To the Instructor

McGraw-Hill World Languages is pleased to bring you an exciting new intermediate-level textbook, *Metas: Spanish in Review, Moving Toward Fluency. Metas* is based on the best-selling brief intermediate-level text, *Punto y aparte.* To instructors familiar with the *Punto y aparte* program, we hope you will find *Metas* to be even more useful for your two-semester intermediate Spanish programs. To those using *Metas* for the first time, we hope you'll find it to be a unique and exciting intermediate-level program worthy of the enthusiastic responses that *Punto y aparte* has received from both instructors and students since its debut in 1999.

A Brief History of the Metas Program

The idea for *Punto y aparte* and subsequently Metas came in response to the need for a new instructional approach for the intermediate level. Instructors experienced in teaching a secondyear, college-level language course recognize one of the challenges inherent for both them and their students: After relatively quick progress through the novice and lower-intermediate levels of proficiency, students are commonly faced with the phenomenon of the "second-year plateau." They often become frustrated and lose the necessary motivation to continue on into the intermediate-high and advanced levels. Thus, our initial challenge was to identify learning strategies that would motivate students and help them move forward in the language acquisition process.

Many textbooks for this level tend to review the grammatical structures covered in the first two or three semesters of college-level Spanish and provide practice with each structure in communicative contexts; however, they address grammatical structures one at a time and in a predetermined order. Real-life communicative situations are never that predictable. Other second-year texts require students to perform communicative tasks at a proficiency level that they have not yet attained, again leading to frustration and diminished motivation.

Drawing on extensive work with oral proficiency testing and training, we recognized that the next level of proficiency was characterized by three main factors: (1) an expanded vocabulary, (2) increased grammatical accuracy, and (3) paragraph-length discourse. (This third factor was the inspiration for the title of *Punto y aparte*: The Spanish expression used to indicate the beginning of a new paragraph is punto y aparte.) It was with these factors in mind that the concept of "moving toward fluency through review" came about. First, we would offer each chapter's vocabulary items in thematic groupings to facilitate association and then continually recycle and expand the active vocabulary from one chapter to another.

Next, instead of providing the grammarcentered review that can be found in some secondyear texts, we would take a communicative approach but still stress the importance of grammatical accuracy. To ensure success in this approach, we would define seven major communicative functions or goals (las metas comunicativas) and then focus on the key grammatical structures (los puntos clave) needed to accomplish those goals. By doing so, it was hoped that students would begin to view the grammatical structures as the linguistic tools needed to successfully accomplish each of the communicative goals and realize that by increasing their grammatical accuracy they could ultimately communicate more effectively. To further emphasize the importance of grammar within a communicative approach, we would integrate consciousnessraising exercises and icons that would help draw students' attention to the grammatical structures.

Finally, we would provide students with ample tasks that require them to continually use their expanding vocabulary and to practice the grammatical structures within the context of the seven communicative goals. By doing so, we hoped that students' mastery of the vocabulary and the grammatical structures associated with the communicative goals would result in more paragraph-length discourse.

The end result of all this was the highly successful First Edition of *Punto y aparte*. We are now pleased to offer you this expanded version, *Metas*, and we sincerely hope it will assist you in moving your second-year students forward in their language acquisition process.

Spanish in Review

One aspect of the philosophy behind *Metas* is the concept of *review* or, more specifically, *task repetition* and its positive effects on language learning. *Metas* focuses on and recycles seven major communicative goals:

- Descripción
- Comparación
- Reacciones y recomendaciones
- · Narración en el pasado
- Hablar de los gustos
- Hacer hipótesis
- · Hablar del futuro

The uniqueness of this approach to intermediate-level language acquisition lies in the fact that it not only deals with a limited number of linguistic functions, but also requires students to work with those goals simultaneously, thereby exposing them to the full range of natural language. Once students understand that the same seven communicative goals continually resurface even though the themes and cultural content of each chapter change, they will come to see the positive effects of task repetition.

Task repetition is also a central focus of the text's reading strategies. It is important to remember that even when reading in their first language, students may have problems comprehending a text. For this reason, *Metas* emphasizes three specific reading strategies to help students gain a better overall sense of what's happening in the second-language texts of our program. We like to refer to these reading strategies as "the three V's": learning *vocabulary* in context, *visualization*, and *verification*. (See the Guided Tour for further discussion of the three V's in juxtaposition with their consciousness-raising icons.)

Moving Toward Fluency

Another goal of the *Metas* philosophy is to give students a tangible feeling of accomplishment by

providing ample communicative activities so that they acquire the ability to use what they have learned in a variety of contexts. By focusing on and recycling seven communicative goals, we intend not to intimidate students, but rather to give them the feeling that they can successfully accomplish these goals. To ensure that students move forward in their understanding of the forms that make their messages more accurate, consciousnessraising activities serve as an indirect way of helping them see how all of these goals work together. These activities require students to identify statements that exemplify the seven communicative goals and explain their use or purpose. To this end, consciousness-raising activities are integrated throughout the program.

Another tangible indicator to students that they are moving forward is acquiring an expanded vocabulary. Therefore, *Metas* stresses vocabulary acquisition as another of its main goals. New vocabulary items are presented in thematic groupings in each chapter but are also constantly recycled throughout the program. In this way, students continually use the vocabulary they have acquired from preceding chapters when discussing new topics related to the current chapter's theme.

It is very important that students understand from the outset how this program differs from previous programs they may have used. As they focus on the seven communicative goals, recycle and expand their vocabulary, and see *themselves* moving toward fluency, they should progress from studying grammatical structures in a vacuum to studying grammar as a support for expressing language functions, from memorizing isolated words to learning and using groups of thematically related words, and from being list makers to being paragraph makers.

A Few More Words About Grammar

Although the *Metas* program promotes communicative language development, we want to stress that grammatical accuracy is very important to the success of this approach. From the very beginning we emphasize that learning grammatical structures and rules is different from acquiring the ability to use those structures and rules in real-world situations. We have created a variety of tasks designed to elicit the communicative goals

identified by marginal icons. These icons also serve to draw students' attention to the grammatical rules needed to perform those tasks. For example, when students see the **Describir** icon next to an activity, they know that they will be generating descriptions and that, in order to do so well, they must keep in mind the rules for gender/ number agreement, the appropriate uses of ser and estar, and perhaps the use of past participles as adjectives. (See the chart on the inside front cover.) With the aid of this consciousnessraising device, students can begin to see more clearly that the grammatical structures represent the linguistic tools needed to express the seven communicative goals with accuracy. As students become more aware of this relationship between grammar and communicative goal, they may notice the gaps in their grammatical knowledge that impede them from expressing themselves with ease. These are the "teachable moments" when a quick grammar review can take on new meaning for students. To aid you in such moments, we provide the "yellow pages" section at the back of the main text. It contains grammar explanations that you can use to review specific structures with students at any time throughout the course. (See the **Explicación gramatical** section of the Guided Tour for further discussion of this resource.)

Multimedia Supplements for Metas

Several exciting multimedia supplements are available for *Metas*.

Metas is supported by an online *ActivityPak*, an exciting new format that replaces the stand-alone interactive CD-ROM found with most intermediate Spanish programs. This online component, available for student purchase, provides a unified learning experience for students through the Online Learning Center. Flash-based activities, games, and video animations all provide review of vocabulary, grammar, and culture in a fun and accessible online format. With the online ActivityPak, students won't have to worry about lost CDs and operating system incompatibilities. It's all online, it's easy to access and use, and it helps students get the most out of their study of Spanish!

- The music CD, Estampillas musicales is an impressive new resource for intermediate Spanish. Although it was created with the Metas program in mind, it can enhance any McGraw-Hill Spanish program. This unique supplement contains one song from each of the six Spanish-speaking regions featured in Metas. Pre- and post-listening activities to accompany each song are available in the main text. The six songs are:
 - 1. «Matemáticas» (Spanish flamenco)
 - 2. «Hermanos» (typical Cuban pregón)
 - 3. «La Mariquita» (traditional Mexican folk song)
 - 4. «Candombe del Piedras» (*Uruguayan candombe*)
 - 5. «Himno al Inca» (typical Andean flute)
 - 6. «Monseñor Mario Molina» (Guatemalan marimba)
- McGraw-Hill has been proud to collaborate with Quia™ in developing the Online Manual que acompaña Metas. Carefully integrated with the main text, this digital version of the printed Manual is easy for students to use and great for instructors who want to manage students' coursework online. Identical to the print version in terms of practice material, the Online Manual contains the full audio program and provides students with automatic feedback and scoring of their work. The Instructor's Workstation contains an easy-to-use gradebook and class roster system that facilitates course management.
- The Online Learning Center offers students more practice with the vocabulary, grammar, and culture presented in the main text. It also contains the ActivityPak (described earlier), audio renditions of the La entrevista interviews from the main text, Interactive Verb Charts, and Flash Grammar Tutorials (short descriptions of key grammatical points of the Spanish language that students can review for additional help). The Instructor's Edition of the Online Learning Center contains the following resources to assist instructors in getting the most out of the Metas program:

Instructor's Manual (Word files)
Testing Program (Word files)

ActivityPak Scripts (transcripts for Cara a cara, La historia and Hablando del tema sections of the *ActivityPak*) Audioscript (transcript of the Audio Program) Audio Program Tracklisting

Basic Structure of Metas

Metas is divided into six units (Unidades), and each unit is divided into two chapters (Capítulo A and Capítulo B), yielding twelve manageable chapters. Each chapter is further divided as outlined below. Former users of Punto y aparte will note that the bulk of the content for A chapters comes from *Punto y aparte*, Third Edition.

Capítulo A

La historia Vocabulario del tema Nota cultural

Puntos clave Rincón cultural Lugares fascinantes Lo hispano en los Estados Unidos Lectura ¡A escribir!

Hablando del tema

Capítulo B

La entrevista Vocabulario del tema Puntos clave Rincón cultural Un momento histórico Un artista hispano La música Lectura Yo experto/a

Guided Tour of Metas

Unit Opener

Each unit opener includes a photo highlighting the geographical region or themes of the unit as well as a list of supplements where students can further study the vocabulary, grammar, and cultural themes presented in the unit.

Chapter Opener

Each chapter-opening page includes a photo or piece of fine art, discussion questions that instructors can use as an advance organizer to move students into the chapter themes, and bulleted points listing the communicative goals and central themes of the chapter.

La historia

Each **La historia** section presents a dialogue between some of the five friends. Words that represent active vocabulary (those found in the **Vocabulario del tema** listing) appear in boldface. Following the dialogue are activities designed to introduce students to the themes presented in the dialogue and the rest of the chapter. Each dialogue has also been rendered as an exciting video animation (**dibujo animado**), available in the online *ActivityPak*. These animations bring to life the five friends and the story line from the book.



La entrevista

Each **La entrevista** section presents an interview conducted by Sara for her radio broadcast at the University of Texas in Austin. Each interview touches on the themes that will be presented in the chapter. Words that represent active vocabulary appear in boldface. Following the













interview are activities designed to introduce students to the themes they will explore more in depth in the rest of the chapter. Recorded versions of each interview are available for students to listen to on the *Online Learning Center*.



Vocabulario del tema

This section begins with a list of vocabulary items arranged thematically and/or semantically for easier association and reference.

A variety of communicative activities follows, allowing students ample opportunity to work with and acquire the new vocabulary. **Para conversar mejor** boxes provide useful idiomatic expressions for use in small-group conversations. **Nota cultural** boxes (in A chapters) highlight one or more cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking cultures. Each **Nota cultural** is followed by conversation questions that students can answer in pairs or small groups.

Puntos clave

This section of each A chapter, which highlights at least one of the seven communicative goals, offers a short review of the grammatical structures that support each goal. A brief exercise called **Ponerlo a prueba** allows students to check their command of the pertinent grammatical structures before moving on to the communicative activities.

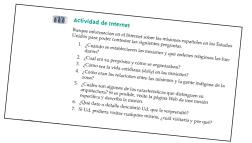
In B chapters, this section highlights more of the communicative goals, not just the one or two stressed in the preceding A chapter.

Rincón cultural

In A chapters, this unique cultural section contains two parts. **Lugares fascinantes** presents points of interest in the unit's country or region of focus.

Lo hispano en los Estados Unidos presents information about interesting Hispanic people, cultural events, and/or community services found in the United States. In B chapters, Un momento histórico presents a historic event that has implications today in the country or region of focus. Un artista hispano profiles a Hispanic artist from the region. La música presents a short introduction to the featured musical genre and pre- and post-listening activities to go with the songs that are available on the Estampillas musicales music CD. Finally, in addition to the

Actividad de Internet for the Lo hispano en los Estados Unidos section, there are corresponding activities for these Rincón cultural sections with lists of key words and links to Spanish search WWW engines on the Online Learning Center that students can use to further explore the themes.



Lectura

Each chapter contains a reading that addresses the chapter theme. Pre- and post-reading activities emphasize reading strategies, comprehension, and expansion of the ideas presented in each reading for individual homework and small-group classroom discussion.

Consciousness-raising icons next to most readings highlight specific strategies. A Wocabulario icon in the margin alerts students to make wise strategy decisions about a new vocabulary item, such as deciphering the word based on the context, relating it to similar words they do know, looking it up in a dictionary, or www.ignoring it altogether. Visualizar icons remind

students to visualize images of the people, places, things, and situations described at that point. A Verificar icon and a set of short questions, positioned at logical break points within longer readings and at the end of most readings, encourage students to monitor their comprehension up to that point.

Lo hispano en los Estados Unidos



Rincón cultural

Un momento histórico La Guerra Civil Española

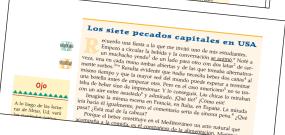
Un artista hispano

Francisco de Goya y Lucientes

La música española









¡A escribir!

The main composition of each A chapter is divided into three sections: a brainstorming activity, a guided composition based on the information gathered from the brainstorming activity, and a dialogue in which students comment on each others' composition. Additional writing activities are found throughout the text and are easily identifiable by the writing icon.

Hablando del tema

In this two-page intermediary section between A and B chapters, students converse, debate, and offer reactions to questions and situations based on the themes from the A chapter. They also return to the **Preguntas para considerar** and the piece of fine art from the chapter A opener to see how much they've learned so far in the unit. All of these activities require students to use higher-level speaking skills to support an opinion, discuss advantages and disadvantages, hypothesize, and so forth in preparation for the more demanding B chapter. A detailed explanation of the **fichas** concept is available in **Apéndice 1**.

Yo experto/a

In this unit-culminating activity, students choose a person, place, or cultural theme from the unit that they wish to learn more about and then present their findings in either oral or written form. A list of questions based on the seven communicative goals that students can use as a guide for their report can be found in **Apéndice 2**.

Explicación gramatical

Explanations of the grammar structures associated with each communicative goal can be found in the yellow pages near the end of the main text. A tabbing system provides easy reference. ¡A practicar! exercises offer additional practice of the grammar points; the answers to all ¡A practicar! exercises are provided in Apéndice 3. Explanations of additional grammatical structures can be found in the Referencia de gramática section at the end of the yellow pages.

Supplements

As a full-service publisher of quality educational products, McGraw-Hill does much more than just sell textbooks to your students. We create and publish an extensive array of print, video, and digital supplements to support instruction on your campus. Orders of new (versus used) textbooks help us defray the cost of developing such supplements, which is substantial. Please consult your local McGraw-Hill representative to learn about the availability of the supplements that accompany Metas.

For instructors and for students:



ActivityPak

This exciting new online supplement provides students with Flash-based activities, games, and video animations that they can use to review the vocabulary, grammar, and culture presented in Metas. With the exception of the Cara a cara / La historia and La música sections, students are encouraged to complete each unit of the ActivityPak after they've finished the corresponding unit from the main text, thus making the ActivityPak an ideal source of review before an exam. Each Cara a cara / La historia section of the ActivityPak contains video animations (dibujos animados) of the corresponding dialogues from the same sections of the main text. In each La música section of the ActivityPak, students can listen to the corresponding song from the La música section of the main text. Students can purchase an ActivityPak Access Code Card at the bookstore to gain access to the ActivityPak, which is found on the Online Learning Center. Instructors have complimentary access via the Instructor's Edition of the *Online Learning Center*.



Estampillas musicales (Music CD)

The Estampillas musicales music CD is an impressive new resource for intermediate Spanish. It was created with the *Metas* program in mind, however, it can be used in conjunction with any McGraw-Hill Spanish program. The CD contains six songs, one from each of the six Spanish-speaking regions featured in *Metas*. Pre- and post-listening activities to accompany each song are available in the main text.

Manual que acompaña Metas

Commonly referred to as simply the Manual, this workbook/laboratory manual contains a variety of exercises and activities that students can use to practice the seven communicative goals with all of the four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.



Online Manual

The Online Manual, produced in collaboration with **Quia**TM, offers the same outstanding practice as the printed Manual plus many additional advantages, such as onscreen links to corresponding audio files, immediate feedback and scoring for students, and an easy-to-use gradebook and class roster system for instructors. To gain access, students purchase a unique Student Book Key (passcode). Instructors should contact their local McGraw-Hill sales representative for an *Instructor Book Key*.



Audio Program

The Audio Program corresponds to the **Práctica oral** sections of the *Manual*. Users of the print version of the Manual can find the Audio *Program* on the *Online Learning Center* or purchase audio CDs. The Online Manual includes the *Audio Program* as one of its features.



Online Learning Center

The Online Learning Center (www.mhhe.com/ metas) offers the following resources for students:

- 1. quizzes to practice the vocabulary, grammar, and culture presented in the main text
- 2. the *ActivityPak* (described earlier)
- audio renditions of the La entrevista interviews from B chapters of the main text
- 4. Interactive Verb Charts
- Flash Grammar Tutorials (short descriptions of key grammatical points of the Spanish language that students can review for additional help)
- the complete Audio Program to accompany the print version of the Manual

The Instructor's Edition of the *Online Learning* Center contains all of the student resources as well as the following instructor resources (instructors should contact their local sales

representative to set up an instructor account):

- 1. Instructor's Manual (Word files)
- 2. Testing Program (Word files)
- 3. ActivityPak Scripts (transcripts for the Cara a cara / La historia and Hablando del tema sections of the ActivityPak)
- 4. Audioscript (transcript of the Audio Program)
- 5. Audio Program Tracklisting

• Lecturas literarias

The literary reader for the *Punto y aparte* program, *Lecturas literarias: Moving Toward Linguistic and Cultural Fluency Through Literature*, can easily be used with *Metas*. It contains twelve literary readings (two for each unit of *Metas*). Each reading is accompanied by pre- and post-reading activities that incorporate the seven communicative goals that are a hallmark of the *Punto y aparte* and *Metas* programs, thus reinforcing the recycling methodology of *Metas*.

For instructors:

• Instructor's Edition

This special edition of the main text, specifically designed for instructors, contains helpful suggestions and information in on-page annotations for more effective in-class use of the various features of the main text and its supplements.

• Instructor's Manual

This useful manual, available electronically in the Instructor's Edition of the *Online Learning Center*, includes even more helpful suggestions and resources for maximizing the various components of the *Metas* program.

Audioscript

This complete transcript of the *Audio Program* is available electronically in the Instructor's Edition of the *Online Learning Center*.

Acknowledgments

We are extremely grateful to be publishing *Metas*. It has been very satisfying to be able to include so many more features and ideas. There are several colleagues who have aided us in myriad ways to bring this project to fruition, and we would like to thank them for their invaluable

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We are especially grateful to Heather Jarry, who created the original paintings on the cover and those on the opening pages for A chapters. Her talent and knowledge of the Hispanic world have ensured an authentic vision of the diverse cultures we want to share with our students.

We would like to recognize the wonderful work of Susanna Sharpe who produced the music CD Estampillas musicales. Her knowledge of Hispanic culture and music, her experience in the field of music production, and her unfailing patience and professionalism made her a joy to work with and has ensured a high quality music CD. We would also like to thank the musicians who composed and/or recorded the six songs for Estampillas musicales. From Catavento (www.cataventomusic.com) we thank Susanna Sharpe (lead vocals), Christian Fernandez (composer, guitarist, vocals), David Pulkingham (composer, guitarist, vocals), and Sergio Santos (percussion) who composed and recorded "Matemáticas," "Hermanos," and "Himno al Inca." From Correo Aereo (www.correoaereo.com) we thank Abel Rocha and Madeleine Sosin who recorded the traditional Mexican folksong "La Mariquita." For the song "Candombe del Piedras," we thank the anonymous composers imprisoned at the Piedras prison in Uruguay, Mario Villagrán, coordinator of a special project that brought the song to our attention, and Rubén Rada who originally performed the song as part of the CD Esperando salir, which resulted from Mario Villagrán's project with Proyectos culturales, a non-governmental organization

based in Montevideo. For the song "Monseñor Mario Molina," we thank Jack Forbes, an expert on the marimba music of Guatemala, who helped us acquire the song.

It is always a pleasure to work with an organization that values teamwork above all; thus, many thanks are owed to the people at McGraw-Hill who worked behind the scenes on *Metas.* We would like to thank our publisher William R. Glass for encouraging us to write this expanded version of *Punto y aparte*. He, Katherine K. Crouch, our sponsoring editor, Scott Tinetti, director of development, and others were instrumental in getting the project off the ground and in shaping and reshaping the structure of Metas. Laura Chastain carefully reviewed the manuscript for matters of style, clarity, and linguistic and cultural authenticity. We were so fortunate to have Allen J. Bernier as our development editor. Allen's in-depth knowledge of *Punto y aparte*, gained while editing the Second and Third Editions, allowed him to offer invaluable insights and suggestions while editing Metas. We thank the rest of the editorial team at McGraw-Hill, especially Jennifer Kirk for editing Lecturas Literarias, Mara L. Brown for editing the Manual and Audio Program, and Amanda Peabody and Scott Tinetti for helping guide Metas along the path from manuscript to publication. Many thanks are due to the production team at McGraw-Hill, especially Mel Valentín, Randy L. Hurst, Louis Swaim, Nora Agbayani, Sonia Brown, Jeanne Schreiber, and Emma Ghiselli, as well as our designer Violeta Díaz for the wonderful cover and interior design of the main text. We would like to thank in advance Jorge Arbujas, marketing manager for World Languages, and the entire McGraw-Hill sales staff for their efforts in promoting and making the Metas program a success.

Finally, a very special thanks goes to Frank for being a source of unending support and encouragement on every level, to Guillermo for believing in us and for putting in many hours of overtime, and to our parents, who taught us the value of hard work.

To the Student

Welcome to Metas: Spanish in Review, Moving Toward Fluency, a unique and exciting intermediate Spanish program! As second-year students of college Spanish, you have already studied verb tenses, the subjunctive mood, pronouns, a lot of basic vocabulary, common idioms, and so forth. The goal of this course is to help you acquire the ability to use what you have learned by focusing on seven major communicative goals (metas comunicativas) in Spanish: describing, comparing, reacting and recommending, narrating in the past, talking about likes and dislikes, hypothesizing, and talking about the future. All of your written and oral practice will involve topics that require you to demonstrate an ability to communicate those goals.

Another goal is for you to achieve greater cohesion in your speaking and writing abilities by including transition words and sentence connectors as you move toward fluency in Spanish. (Please see the list of common connectors and transition words on the inside back cover.)

A third goal is for you to increase your vocabulary by adding new words to your active vocabulary and by acquiring strategies that will help you understand the meaning of unfamiliar terms. You will also notice that all of the vocabulary is presented in groups of words that are thematically related. We suggest that you study the vocabulary in these thematic groups rather than as single, isolated words. You will find a consistent recycling of vocabulary throughout the text so that you will not forget vocabulary studied in **Unidad 1** by the time you reach **Unidad 5**.

What is unique about *Metas* and its approach is the idea of narrowing the focus of instruction to seven major communicative goals, all of which appear in every chapter from the beginning of the course. This focus on the communicative goals is supported by constant recycling of the grammatical structures (puntos clave) needed to accurately and successfully perform those goals. In other words, the content or themes will change with each new chapter, but

the seven goals will be repeated throughout the program. To facilitate your growing abilities to communicate effectively in Spanish, icons are used to remind you with which goal you are working. For example, when you see the **Descripción** icon next to an activity, you know that you are working with description and that, in order to describe well, you must keep in mind the rules for gender/number agreement, the appropriate uses of ser and estar, and perhaps the use of past participles as adjectives. (Please see the inside front cover for a full display of the icons, the communicative goals, and the grammatical structures that accompany the goals.)

To accomplish each of these communicative goals, certain grammatical structures must be mastered. Therefore, *Metas* offers a wide variety of interactive tasks so that you can practice the goals throughout the text. By doing so, you will increase your grammatical accuracy and strengthen your ability to express yourself effectively in Spanish.

Besides concentrating on the seven goals and increasing your vocabulary, we want to help you enjoy reading in Spanish. Although many reading strategies can help guide you as you approach texts written in Spanish, Metas concentrates on three. We like to refer to these reading strategies as "the three V's": learning vocabulary in context, visualization, and verification. To aid you in acquiring these strategies we have placed consciousness-raising icons next to most readings in the **Lectura** sections. A **Vocabulario** icon in the margin alerts you to make wise strategy decisions about a new vocabulary item, such as deciphering the word based on the context, relating it to similar words you do know, looking it up in a dictionary, or ignoring it altogether.

Visualizar icons remind you to visualize images of the people, places, things, and situations described at that point.

Finally, a **Verificar** icon and a short set of questions, positioned at logical break points within longer readings and at the end of most









readings, encourage you to monitor your comprehension up to that point. The goal of these strategies is to help you get the overall gist of the passage.

It is also very important to understand from the outset how this course differs from previous courses you may have taken. As you move toward fluency in Spanish, you should progress from being a list maker to a paragraph maker, from memorizing isolated words to learning and using groups of thematically related words, and from studying grammatical structures in a vacuum to studying grammar as a support for expressing the seven communicative goals that serve as the core of the *Metas* methodology. Finally, you should also attain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Hispanic cultures through the

rich and diverse **Rincón cultural** sections and through the lives of the five characters (**los cinco amigos**) who appear throughout *Metas* in their daily lives and interactions at the Ruta Maya café in Austin, Texas. The five friends are Sara Carrillo Jiménez, a Spanish graduate student; Javier Mercado Quevedo, a Puerto Rican journalist who also works at Ruta Maya; Laura Taylor, an American graduate student of Latin American studies and health in rural areas and Sara's roommate; Diego Ponce Flores, a Mexican shop owner; and Sergio Wilson Flores, a Mexican-American concert promoter and Diego's cousin.

Above all, we hope that you enjoy this course and that you find yourself moving toward fluency in Spanish!



Ruta Maya en Austin, Texas



Los cinco amigos: Diego, Laura, Sergio, Sara y Javier