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I work as a Development Assistant at American Councils for International Education. Located downtown DC, American Councils is a nonprofit that administers international education programs for the US Department of State. My job is to prepare government grant proposals. I feel so blessed to do meaningful work in a professional, collegial environment. I look forward to continuing to hone my writing skills at American Councils.

Almost exactly one year after I started working downtown, I moved into my own apartment seven miles closer to DC. Although my primary motivation for moving was to reduce my commute, I also wanted to invest in a neighborhood community. Little did I know that I was relocating to “no man’s land.” My place is nestled between two vibrant, diverse neighborhoods, Takoma Park and Long Branch, but not technically incorporated into either. Fortunately, Takoma Park and Long Branch are accessible by walking or bus, so I get the best of both worlds!

When I’m not exploring my new surroundings or spending time with family and friends, I pursue volunteer work with a passion. In December of 2011, I took on a leadership position at Church of Atonement as Service Coordinator. I identify and organize service-learning opportunities for individuals and groups in our congregation. This role allows me to apply in the real world many of the lessons and values I learned working in the Service-Learning Center at Calvin College. Most service-learning activities I help coordinate are one-time-opportunities, such as MLK Service Day, Spring Rebuild Weekend, or the annual Fall Festival. I also help coordinate and participate in a monthly meal ministry in partnership with Carroll House, a transitional housing facility for men facing homelessness. There are many things I enjoy about coordinating service and there are also aspects I find highly challenging. I am grateful for all the serving and learning opportunities the Lord has provided me with this year.

If this letter has a theme, it is that God is a great provider. In a world experiencing upheaval, violent struggle, and brokenness, I feel so humbled by God’s provision in my life and by opportunities I have had to be an agent of change.

Estudio en MSU. Acabo de volver de México, D.F. en donde hice un estudio lingüístico sobre el desarrollo de los pronombres tú y usted. Desafortunadamente, el usted está cayendo en desuso, así que los niños que examiné no lo dominan hasta muy tarde (como a los 7 años). Es difícil creer que ya estoy en mi tercer año de estudios.
alison de rooy (‘12)

After graduating from Calvin in January of 2012 with a double major in Spanish and Recreational Therapy, I worked a variety of part time jobs while looking for a full time job. I was able to use my Spanish speaking abilities in almost all of my part time jobs as there are many needs for Spanish speakers in Grand Rapids. In November of 2012, I heard about a job opening with The Association for a More Just Society (AJS), a Christian non-profit working primarily against violence and corruption in Honduras.

I had first heard of AJS during my Calvin semester abroad in Honduras in 2011, and knew that the mission and vision of AJS aligned with my personal values and beliefs. Although I had little administrative experience, I was hired as the Administrative Assistant for AJS in the USA. My job involves a lot of data entry, proposal writing, translating, and communication between Honduras, the USA, and Canada. Although the work can be tedious, I enjoy being a part of a bigger picture working to bring peace and justice to Honduras and working to educate others about what it means to be a Brave Christian. I was able to return to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in January 2013 as an AJS employee to attend a board meeting and to celebrate AJS’ 15th anniversary, which was a great experience to directly see what AJS is doing in Honduras.

Although I studied at Calvin College to be a therapist and did not imagine myself in the career I have chosen, I can see how my work is making a difference in other people’s lives and in my own life. It is truly a blessing to be able to work for something that I am so passionate about. Even though Honduras currently has the highest homicide rate in the world, there are brave Hondurans working every day to bring peace and justice to their country. It is inspiring to see so many brave people standing up for what they believe in even amidst corruption and violence and I hope to inspire others to Do Justice and to Love Fearlessly in their own communities. For more information about AJS, please visit our website.
**Dan Roels (‘03)**

Bethany (DeRidder, ’03) y yo tenemos una hija, Rachel / Raquel, de dos años, que recibe puro español de papi y English from mom. Dios nos concedió otro hijo, quien esperamos a fines de diciembre de 2013. A partir de julio 2013, seré pastor de una iglesia multiétnica CRC en Lansing, IL, que se llama New Hope Church.

Bethany, aunque no tiene concentración en español, trabajó 4 años con "add.a.lingua," la compañía en Zeeland, MI, que ofrece materias / currículo para escuelas que hacen enseñanza en otro idioma al estilo inmersión... esperamos que las escuelas allí cerca de Lansing, IL, pueden considerar los beneficios de tales programas. Participo en un grupo internacional de pastores que hace intercambios culturales cada año, y hay muchos cuentos de eso... durmiendo al lado de un hospital en huelga, rodado por policía para espantar a los pandilleros, esperando noticias de alguien de la iglesia... la vez que mi huésped se desapareció y se me ocurrió que la migra le hubiera agarrado porque no hablaba inglés.

Pero más que todo eso, los últimos años han sido de testimonio al Señor - hemos pasado pruebas tras prueba, pero siempre estuvo Él.

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**Ben Shoemaker (‘10)**

After graduating from Calvin College, I taught English in Indonesia during the summer of 2010 and independently backpacked throughout the Middle East during the fall of 2010. The following spring, I took classes in Denia, Spain as part of Calvin’s Semester in Spain program.

I started law school in the fall of 2011 and performed legal research in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the summer of 2012. I am currently a third-year law student at the University of Michigan Law School, and I am also pursuing a master’s degree in World Politics through the Political Science department at the University of Michigan. Upon graduation, I will be joining an international law firm, Mayer Brown LLP, as an associate in their Chicago office.

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**Brian (‘05) and Joy (‘04) Cumings**

Ahora ellos tienen un niño de 17 meses, Roberto Douglas. Ambos se graduaron con su especialidad en español y educación: Brian español e historia, Joy español e inglés. Los dos enseñaron por un tiempo en Las Vegas y ahora Joy se queda en casa cuidando a su hijo y Brian ahora es abogado; se graduó de Texas University y ahora tiene un puesto en Austin, Texas.
Here's a photo of three of our students with former Mexican President Vicente Fox (president from 2000 to 2006). The picture was taken at the annual dinner of Grand Rapids' WAC (World Affairs Council) on October 8, 2012.

¡adiós, jonás!

Jonás Noguera (pictured left) was the native assistant in the Spanish Department for the 2012-2013 school year. From Gijón, Spain, he first connected with Calvin in the fall of 2011 when the Spanish Department first began their semester program in Oviedo, about 30 minutes south of Gijón. After getting to know two semesters worth of Calvin students in Spain, it was Jonás’ turn to travel abroad and experience new things in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Jonás lived in the Spanish House in the KE apartments, occasionally helped with Spanish chapel by playing the flute or singing, was a communication group leader for the Spanish 302 classes, and more. It was a blessing to have Jonás with us for a year at Calvin, and we wish him the very best for his future!
Throughout the school year, the Spanish Department hosted a variety of events for students looking to spend time with other Spanish majors and minors, practice their Spanish, or just have fun! Often working together with the Spanish House, we had a game night, sang carols together during the holiday season, had a “noche colombiana,” and more. We greatly appreciated these events as a community. Enjoy the next few pages filled with photos from these different events.

noche de juegos

villancicos (Christmas caroling)
Did you know that Colombia has the third largest Spanish-speaking population in the world (nearly 47 million), and that Gabriel García Márquez, Fernando Botero, Camilo Villegas, Shakira, Juanes, and Sofía Vergara were all born there? It's also the world's leading producer of emeralds and ranks second in biodiversity after Brazil. On April 9, 2013, the Spanish House sponsored a campus-wide event celebrating this important country and its culture: ¡una noche colombiana! The event was held in the Chapel Undercroft and was fun and educational for all.

This activity featured a lot of delicious Colombian food: arepas (corn cakes), maduros and patacones (both made from plantains), natilla (a dessert similar to custard), and perros calientes (Colombian-style hot dogs, with toppings that included potato chips, chopped pineapple, and shredded cheese!). Students and professors who attended not only had the opportunity to taste these culinary delights, but also got to see demonstrations of how to prepare them! The other main component of the evening was dancing. A couple of local Colombians demonstrated a cumbia dance in traditional dress, and attendees were also given free salsa lessons! Overall, the evening was a wonderful experience for all who came out to enjoy just a small taste of all that Colombia has to offer!

- Professor Scott Lamanna
Spanish chapel continued to meet every Tuesday during the regular chapel break time. This year we enjoyed many great worship times together. We were especially pleased to be joined by different groups of elementary school immersion classes from Northpointe Christian, Zeeland Christian, and Grandville Christian. As one body we praised our Lord in Spanish.

Congratulations to the 44 Spanish majors and 22 Spanish minors who graduated this past May!
My name is Cecilia Berkemeier, and I am currently in my second year at Calvin. I am originally from Jackson, Michigan, and I am the second oldest in a big, Catholic family of seven. Through a series of events that have much to do with God’s active grace in my life and very little to do with the things that I have planned for myself, I have found myself at Calvin where I am studying for a double major in Speech Pathology and Spanish. My hope is to finish up with my undergraduate next spring and continue with the Speech Pathology Master’s program. With this degree, I plan to work as a speech pathologist with students from Spanish speaking homes in a community or school district with low economic and social demographics.

Being half Mexican and the proud granddaughter of two Mexican immigrants, the Spanish language has always been a very special thing to me, both as a passion and a source of identity. Having the opportunity to study Spanish at Calvin has been an absolute blessing and a gift I hope to be able to share in the communities I will serve in the future.

As part of these studies, I am spending this spring semester abroad in Oviedo, Spain. This amazing opportunity to study and live in a Spanish community has allowed me to grow as a student and as a person in ways that I imagine are only possible when studying in a different country. It has challenged me, introduced me to new people and places, pushed me outside my comfort zone, shaped me, and, above all, opened my eyes to the beauty and vastness of the world that God has created for me.

Having this rare and wonderful opportunity to live in a new community has also allowed me to better and more completely appreciate the community that I have at Calvin. I am so incredibly blessed by the support and organization that have made my time in Spain possible. You will probably never know the impact that you have had in my life or in the lives of the people who will be touched by my experience here, but I am so grateful for every one of your individual thoughts, prayers, and donations. Thank you so much for your generosity, and thank you for the role that you have played in this chapter in my life.

Peace,
Cecilia Berkemeier (’15)
One thing that can get any Spanish Education student nervous and sweating within seconds is any mention of the OPI, the Oral Proficiency Interview that is required of all Spanish Education majors and minor. At least, I know that was my reaction whenever I thought about taking the daunting proficiency exam. As I spent a semester abroad in Spain, I realized how important it was to better my Spanish every chance I got. I read books in Spanish, talked with my host family at dinner time, listened to Spanish music — basically spent as much of my day in Spanish as possible.

I know for a fact that I wasn’t the only student to do all that, either. Education students always know that the OPI is looming around the end of their time abroad, and they all hope that their hard work will pay off in the end and that they can earn an Advanced Low rating so they can go on to teach Spanish.

The regrettable truth, however, is that only 54% of Spanish Education students from the past six years at Calvin College have been able to pass the OPI with a rating of at least Advanced Low. Although this is consistent with the national average, it’s extremely disappointing to Education students and also to professors in the Spanish Department. It’s hard to know what we could be doing better and why this is happening despite all the diligent work students put into their language learning, especially while abroad.

This summer, I worked with Professors Marcie Pyper and Cynthia Slagter through the McGregor research program to continue their research on why this situation exists. Over the past two years, they have been collecting test scores and survey data, as well as conducting interviews with students who recently studied abroad, to take a deeper look at what students do to better their language while abroad and what seems to help or hinder that process.

We are still in the preliminary stages of analyzing all of our data, and we know that as we continue gathering data in the coming years trends may change. However, as of right now, we are seeing that students who spend time speaking with nonnative Spanish speakers, like their Calvin classmates, make significant gains in their language skills, contrary to popular belief. Also, we found that students who begin below the average skill level of the group end up having greater gains than those who began above the average.

In all, this study has been very interesting to work on, particularly as a student who has studied abroad and went through many of the same experiences students go through each semester in the abroad programs. As we continue with this study, we hope to become better equipped with tips and recommendations we can share with future study abroad or Education students so that they can better learn Spanish while abroad — and hopefully won’t be quite as nervous about the OPI as students in the past.

- Brianne Dekker ('14)
For all of you who remember your January interim in Mérida, Yucatán, you’ll be happy to know that Calvin students continue to enjoy this interim class—and continue to say that they’ve learned a lot of Spanish, increased their confidence, interacted with many wonderful people, and gained valuable knowledge about Mexican culture and intercultural living. And for the persons who spent the entire semester in Mexico, the memories of your experiences surely run even deeper!

Don Rigoberto (Rigo) continues to arrange family stays, and he still plays the trumpet. Many of the same families continue to host Calvin students. The children that you may remember have surely grown much bigger! We continue to go to Dzibilchaltún, Uxmal, Loltún, and Chichén Itzá, as well as end the interim experience in Playa del Carmen. And we still send out students in pairs to villages over one weekend. Although many still say that the trip to the “pueblos” is their most “scary” experience, it’s an experience that they’ll never forget.

Perhaps some of you are still in contact with your families and friends in Mexico. In any case, don Rigo, doña Eidí, don Ricardo, and many others send you their greetings from Mérida and wish you God’s blessings upon your lives.

- Professor Marilyn Bierling
Calvin has now completed two semesters in the lovely Arequipa, Peru, nestled high in the Andean foothills and populated by wonderful, friendly people eager to share with our students the city of which they are so proud. Our host institution, the Universidad Católica San Pablo, has received us with open arms. Its students are very interested in getting to know Calvin students. Seeking to share some of our many great experiences with our Spanish alumni, I reread the entire student blog for Fall 2012.

The blog chronicles the everyday and the exceptional, routines in Arequipa and our travels elsewhere. In Arequipa we visited the Mansión del Fundador, an old water mill, and the Monasterio Santa Catalina; we celebrated birthdays with scrumptious cakes from our favorite pastry shop, Capriccio; we took San Pablo classes and played soccer or volleyball with Peruvian students; we rode combi buses; we went whitewater rafting on the Chili River; we had Thanksgiving at San Pablo’s culinary institute, where we also learned to cook typical Arequipan meals in our cooking classes; two of us saw the Arequipan, less violent version of a bull fight; and seven brave souls climbed the 191,101-foot volcano Misti. We were awed by the immense Colca Canyon with its soaring condors and by Lake Titicaca; we met alpacas up close and personal; nearly everyone climbed Huayna Picchu, the peak you can see behind Machu Picchu in photos; some flew over the Nazca lines; and all of the students swam with sea lions near Lima.

You can get a much better picture of all of this if you visit our blog. There you will find many photos and commentary on these experiences. One student, in his post from Lima just before returning to the United States, describes the semester as “… a FANTASTIC adventure! We have learned so much about the country, each other and ourselves through this trip! God has given us the opportunity to share his love with others and also experience his love from people in South America.” Or, more succinctly, as another student remarked after visiting Machu Picchu, “It’s hard to catch your breath when the views keep taking it away.”

- Professor Dianne Zandstra
“Travel isn’t always pretty. It isn’t always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that’s okay. The journey changes you – it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you...Hopefully you leave something good behind.”

My good friend who is presently studying abroad in Florence, Italy recently sent me this quote. I have found myself returning to it every few days, letting its truth sink into my consciousness as I reflect on the changes settling into my being with each passing week. We have been in Honduras for over three months now; only six short weeks remain. We have learned, and we have changed, though often we cannot quite say what we know now or how we are different. We have seen and heard and smelled and experienced things that have left deep marks; we will leave here with new scars, new memories, and new perspectives. The change may not be obvious; it may not scream at our friends and families, or even us, the minute we step off the plane in the United States, but it will remain beneath the surface. It will be in the way we react to the smell of certain restaurants and car exhaust. It will be in the way we mix up our English sentences with a Spanish structure and in the way we naturally say “púchica” instead of “shoot.” It will be in the claustrophobia we feel without the mountains to split up the land and expose the sky and in the ache in our guts when we hand over a $5 bill for a cup of coffee. The change may be subtle, but it will be change nonetheless.

Our semester in Honduras continued to make more marks last week when we spent four days participating in a service project in Cedros, a mountain town whose cobblestone roads and colonial layout closely resemble our own town of Santa Lucia. Our goal for the week was to help construct a kitchen next to a kindergarten, one project of many currently underway throughout the town. Various schools in small towns like Cedros lack a cafeteria, so parents often come to school during the lunch hour to bring hot meals to their children. The kitchen will allow for more flexibility and resources for these families to come and cook for their children at the school, rather than bringing food from home each day. What is more, we discovered upon our arrival that not only were we helping to physically construct this kitchen, but Calvin is also providing the money for the building supplies.
Our first two days were spent hard at work, painting, mixing cement and earth to make bricks, building the metal skeletons that will eventually form columns to hold up the structure, etc. The sun blazed hot and relentless, but we worked, sweaty and persistent, until the late afternoon when we cleaned up and headed to dinner.

Wednesday, we traveled around the area visiting the other projects set up by the organization we were working with. We saw the thirty latrines they built farther up the mountain, as well as the eco-friendly wood-burning stoves they have installed in various houses. Near the main road, we saw the kiosk that they are constructing for local women to sell food and other goods. We then hiked up the rainy, cold mountain, visiting the water dam that provides running water for the latrines and a couple of old Spanish mines that still wind under the mountain.

We then spent a couple of hours at the natural hot sulfur springs a few miles away, where people can purchase eggs or plantains to boil in the natural bowls of bubbling water that look like witch cauldrons snuggled into the earth. We spent a while warming up by the steaming water and tasting a bit of sweet, boiled plantain before finally returning to our site in Cedros. After providing us with mugs of hot coffee and a box of oatmeal cookies which we devoured in minutes, the kindergarten teacher gave each of us a “diploma of recognition” to thank us for our work on the kitchen. It was a beautiful and moving way to end our time there, the icing on a rich and memorable cake.

My shoulders are still tender with sunburn, and my back aches from bending over and standing up like a foldable car seat in one of those easy storage minivan commercials. The rusty red paint splattered and dried on random parts of my body is nearly indistinguishable from blood, continually forcing me to jump and wonder how I cut myself without knowing.

My hands are still sore from the wire cutters I used for hours upon end, and I am fairly certain I pulled a muscle in my palm, which I didn’t think was possible. I have a blister on my middle finger from twisting together the long metal poles that make the column skeletons, and my ankles are covered in scabs I won on our rainy hike up the mountain. All of these ailments consume my current reality, yet I hope they remain a good while longer. For these small aches and marks constantly remind me of this past week in Cedros, a time of hard physical labor and meaningful group bonding, of cold floors and bucket showers, of blazing sunlight and dirty fingernails, of service and laughter and community. These are the marks of change and of growth, and they give me hope that our group has, indeed, left something good behind.

- Ruthy Berends ('14)
“So Marly, how was Spain?” my friend Mitch asked.

I sigh. How, I wonder for the thousandth time this month, can I possibly answer that question? A single word or phrase could never suffice to describe my semester abroad to friends and family back home. Not even a million words and accompanying pictures of every moment could do the experience justice.

Not only had I felt this way about our semester abroad. Many of my fellow Calvin compañeros also say they feel overwhelmed by the memories that swarm into their minds when asked that same question. Millions of little words come to the tips of our tongues. To the innocent inquirer, these words may seem unconnected but in our minds they are intertwined like a delicate spider web. Each word has its own special meaning after our experiences in Oviedo. My mind drifts over some of these words, some of the ways we Calvin students define Oviedo:

**Paraguas:** by the end of our semester, they were rusty and broken, but also an extension of our body considering our stay in Oviedo was the rainiest spring in twenty years.

**Viajes:** what we did every weekend. Whether near (just up to El Cruz) or far (Rome, Dublin, or the Canary Islands) it was the way we saw and experienced Europe. As we traveled more frequently, Oviedo ceased to be another traveling destination and became our home base where we could open our door, be greeted with a hug and *fabada*, and crash into our beds.

**Sonrisas:** an action that speaks more than a thousand words, in Spanish or in English. What you do when you don't have words, or when the words you do have aren’t quite good enough. Highly contagious, frequently followed by laughter, and the cure for anger, sadness, homesickness, fear, and so much more.

**Relaciones:** one of the most significant results of studying abroad. Our Calvin group became close friends quickly, bonding over being here in this foreign land together. We also gained new families: new Mamás, Papás, hermanos, mascotas, abuelos, tíos, and new family friends. We were kissed, fed, and loved by welcoming families who treated us with care and, for most of us, became a second family that felt near impossible to leave on May 16th. Finally, we made other Spaniard and foreign exchange student friends. From church, classes, tandem partners, and the streets we made deep new bonds and found people to support us, cheer us up, and help us learn as we went through our new experiences.
Café con leche: what became a daily ritual for some of us—in the morning, before class, after class, even before bed. A comfort drink, but also a way to share a conversation or special moment with someone.

Siesta: the deliberate time necessary each day for the Spaniards and us to rest, rejuvenate, and replenish our energy and passion before diving back into the stresses of the day once more. Something that we all desperately missed upon returning back to the United States.

Pues: a filler. When we didn’t know what to say, didn’t know how to say it, or simply needed to process what was asked before we answered, pues was our go-to phrase, part of our common slang. Puuueessssss....

Fiesta: A Spanish way of life. Fiesta does not just include the weekend parties that start much later and end much later than any American one. It means the vitality of the Spanish people, their fiesta nature that turns any gathering into a fiesta. It means their passion and love for each other.

Flexibilidad: the chant of Profesora Clevenger whenever we encountered some sort of twist in the path that we weren’t expecting. Cell phone SIM card broke? Flexibilidad. Architectural museum closed? Flexibilidad. Late planes and forgotten passports? Flexibilidad.

All of these words draw deep, precious memories to the forefront of our brains. We left for Spain with a web of experiences tying us firmly to our home country. At times in Oviedo we felt those strings tugging, sometimes very painfully, and we even wanted to go back. However, at the same time we built new webs, new chords that tied us to Oviedo and all it offered. When we returned to America, we came back to our familiar strings but they all looked different now because our web had been expanded by so many new Oviedo memories.

Now, the satiny chords of Oviedo sometimes pull at me painfully from across the Atlantic, drawing me back to the other place I also call casa. How can I ever explain this to someone who hasn’t had these experiences?

Someone clears his throat. I blink, pulling myself out of my cobwebby daydream and find Mitch still staring at me, waiting for a response to his question.

“Spain was,” I smile, “undefinable.”

- Marly (Marlena) May ('15)
Trece estudiantes del Calvin College de Michigan se bañan en San Lorenzo para conseguir la 'Golden Towel' de su instituto

Están en Asturias becados por su Instituto, el Calvin College de Michigan (Estados Unidos), para conocer el funcionamiento de la Universidad de Oviedo. Un viaje que les ha impedido cumplir una tradición en su lugar de origen. "Hacer un agujero en el hielo y pegarse un baño en una lago helado". Es la explicación de Aaron Burghgraef, de 19 años y estudiante de este centro norteamericano.

¿La razón? Pura tradición. "No hay ningún premio. Nos dan una toalla por hacerlo. Si lo hacemos cuatro veces seguidas nos dan, entonces, la 'Golden Towel' (la toalla dorada)", añade Aaron. Por ello, igual que hicieron sus compañeros que no pudieron venir a Gijón, decidieron desafiar al frío y pegarse un chapuzón. Eso sí, cambiando el hielo de Michigan por las olas de San Lorenzo.

- from ElComercio.es

See more photos and a video.
Marilyn Bierling took yet another group of students to Mérida, Mexico in January. She contributed a CD-ROM to the Heritage Hall collection at the Calvin library on Cuban Refugees and the Christian Reformed Church containing 18 subtitled interviews.

Sandra Clevenger directed the 2013 Semester in Spain program in Oviedo. She presented a paper on “Resistance under Franquism” at the University of West Georgia Conference in the Humanities.

Ed Miller presented a paper on “La sombra de Emilia Pardo Bazán en la obra literaria de Argentina Díaz Lozano” at California State University.

Cynthia Slagter and Marcie Pyper published “Spiritual Engagement and Study Abroad: Student Perspectives” in the Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages.
Alisa Tigchelaar served as *ad-hoc* editor for a volume titled *Journies Real and Imagined: Social Values, Identities, and the Rights (and Wrongs) of Passages*. (Notandum 29 May-August 2012). Her most recent publications include "Redemption Theology in Mystical Convent Drama: 'The Already and the Not Yet' in Hildegard of Bingen's Ordo virtutum and Marcela de san Félix's Breve festejo." (Mirabilia: Electronic Journal of Antiquity and Middle Ages 15.2 (2012): 86-127) and "'Puesto un muro en este prado ameno': Cecilia del Nacimiento's Pastoral Drama as Shepherding Space." (Crítica Hispánica 35.1 (2013): 145-68). In February, Alisa presented a talk at First Hamilton Christian Reformed Church, Hamilton, Ontario: "Women's Spirituality in Reformation Spain: Marcela de san Félix: A 'Mystic' of her Times." A March conference paper on sixteenth-century Carmelite Marcela de san Félix anticipates an article on the nun’s longer drama. She is also currently working on a Meeter Center talk on vocation in the sixteenth-century Spanish convent, and has enjoyed a recent sabbatical. She anticipates bringing some of what she is recently working on to a DCM course in January, 2014.

Pablo Villalta completed his third term as director of the Semester in Honduras program and continues to work on his doctoral thesis.

Dianne Zandstra completed her second term as director of the Semester in Peru program and continues to serve as co-editor of the *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages*. 
Please consider making a donation to help fund the Elsa Cortina scholarship. This scholarship aids students interested in studying Spanish during a semester abroad in Spain, like Cecilia Berkemeier (read her story on page 9).

Visit the Spanish Department website for more information on the scholarship. Click here to learn how you can donate and make a difference in the life of a student at Calvin.

We love to hear from our alumni! There are many ways you can get reconnected with the Spanish Department at Calvin. Whether that is by sharing your story on the department website, joining us for Spanish chapel on Tuesdays at 10:00am, or organizing a night to give a presentation or talk with students about whatever you are passionate about—you are welcome!

If you are interested in getting involved in the department in any of these ways or would like to know more about how else you could get connected, please contact the department chair, Professor Marcie Pyper, or Professor Cynthia Slagter.