Editor’s Message:
State-of-the-State Feature:
Spanish for the Medical Professions

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Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP) are pivotal to our curriculum. The content of *Hispania* reflects the needs of our students and society. For that reason, this year’s State-of-the-State feature focuses on LSP. Dr. Karol Hardin, Baylor University (see bio below), penned a broad and informative article titled “An Overview of Medical Spanish Curricula in the United States.” Hardin sheds light on a variety of aspects of medical Spanish, such as linguistic and cultural barriers, and she describes the current need for Spanish speakers in the medical profession. Her article includes information on curricular design as well as a compendium of institutions with medical Spanish programs in the United States.

The remainder of this issue boasts a wide variety of articles and reviews. Continuing the focus on LSP, readers will find Dr. Anthony Houston’s (Bryant University) article titled “Managing Depth and Breadth in the Business Spanish Class.” Indeed, colleague Dr. Michael Scott Doyle (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), once postulated that literature might just be one more domain within LSP (108). With this perspective in mind, I also invite you to read the Literature and Culture Section where you will find a special collection of essays: “Carmen Martín Gaite and her Legacy” offered by Dr. Joan L. Brown (University of Delaware). Lastly, readers will also enjoy two articles and two reviews that focus on literary and linguistic Luso-Brazilian and Portuguese topics.

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WORK CITED


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Karol J. Hardin (PhD in Iberoromance Linguistics and Philology, University of Texas at Austin) is Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at Baylor University. Her primary research interests are Spanish Pragmatics, Spanish for Health Professions, and Second Language Acquisition. Over the years, she has had international and domestic experience related to medical communication and has taught various levels of Spanish courses from junior high to graduate school. Her publications on medical Spanish, as well as pragmatics, have appeared in journals such as *Intercultural Pragmatics*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, and *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*. SIL International and The University of Texas at Arlington jointly published her book *Pragmatics of Persuasive Discourse in Spanish Television Advertising* in 2001.