

October 15, 2010



Dear Colleagues:

On October 8, 2010 I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Germán De Patricio's Spanish 301 class. The fifty minute session was engaging, filled with exercises in the four skills areas and challenging yet appropriate to students' level and the course objectives.

Class began with a correction exercise from the text. Students worked in pairs and Dr. De Patricio checked to see that the day's homework had been completed. Then, the class reviewed the exercise together and students were asked to volunteer or were called upon when necessary.

The instructor alternated questions about the text with short explanations and reinforcement to illustrate grammatical and lexical concepts. Next, the class turned its attention to an online oral comprehension exercise on the preterit versus imperfect. The instructor played the online audio while students listened and provided preterit or imperfect verb forms to fill-in the blank on a corresponding written text. Students had listened to the text as homework in preparation for the in-class exercise. A third activity for the day was discussion of exam 2. The instructor reviewed the items that students needed to prepare for the exam. As part of the exam, students would need to write a story. Dr. De Patricio provided story elements to each student individually by shaking a dice. Students chose the next student to receive their story elements by tossing a ball to the selected classmate. Once this exercise was completed, students answered questions about a reading from their textbook. Finally, the instructor and students discussed films that students had seen and reviewed for a previous exercise and in anticipation of their selection of another movie for a future exercise.

Throughout the class period, Dr. De Patricio maintained a positive classroom environment by consistently recognizing student effort, maintaining an upbeat attitude, and correcting in a positive manner. His respect for students was evident at all times. The instructor spoke only Spanish and students were encouraged to do so. Students paid attention throughout the lesson even while a variety of activities were undertaken, in part because Dr. De Patricio skillfully weaves together in-class and homework activities. Dr. De Patricio combined various types of activities (reading a text, listening to an audio and gaming) to exercise the four skills in creative ways.

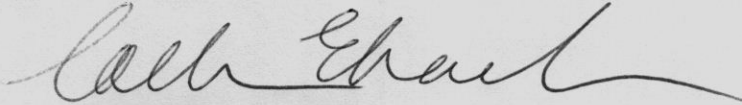
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Dr. De Patricio demonstrates true creativity in his work and an evident love of teaching. He brings considerable skill to his work and we are fortunate to have him on our team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colleen Ebacher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colleen Ebacher, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Spanish