PREFACE

Why *Portafolio*? Why now?

Portafolio is a new kind of teaching and learning program: a dynamic introductory Spanish experience that brings together a magazine-like core text with student-friendly digital assets, including downloadable audio and video. It offers the guidance that beginning Spanish students and new instructors need, as well as the flexibility that all students and instructors want. Created in response to student and instructor feedback on the importance of **visual appeal, portability**, and **function** in the printed textbook and digital materials, *Portafolio* is the first of its kind.

Do you hear complaints about the price or design of printed textbooks in your student evaluations? *Portafolio* responds to the suggestions and feedback collected from students who participated in large-scale survey research and ethnographic studies recently undertaken by McGraw-Hill. Students say they want a program that is:

- light and easy to carry
- interesting, modern, fun, and like the other things they read
- less expensive
- supported by print and digital supplements that help them learn and succeed in the course
- available in a variety of formats

In addition, as you know, language students—particularly beginners—bring to the classroom a genuine desire to learn, even if they are simply fulfilling a requirement. Whether or not they express it in these words, students want their instructor to subscribe to a methodology that is informed by the latest research in second language acquisition. They want activities that have been class-tested and proven effective. They want to develop basic communication skills in Spanish. And they want to learn about the diversity of Hispanic cultures. *Portafolio* delivers on all of these objectives—and more.

Portafolio = Portability and Accessibility

In response to students' complaints about their heavy load of books, *Portafolio* has been created as a two-volume, softcover text. Thus students will need to carry only half the text in any given semester, and the softcover format will further lighten their load. Grammar references appear in both volumes so that students have easy access to the complete scope and sequence of grammar, no matter which volume they are using.

In addition, we have made many of the digital support materials available online. For a number of these resources, students can download content onto their laptops or mp3 players—making the course material even more portable and accessible. For example:

- *Portafolio-to-Go* is a website that provides valuable video and audio content for download to mp3 players, plus animated grammar tutorials.
- Audio files that accompany the *Portafolio de actividades* are available as free, downloadable mp3 files on the *Online Learning Center* (www.mhhe.com/portafolio).

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- Interviews with native speakers on Video, are also free and download-able to a student's laptop and/or video iPod.
- Through the VitalSource™ platform, the entire text is available in electronic format at a discounted price.
- The online version of the *Portafolio de actividades,* powered by Quia™, includes the complete *Audio Program* and a powerful gradebook feature.
- The Online Learning Center provides extra practice activities with immediate feedback.
- For more on-the-go listening and speaking practice, *iSpeak Spanish, the Ultimate Audio + Visual Phrasebook* turns the student's iPod or mp3 player into a Spanish translation tool for on-the-spot reference.

Portafolio = A Unique Presentation

Portafolio's design is different from that of traditional textbooks. Students tell us that colors, organization, and formats in most traditional textbooks detract from their learning experience. This is not true of *Portafolio*, where every aspect of the presentation and design makes students feel that this is a familiar and comfortable format, reminiscent of the magazines and web-sites they read every day. Notable design elements include:

- Clean, uncluttered page layouts that allow students to focus on one element at a time and to navigate through the chapters easily
- An organizer at the beginning of each chapter that clearly lays out the cultural objectives, vocabulary themes, grammatical structures, and cultural content
- Vibrant, eye-catching colors to orient students within the chapter, and a magazine-style page layout with features that pop
- Gorgeous photos, maps of each country of focus, and detailed illustra-tions appeal to visual learners
- A ***Portafolio cultural*** section at the end of each chapter, organized like the pages of a magazine and featuring information on current events, entertainment, music, and other topics of interest to students as well as personal expressions of opinion by native speakers from the geo-graphic area of focus.

Portafolio = Pedagogy: Language, Culture, and Skill Development

High-Interest Grammar Presentation and Practice

Portafolio offers student-friendly presentations of grammatical structures. Grammar explanations and examples are easy to understand and are put to immediate use in exercises and activities with high student appeal. In particular, the treatment of grammar in *Portafolio* features:

- Presentation and practice of linguistic items in a functional context
- Carefully sequenced activities, moving from form-focused exercises to those that require more creative use of language
- Continuous attention to the development and reinforcement of linguis-tic accuracy and culturally appropriate behaviors

Highlighting the Cultural Context

Concerned about reports of some students' misunderstanding of or lack of interest in cultures other than their own, we examined the treatment of culture in beginning Spanish programs before creating *Portafolio*. We found that although the prefaces of most beginning Spanish texts described the integration of language and culture as a goal, culture often

remained physically separated from language learning. Furthermore, culture lacked an authentic voice: it was compartmentalized into "high" and "low" culture, at times diminished through decontextualized images and artifacts, or trivialized through pedagogically contrived readings. It wasn't presented in a way that would grab students' attention and interest.

In *Portafolio*, culture is a central thread that unifies the varied content of each chapter and provides the context for communication. As students acquire the linguistic skills that are essential for effective interaction, they also begin to make connections between their own culture and the target culture. We believe that through exposure to the daily rituals, aspirations, and concerns described by these authentic voices, students will modify— and optimally will discard—their stereotypes and broaden their understanding of other cultures.

How will *Portafolio* help your students understand and appreciate other cultures?

- A montage of images in the **Portafolio cultural** section highlights folklore, geography, music, film, and other dimensions of a country's national identity and dynamic popular culture.
- Excerpts from English-language guidebooks, travel narratives, and reference works provide an "outsider's" point of view and encourage students to critically compare that point of view to what they've learned from the "insider's" perspective.
- Maps, photographs, and fine art open students' eyes to the different realities of the diverse places where Spanish is spoken
- Personal interviews with a variety of native speakers, in written, audio, and video formats, provide a point of departure for the development of listening strategies, contextualized grammar practice, thematic readings, process-writing activities, and cross-cultural comparisons.
- A guided project involving the creation of a portfolio of their work allows students to chart their progress in language acquisition and greater cultural understanding overtime.

Representing culture authentically in a beginning Spanish program is a challenging proposition. No one person or text can express the multifaceted nature of culture. We have therefore introduced a multiplicity of voices, calling on the experiences of native speakers, presenting the viewpoints of the print media, identifying cultural icons, and exposing a cultural outsider's observations.

Developing the Four Skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing
Portafolio also includes many opportunities to practice all four language skills:

- The chapter-concluding **Portafolio cultural** section contains short readings on cultural topics, as well as discussion questions, activities, and Internet research projects.
- The final activity in the chapter, **Mi portafolio,** has two parts: **Redacción** and **Exploración. Redacción** introduces a writing task that is integrated with the chapter's themes and instructs students to synthesize vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural content. **Exploración** directs students to use the Internet and other resources to explore the chapter themes. Process-writing strategies that support the **Redacción** assignment and a list of key words for the **Exploración** component can be found in the *Portafolio de actividades*.
- The *Audio Program* that accompanies the *Portafolio de actividades* provides hours of focused listening practice and opportunities to develop pronunciation and speaking fluency.

- A DVD contains all of the interviews integrated into the **Charla con. . .** and **Portafolio cultural** sections of each chapter. Students have the opportunity to view speakers from diverse countries of the Spanish-speaking world while learning about their lives, their customs, and their culture.
- *iSpeak Spanish* has nearly 1,500 audio tracks, organized in various categories that allow students to communicate in typical travel situations such as finding accommodations, eating out, and expressing personal perceptions and opinions. The iPod's efficient, intuitive navigational interface allows students to find those words and phrases that are most useful in a given context. *iSpeak Spanish* allows students both to read and to hear how these words and phrases are expressed—the most effective way to replicate native pronunciation and to communicate successfully. *iSpeak Spanish* can be optionally packaged with *Portafolio* at a minimal additional charge.

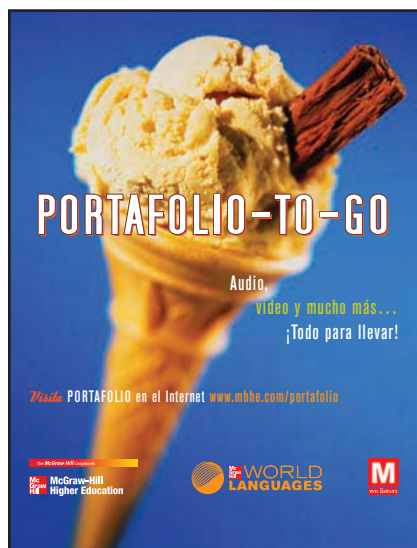## *Portafolio* = Priced with Students in Mind

We heard students loud and clear. Their perception is that textbooks and other course materials are overpriced. As a result, students sometimes don't buy the book and are forced into sharing strategies that diminish the value of their classroom experience. In response, we have created a variety of purchasing options so that students can choose the content delivery that best suits their needs:

- The student textbook is a two-volume set so students have the option to "pay as they go" and purchase only the volume required for a given course.
- The *Portafolio de actividades* is also published in split volumes (both in print and online through Quia™).
- Students can also purchase an e-book through the VitalSource™ platform at a reduced price, for online access to the same content, plus additional features such as the capacity to highlight, bookmark, and take notes.

Portafolio = A Program of Valuable Components

Portafolio features an integrated collection of print and digital supplementary components that deliver a coherent learning experience. Among the many supplements available with *Portafolio* (and downloadable via *Portafolio-to-Go*):

- The *Portafolio de actividades,* available both in print and powered by Quia™, is offered in two volumes for easy coordination with the textbook.
- Video interviews, featuring native speakers from around the Spanish-speaking world, are downloadable from the Internet and also available on DVD.
- The Audio Program is also offered in mp3 format on the *Online Learning Center,* allowing for easy downloads by on-the-go students, and is also available for purchase on audio CD.
- The student edition of the *Online Learning Center* (www.mhhe.com/portafolio) provides additional practice with the vocabulary, grammar, and cultural topics covered in the textbook.

- "Gramática en acción" online grammar tutorials are available for purchase on *Portafolio-to-Go*.
- *iSpeak Spanish* software turns an mp3 player into a digital phrasebook and is available for purchase for additional listening and speaking practice.
- For instructors, a brand-new music CD, *Ritmos y sonidos,* is a collection of contemporary music from around the Spanish-speaking world. Featuring a variety of artists and groups, *Ritmos y sonidos* brings the musical traditions of the Spanish-speaking world into the language classroom.
- A downloadable musical playlist, designed by the *Portafolio* authors to coordinate with the text chapters, is available for purchase through iTunes®.
- A Digital Photo Bank—accessible to instructors in the Online Learning Center—contains high-resolution, high-quality images of iconic and representative images of each country in the Spanish-speaking world. The images can easily be printed out and may be projected onto a screen for use in the classroom.
- New, photo-based cultural PowerPoint presentations, also available to instructors on the Online Learning Center, cover all the Spanish-speaking countries in the world, including Equatorial Guinea. Each individual photo-based PowerPoint provides a visual introduction to the country featuring cultural traditions ranging from festivals and holidays to art, dance, and music.
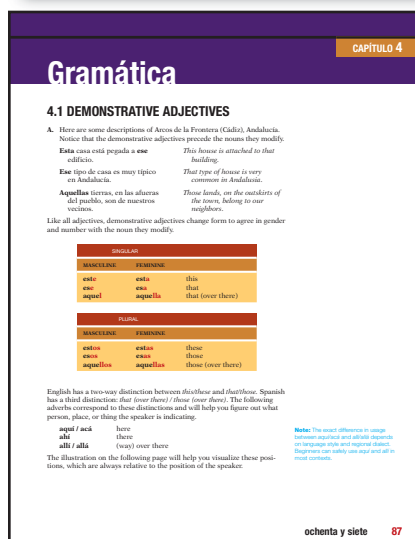
PREFACE

EASY CHAPTER NAVIGATION

Following the chapter opener, each chapter begins with vocabulary presentation and practice (**Vocabulario**) followed by grammar presentation and practice (**Gramática**). A native-speaker interview and cultural content is found in the mid-chapter **Charla con…** pages, and then a second **Vocabulario** and a second **Gramática** are presented before the chapter-ending **Portafolio cultural** pages.

Chapter Openers

Each chapter begins with a stunning photo from the geographical area of focus that illustrates the chapter theme. In the instructor's edition, helpful annotations give tips on generating discussion around the photo and chapter theme. Chapter objectives are presented on the facing page, followed by a summary of the engaging and provocative content found in the chapter-ending **Portafolio cultural**. Maps help students situate the geographical area of focus and include each area's most important topographical features.

Vocabulario

Vocabulary is organized thematically and presented visually through line drawings, photos, and realia wherever appropriate to illustrate culturally significant contrasts and similarities. Students are given ample opportunity to practice new lexical items through form-focused and communicative activities.

Gramática

An average of two grammar points are presented in each **Gramática** section (of which there are two per chapter). Each grammar presentation is followed by a series of activities that emphasize meaningful use of language. At the end of many grammar explanations there is an **Autoprueba** with a targeted activity designed to focus students' attention on structure before they attempt the more communicative activities.

Charla con…

This section personalizes the cultural themes of the chapter, illustrates vocabulary usage in context, and applies grammatical structures. Biographical information and photos acquaint students with the speaker's immediate surroundings and cultural context. The interview is accompanied by a **Vocabulario útil** box to aid student comprehension. As students read and/or watch the interview (on the DVD to accompany *Portafolio* or on the *Portafolio-to-Go* website), they are given specific tasks to perform in **Práctica A**. Their comprehension is then checked in the activities that follow.

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Portafolio cultural

The cultural thread woven throughout the chapter culminates in the magazine-style **Portafolio cultural** at the end of each chapter. Expanding the cultural themes of the chapter, each **Portafolio cultural** includes the following:

- **Nación**: a brief description of the geographic area of focus in historical, social, and/or geographical terms, accompanied by a box with essential facts and figures for easy reference.
- **Actualidad**: a current news story on some aspect of the geographic area of focus.
- **Cartelera**: an entertainment section that contains a story on music, media, fashion, cuisine, and other current topics.
- **Gente**: a native-speaker interview, available on video, that can be compared and contrasted with the interview presented in **Charla con…**
- **Icono**: an exploration of the symbols of cultural identity in the geographic area of focus.
- **Opinión**: commentary about the geographic area of focus, taken from popular English-language press sources, to be critically evaluated by students.
- **Mi Portafolio**: a final activity in two parts, **Redacción** and **Exploración**. **Redacción** guides students through the creation of a portfolio of their work over the course of the semester or year, and **Exploración** directs students to make use of the vast cultural resources on the web.

Additional Features

- **¡Escribe y habla mejor!:** this section, which usually appears at the end of the **Charla con…** section, points out important spelling and pronunciation contrasts between English and Spanish. Accompanying listening, pronunciation, and writing activities are provided in the *Portafolio de actividades*.
- **Infórmate**: a box that appears in some chapters to provide additional details to the cultural presentations in the chapter.
- **Así se dice**: boxed explanations that explain the variations in language throughout the Spanish-speaking world.
- **Leguaje functional**: this feature gives tips on how to use new grammar and vocabulary in practice.

STUDENT COMPONENTS

Portafolio de actividades

The *Portafolio de actividades* follows the organization of the textbook and provides additional review and practice of vocabulary and grammatical structures. In addition, each chapter of the *Portafolio de actividades* begins with **Repaso y anticipación**, which recycles previously studied vocabulary and grammar items in preparation for the current chapter's work. The final section, **Portafolio cultural**, allows students to expand upon the material presented in the corresponding textbook chapter. Some tasks stress observation, analysis, and comparison of texts and realia; others focus on developing knowledge of content through web-based or library research; and still others provide students with free-writing tasks. Instructors may assign any number of these activities, which students may turn in with their workbook or assemble into a portfolio to be collected and assessed at the end of the term. **Volume 1** of this combination workbook/laboratory manual contains **Capítulos 1-8**. **Volume 2** contains **Capítulos 8-15**.

Online *Portafolio de actividades,* powered by Quia™

The Online *Portafolio de actividades*, powered by Quia™, offers the same outstanding reinforcement and practice as the printed *Portafolio de actividades*, with many additional advantages such as embedded audio, immediate activity feedback and scoring for students, and a powerful, user-friendly gradebook and class roster system for instructors. Instructors may contact their McGraw-Hill publishing representative for information on previewing this exciting online component.

Audio Program

The Audio Program that accompanies the *Portafolio de actividades* provides hours of focused listening practice and opportunities to develop pronunciation and speaking abilities. Mp3 files can be downloaded free of charge from the *Portafolio-to-Go* website for use on laptops and mp3 players.

DVD to accompany *Portafolio*

The DVD offers thirty interviews with native speakers from the Spanish-speaking world that correspond with the **Charla con…** mid-chapter interview and the **Gente** section of **Portafolio cultural**. The videos are also available free of charge from the *Portafolio-to-Go* website, where they can be easily downloaded to a laptop or video mp3 player.

Online Learning Center with *Portafolio-to-Go:* www.mhhe.com/portafolio

The *Online Learning Center* provides even more practice with the vocabulary, grammar, and cultural topics presented in the textbook. In addition, it has a link to *Portafolio-to-Go*, which contains a wealth of media assets that can be downloaded to a laptop or iPod. These resources include:

• The *Audio Program* to accompany *Portafolio* posted as mp3 files and downloadable at no charge

- The DVD to accompany *Portafolio* also downloadable at no charge
- *Gramática en acción* online tutorials that present various grammar structures along with integrated audio. Each of the fifty-one tutorials can be downloaded for a nominal charge, allowing students to target their specific needs and control their spending. The tutorials can also be purchased as a complete set for a substantial savings.

iSpeak Spanish

iSpeak Spanish is a digital phrasebook that is designed for use on an iPod for listening and speaking practice.

iTunes® Playlist

A *Portafolio* playlist, designed by the textbook authors to coordinate with the text chapters, is available for purchase through iTunes®. Access instructions are available on the *Online Learning Center*.

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPONENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS

- The *Instructor's Edition* of the textbook contains a wealth of on-page teaching suggestions, informative notes, ideas for follow-up and expansion activities, and answers for activities whenever feasible.
- The *Instructor's Manual/Testing Program* provides sample syllabi and lesson plans, additional teaching techniques, supplementary exercises and activities, and the *Videoscript* of the native-speaker interviews. The complete *Instructor's Manual/Testing Program* is available in electronic format on the Instructor Center of the *Online Learning Center*.
- The *Audioscript* is a complete transcript of the Audio Program, available on the Instructor Edition of the *Online Learning Center*.
- *Ritmos y sonidos* is a new music CD with contemporary music from around the Spanish-speaking world, available to instructors only.
- A *Digital Photo Bank*—accessible to instructors on the *Online Learning Center*—contains high-resolution, high-quality versions of representative images from all countries in the Spanish-speaking world.
- New, photo-based cultural PowerPoint presentations, also available on the *Online Learning Center*, visually represent cultural traditions ranging from festivals and holidays to art, dance, and music in all the countries of the Spanish-speaking world.

Portafolio = lo último en español

We hope that *Portafolio* brings a new level of personal engagement and satisfaction to your classroom—both for you and for your students. We are pleased to present this integrated program of print, audio, video, and digital components that incorporates so many high-priority elements for students: new purchasing options, a student-friendly and visually appealing design, lighter and more portable materials, and easily-accessible and downloadable media assets. But don't take our word for it: let your students be the judge.

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Finally, we are indebted to our families and friends who, through their support and understanding, have helped make *Portafolio* a reality.
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