partner with them in building a forward-looking Iowa that will be sustainable for the next several decades. As next year’s conference motto puts it, “Languages are everyone’s business.”

It is clear that the Iowa World Language Association is poised to deal with the challenges of the coming decades. However, in order to fully position the IWLA to play that integral role in Iowa’s future, I would again suggest that Iowa needs to join the *LinguaFolio* movement. I wrote more fully of *LinguaFolio* in the IWLA newsletter, Volume 15, No. 2, available on our website <http://www.iwla.net/pubs/bulletin/backissues.html>. In short, joining the *LinguaFolio* movement will do many things for us: it will provide a frame of reference for those who could be our allies but who cannot be expected to understand the intricacies of proficiency levels, communicative competence, and other language-related topics; it will help our students become more self-directed and involved in their own language learning process; it will help create common ground among the language AAT’s; and it will prove to others, such as politicians, that our organization can carry out a large-scale project including all languages. At the next meeting of the Executive Board and Advisory Council, I will propose that we create a task force to work on bringing *LinguaFolio* to Iowa, and I would welcome your participation as well. The core of *LinguaFolio* is the “Language Passport”; much as languages are “A Passport to the Future” for Iowa and all Iowans, so *LinguaFolio*’s language passport can be the future of the IWLA.

# CONTACT INFORMATION FOR IWLA

## Patricia Calkins, President

Dept of World Language and Culture Studies  
Simpson College  
701 North C Street  
Indianola, IA 50125  
515-961-1645  
Patricia.calkins@simpson.edu  
Home: 410 West Salem Ave.  
Indianola, Iowa 50125

## Sara Blanco, President-Elect

Price Lab School, UNI  
sara.blanco@uni.edu  
319-273-3002  
www.pls.uni.edu/blanco

## Wade Petersen, Vice-President

Valley Southwoods  
Freshman Highschool  
petersenw@wdmcs.org  
wadecp@netins.net

## Carrie Mulvihill, Secretary

1323 Victoria Circle  
Norwalk, IA 50211  
515-981-6474  
cjmulvihill@dmacc.edu

## Stacy Amling, Treasurer

1125 Hancock Dr.  
Boone, IA 50036

Des Moines Area Community College  
slamling@dmacc.edu

## Dawn Frye, Immediate Past-President

Hudson High School  
1708 4th Ave. NW  
Waverly, IA 50677  
319-352-9060  
dfrye@hudson.k12.ia.us  
wvan8v@aol.com

## Julie Wilhelm, Editor, IWLA Bulletin

1185 Quail Avenue  
Goodell, IA 50439  
641-495-6161  
farm5@frontiernet.net  
Iowa State University  
3102 Pearson, Hall  
Ames, IA 50010  
jwilhelm@iastate.edu

**THANKS FOR YOUR  
LEADERSHIP,  
OFFICERS OF IWLA!!**

# MICHAEL D. OATES

7 avril 2009

## What can you say about a man who has died ?

That he lived...  
and laughed...  
and loved...  
and fostered...  
and sheltered...  
and advocated...  
and encouraged...  
and succeeded, brilliantly..  
and that he endured.

In other words, he was a teacher. A teacher who rose up every single day to bring to the world his special gifts of love, and patience, and kindness, and dedication. A teacher who, even in his last days on earth, reassured us with his strength, courage, loyalty, wit, and his deep love for God, his beautiful family, and his friends.

Michael D.Oates is a name that is synonymous with the teaching of language, culture, linguistics, and pedagogy. Thousands of students and teachers across the nation and around the world have benefited from knowing Mike, from taking his classes and reading his works, from teaching and learning from his materials and from his constant example of excellence. Our hearts were warmed and gladdened by his music, his cheerful « Bonjour ! », his unique laughter, his hilarious stories and anecdotes. We can still hear him now, saying « Cathy, don't step in the *attention* ! » and we can still see him taking off his glasses before giving others who wore glasses a bise in order to avoid what he called « la guerre des lunettes ».

What can you say about this beautiful, extraordinary person, teacher, colleague, and friend who has left us much too soon ?

You can say that the world is a much, much better place for having known him.  
And a much sadder, much emptier place for his loss.

And you can be sure that he's on a golf course somewhere in heaven,  
gently reminding us to say it in French.

(Tribute written by Joye Lore-Lawson)

# IWLA Fall Conference Keynote Speaker **Marcia Harmon Rosenbusch, Ph.D.**



Marcia Harmon Rosenbusch, Ph.D., is the founding Director of the National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC) at Iowa State University (ISU). The NFLRC is a federally funded center that seeks to improve the nation's capacity for teaching and learning languages at all levels by building a strong foundation in elementary and secondary schools.

Through Dr. Rosenbusch's leadership, the NFLRC addresses projects that are innovative for their time and focused on impacting the nation's language education system. Since 1994, she has coordinated 43 summer professional development institutes taught by nationally recognized leaders in the profession to over 800 K-12 world language teachers and teacher educators from all 50 states.

Dr. Rosenbusch leads the NFLRC's current work on K-3 Spanish two-way immersion (intensive) and K-2 Chinese FLES (non-intensive) programs in Midwest states. Both projects involve the design and implementation of a standards-based and proficiency-focused curriculum and longitudinal research on the attitudes of students, parents, and teachers toward the language and culture; student progress in language proficiency; and student scores on standardized assessments of English language arts and mathematics.

In addition, Dr. Rosenbusch directs the elementary/middle school world language teacher preparation program at ISU through a joint appointment in the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and World Languages and Cultures. She has established sites in Spain and Mexico where ISU pre-service teachers student teach in Spanish in the early grades to prepare for teaching in dual language programs.

Dr. Rosenbusch served as the founding editor of the *Iowa FLES Newsletter*, *FLES News*, and the journal *Learning Languages*, the latter two are publications of the National Network for Early Language Learning, of which she is a founding member.

Dr. Rosenbusch received the Iowa Educator of the Year Award in 1986-87, the Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Education in 1996, and the Anthony Papalia Award for Excellence in Teacher Education in 2001.

**Early Bird Registration deadline September 9**

**Regular Registration deadline September 19**

**See page 8 for registration form**

# Are you on the list?

By: Wade Petersen

One of the important duties of your Vice President is to increase communication among members of the Iowa World Language Association. Having been a member of IWLA (and IFLA) since 1987, I have relied on the yearly conference to support me in my teaching, to give me creative and new ideas, and to help me network with fellow world language teachers. What happens when members are not able to come to the conference? Not only do they miss out on a lot of fun, but sometimes we lose track of them. Over the years, your membership has guaranteed that your email and contact information is in the system; it is much easier to communicate with our members this way. We all know with tight schedules and tight budgets, it is not always possible to get to the conference. Since our conference is usually held in Des Moines it is also difficult for many teachers that live far away to get here. Plus, there are many new world language teachers who may not have heard of all that IWLA can offer (check out our fantastic website at [www.iwla.net](http://www.iwla.net) to keep connected). With this in mind, I have spent time this past spring creating "The List". In order to reconnect with all the teachers throughout the state, I have visited every public and private school's website in search of email addresses of world language teachers. I have also created a list of educators at the public and private community college, college, and university level. To date, I have gathered about 1,100 member addresses!

Now, some people are hesitant about the purpose of such databases. My intent is initially to send out an email "blast" with the lists for teachers to confirm the addresses. Many high schools have only one world language teacher while others have several. Hopefully we will be able to confirm or add any teachers left out (since I only had time to visit high school faculty I am missing world language teachers at the elementary and middle school levels). Later this summer, we will email a copy of the IWLA Bulletin to all of these addresses (which will include lots of information about what's going on in Iowa and essential information about registration for this fall's

conference). The list will be used sparingly, it will not be overused or misused but anyone will have the right to have his or her email removed from "the list." With this added tool to communicate with current and future members, we hope to increase membership statewide and boost attendance at the state conference.



## Post IWLA Conference Technology Workshop!

A technology workshop is being planned around this fall's IWLA conference. At the Café Latino and through input from last year's survey, technology has risen to the top as an important issue and strategy for many teachers in our organization.

Since computer access for a hands-on workshop at the conference site isn't feasible, the technology workshop is being planned at the DMACC Urban Campus, just a few short blocks away from the conference hotel. It is tentatively scheduled from 1-4PM on Saturday, October 10. Details are still being planned, but there will be presentations and hands-on opportunities to practice technology like wikis, podcasting, blogs, Moodle, and electronic portfolios. Space will be limited so early registration is encouraged.

There is an additional fee for the workshop, however we will be pursuing credit from the Heartland AEA. As there are more details about the workshop available, they'll be listed on the IWLA website at [http://www.iwla.net/!](http://www.iwla.net/)

**Check for updated  
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# New Warm-Up Ideas to Start Class

By: Regina Schantz

- \* The class is taking a trip to the moon. What will they pack in their spaceship? Or what should they take to the beach? The first student names something that starts with A, second student B, etc. Teacher writes these on the board. For lower levels, they can look for words in their book. All levels can use suggestions from the class.
- \* Students sit in pairs facing each other, one facing the board, the other with his back to the board. Teacher tells about a record set in the Guinness world record book (“How many bananas did this person eat in five minutes?”). Teacher writes the answer on the board, students who cannot see the board start guessing and their partners tell them to go higher or lower until they guess it. ¡Olé!
- \* Teacher writes one long sentence on the board, each student saying one word, going around the class. 25 students = 25 words (exactly) in the sentence. If it’s a small class, go around twice. Teacher can give two words that must be included somewhere in the sentence. Helps with sentence structure and correct word order.
- \* Headlines: students write three headlines on their own paper, then share with the class. Teacher can write them on board or type on computer to show on screen. The headlines can be anything about school, local, national, or international news. Helps with current events.
- \* Show a picture on the screen. Partner #1 describes the picture for 45 seconds, then partner #2 describes for 45 seconds, then partner #1 for 20 seconds more, then #2 for 20 seconds, trying not to repeat what was said before. Ask for volunteers to share examples of what they were saying.
- \* Quick number review: each student has an index card with a 3-digit number written on it. Students stand in two long rows facing each other. The person across from you should say the number you are holding (you can give hints or corrections). Then you say the number the person across from you is holding. The person on the end of one row goes to the other end and everyone in that row moves down one to get a new partner. Put on some lively music.

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- \* Weekend in Madrid

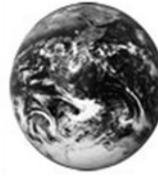
**Application deadline: March 15, 2010**

### For more information contact:

Julie Wilhelm  
3102 Pearson Hall  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011  
(515) 294-8186  
jwilhelm@iastate.edu

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Name: First (Given): \_\_\_\_\_ Last (Family): \_\_\_\_\_

School Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Language(s) taught: \_\_\_\_\_

Level taught: \_\_\_ Elementary \_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_ Post Secondary

Please check if you are a: \_\_\_ 1st year teacher \_\_\_ 1st time attendee

**Please provide BOTH addresses below & check your preferred mailing address:**

\_\_\_ Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: (for IWLA purposes only; necessary to receive receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION OPTIONS:**

\_\_\_ \$120 EARLY BIRD Registration (postmarked by 9/9) \_\_\_ Vegetarian meal

\_\_\_ \$130 REGULAR Registration (postmarked between 9/10 and 9/19)

\_\_\_ \$140 ON-SITE Registration (or after 9/19)

\_\_\_ \$70 SATURDAY ONLY Registration (On-site \$70)

\_\_\_ \$50 CONFERENCE for \_\_\_ Student / \_\_\_ Retiree (*Please check*)

\_\_\_ \$10 DUES ONLY for \_\_\_ Student / \_\_\_ Retiree (*Please check*)

\_\_\_ \$25 IWLA DUES ONLY (*for those unable to attend conference*)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION to IWLA Scholarship fund

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (No refunds can be issued after September 19, 2009)**

**PAYMENT METHOD: (NO PURCHASE ORDERS ACCEPTED)**

Personal Check # \_\_\_\_\_ School Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please make checks payable to Iowa World Language Assn. (IWLA)*

**PRIVACY OPT-OUT:**

\_\_\_ I do not want my image included on the IWLA website.

**Return this form with payment by September 19, 2009 to:**

Bea Houston, IWLA Membership Chair  
Western Iowa Tech Community College  
4647 Stone Avenue  
Sioux City, IA 51106

**Have a question? Email Bea at [beatrice\\_houston@mywitcc.com](mailto:beatrice_houston@mywitcc.com) or call: 712-274-8733, Ext. 3218**

**Your Conference Fee Covers:**

- \* Conference Registration
- \* IWLA Annual Membership Dues
- \* Continental Breakfast both days
- \* Friday Luncheon
- \* Refreshment breaks

*Please make your own lodging arrangements.*

IWLA has negotiated a special conference rate of \$104 with the Marriott. Deadline to guarantee this rate is **SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**.

GROUP CODE: iwwiwwa

Direct link is:

[http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dsmia?](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dsmia?group-)

group-

Code=iwwiwwa&app=resvlink&fromDate=10/8/09&toDate=10/10/09

Visit the IWLA homepage ([www.iwla.net](http://www.iwla.net)) for more conference information!

# CANDIDATES

## SECRETARY



Carrie is the current IWLA Secretary and is running for re-election. Carrie is an Associate Professor of Spanish at the Urban Campus of Des Moines Area Community College. She began with IWLA as a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa and has now been active with IWLA for the

last several years. Besides serving as secretary, Carrie has been actively involved in advocacy under the leadership of Tammy Dann, has co-presented at the IWLA conference several times, and is helping to plan a technology workshop around this year's conference.

## VICE-PRESIDENT



Erik Ladneer's involvement with IWLA began in 1995 while he was a Masters student at the University of Northern Iowa. He has been a presenter at the conference. He later went on to pursue his Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature from the University of Texas at Austin. After a five year absence, he returned to

Iowa in 2004 as a Lecturer of Spanish at Iowa State University, where he taught until 2007.

Currently, Dr. Ladner is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Central College in Pella, specializing in Spanish Peninsular Literature. Among his current activities, he is in the process of obtaining OPI certification and writing a textbook for third-year college Spanish.

## ACTFL REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page  
Check web site for bio ([iwla.net](http://iwla.net))

**ACTFL Conference  
November 20-22, 2009  
San Diego, California  
[www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org)**

**Find list of conference  
presentations on the IWLA  
website:  
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Web: [www.csctfl.org](http://www.csctfl.org)

# News from Past President & Conference Coordinator

By: Dawn Frye

I am very excited about the upcoming IWLA Fall Conference. The conference planning board has been working hard to make this another successful IWLA conference by bringing you a varied and substantial slate of presentations and plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, practice your language and return to your schools refreshed, rejuvenated and with a lot of new ideas for your students.

This year's conference will be held on October 9-10 at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. In order to address the downtown parking issue, I'm pleased to announce that valet parking is available to IWLA members at a rate of \$6 per day with unlimited in/out privileges - a savings of \$11/ day off the regular rate. Parking is also available at the parking ramp adjacent to the event center at a rate of \$10 / day with free parking on Saturday.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Marcia Rosenbusch is the Director of the National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center and an associate professor at Iowa State University. Her long time association and commitment to the IWLA, as well as her experience and expertise will make for a very personal and powerful keynote address.

Another exciting event is taking place just blocks away from the conference site. The US Cellular® World Food Festival is “a taste event celebrating Iowa's unique and diverse culinary traditions.” Vendors are open from from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm both Friday, October 9th and Saturday, October 10th. ([www.worldfoodfestival.org](http://www.worldfoodfestival.org))

Please remember to reserve your hotel room at the special conference rate no later than September 14th, 2009. After that date, the special rate cannot be guaranteed. Reservations can be made by accessing the CONFERENCE link on the IWLA website ([www.iwla.net](http://www.iwla.net)) or by phone at 515-245-5500.

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# A New Adventure

By Sara Blanco

I write to you, my fellow world language teachers, from my kitchen table with bags under my eyes, a stained shirt and disheveled hair. I have been on a great adventure and I am starting to show it. In recent years this adventure may have been a long trek by bike, backpacking across another country or a camping trip. The adventure this year instead came in the form of a little girl we call Marisol. Yes, I'm speaking of the life changing event of becoming a parent. My face is showing the effects of sleep deprivation, I have spit-up all over my shirt and I can't remember if I bothered to brush my hair today or not! Before our daughter was born I had a vision of me taking her for walks everyday with our new stroller, accomplishing little projects around the house that have been put off since last summer's break with her sleeping peacefully in her bassinet and toting her around in her car seat as I grocery shopped. For some parents that might be their reality but as I would soon learn, it was not to be mine. Marisol came into this world full of personality, particular about what she wanted and persistent in getting it. She taught us quickly that she does not care for car seats and prefers sleeping in the warm arms of her parents rather than a bassinet. So went my vision of how I would be spending my summer days. At first I was frustrated, and then I thought I could "train" her to be the child I thought she was going to be. She taught me otherwise. All of you who are parents are laughing right now. How naïve of me to think that, right! We were left with a fussy baby and defeated parents. Finally, the teacher in me surfaced and I realized that I needed to practice what I had been preaching to others at conferences this past year. Embrace the uniqueness of children, teach to include their strengths, offer multiple paths to learning. What I'm speaking of is differentiated instruction. I used the mentality of this teaching method to adjust my approach to parenting. Instead of dwelling on the fact that Marisol did not respond well to my original approach to parenting her I went to work on learning everything I could about how to meet her needs. This rocky introduction to parenthood

solidified even more for me the importance of differentiating my instruction as an educator. Marisol taught me that one size parenting does not fit all, nor does it in teaching. As we begin a new school year, I encourage everyone to rethink their approach to teaching by adding elements of differentiated instruction to their educational practice. Perhaps you will have a Marisol in your classroom, someone who doesn't fit the mold but is full of potential!

The following is a list of some resources if you would like to learn more about this teaching method.

## Books:

- Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom: How to Reach and Teach all Learners, Grades 3-12 by Diane Heacox
- How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed Ability Classrooms (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) by Carol Ann Tomlinson
- Differentiated Instruction: A Guide for Foreign Language Teachers by Deborah Blaz

## Other resources available online:

*Differentiated Instruction in the Foreign Language Classroom: Meeting the Diverse Needs of All Learners* by Toni Theisen, Loveland, CO (article)  
<http://www.sedl.org/loteced/communique/n06.pdf>

*Supporting Differentiated Instruction by Promoting Rigor and Relevance in Student Learning*  
Presented by: Mary Salazar Guenther, Sheri Hoffman, and Sara Blanco at the 2009 Annual ASCD Conference (powerpoint attached to webpage)  
<http://sites.google.com/site/senorablanco/>

**Check out IWLA on  
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[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)**

# IWLA 2009

October 9 and 10  
Des Moines, IA

## Are you ready?

We NEED more proposals!  
Fill out a form and send it in today!

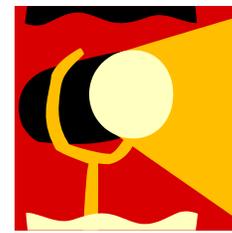
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**and so much more!**

# IWLA Member Spotlight

By: Sara Blanco



## Paulino Brener

Anyone who has attended the IWLA Conference in recent years is probably familiar with the featured person of this spotlight. He has presented many engaging sessions over the years at IWLA, weaving his talents and knowledge of the Arts into the educational activity examples he shares with his audience. Perhaps you know him by his theatrical interpretation of Don Quixote which he presented at the 2006 conference in Dubuque. Needless to say, he is a talented yet humble man who leaves a lasting impression on his audience. He is the winner of our 2008 Best of Iowa conference session.

Some interesting background information you may not know about Paulino Brener is that he teaches 1st through 8th grade Spanish at City of Lakes Waldorf School in Minneapolis, MN. He is originally from Santo Tomé, Santa Fe, Argentina. He first came to Minnesota to work at Concordia Language Villages in 1998. In Argentina Mr. Brener studied to be an English teacher. While working at Concordia Language Villages he was able to apply all that he had learned about foreign language teaching and methodologies to teaching his native language and culture. He commented that the Concordia Language Village experience was a great experience and he enjoyed it so much that he wanted to continue on this path.

I asked Paulino what his most rewarding experience as an educator has been. He told of how he learned about the impact he had made in one student's life.

"This year I started teaching at City of Lakes Waldorf School in Minneapolis, MN after teaching 5 years in another Waldorf school in MN. Some time in November I got an email from a mother saying that in September her son came home enthusiastic (for the first time) about Spanish!! She also added: "He is partial to German. I have always looked forward to the day when my son realizes he knows a lot of Spanish. It is important to me because I am from El Salvador and my father is Italian. My son said he learned more Spanish in two weeks from you than he had in four years. Thank you for your hard work and your ability to bring the true capacity of Spanish knowledge to the forefront of my child's consciousness." I was very moved not only to learn this happened but also that a parent took time to communicate it with me."

As an effective teacher Paulino uses a variety of methods and learning activities in his classroom. He learns about different methods and techniques by attending language conferences and then takes the next step of implementing them in his classroom.

Most importantly, Mr. Brener brings materials to his classes that he is passionate about and that he has a personal connection to. He also does his best to read the mood of the class and adapts his teaching to the needs of the students at that time, noting the importance of being flexible in teaching.

You, like me, may wonder what brings this talented educator from Minnesota to the Iowa World Language Conference year after year. Paulino started attending IWLA because his friend Keeka Baedke invited him. This began as a way to see her and other friends and enjoy each other at the conference. He still enjoys this part of attending IWLA but also the opportunity to be with colleagues and learn from others. He also attends the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures Conference each year and Central States once in awhile.

As I mentioned before, Paulino has presented many sessions at the IWLA Conference. I wanted to know what motivates him to present each year. He shared that besides being an educator, he is also a performer. Presenting at conferences is his chance to combine both talents. While he is a relatively new teacher, having taught six years in a school setting with additional experience in summer camps, he feels that he has something to offer and share with other teachers. He hopes that he might inspire others or help them in their teaching. Mr. Brener is very passionate about education and his involvement with language conferences allows him to keep up to date with the development of the profession. He encourages other teachers to find what they are passionate about in teaching and put together a few examples to present at the conference. In his words, "It doesn't matter if it's just one or two games or a whole curriculum design idea. If you don't feel comfortable presenting by yourself, find a colleague and present together."

Paulino's talents don't stop with educating and performing. I asked him to share something interesting that others probably don't know about him. He told that he is a knitter and likes to make knitted animals to use in his classes. Recently he knitted a sapo [toad] that has been a favorite of the Parent and Child Spanish Immersion class he is teaching. All the children love to hug and play with "Paco, el sapo"!

Thank you Paulino for the time and energy you give to IWLA and our conference attendees by presenting each year. Your positive energy and talents are uplifting to all!

# IWLA FALL CONFERENCE

## **Downtown Des Moines Marriott**

**October 9 & 10**

Keynote Speaker:

**Dr. Marcia Rosenbusch**

Director, National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center  
Iowa State University

**Iowa World Language Association**  
**% Julie Wilhelm, IWLA Bulletin Editor**  
**1185 Quail Avenue**  
**Goodell, IA 50439**

To the addressee below or his or her successor:

**E-mail the Bulletin:**  
**farm5@frontiernet.net**  
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